



EYFS Information Booklet





Welcome



We are looking forward to meeting you and your child and sharing lots of special times together. We provide high quality education through a range of fun and exciting activities which follow the interests and development stages of individual children.



Ethos and Values



- To create an environment for learning, both inside and outside the classroom, which will encourage all children to achieve the highest standards through the provision of a broad, balanced and imaginative curriculum, high expectations, praise for a task well done and through committed, enthusiastic and effective teaching.
- To help children to develop into confident, responsible and caring adults in an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect.
- To encourage children to become self-motivated learners who will take risks, rise to a challenge and manage the outcome in an atmosphere that is challenging yet supportive.
- To enable children to develop into independent learners by creating an environment where contributions, efforts and achievement are valued and where all give their best because they value themselves.
- To communicate the Wheatcroft vision statement effectively to all members of the community in order to inspire excellence throughout the school.

The aims of the school are reflected in the way the children respect one another and are willing to accept responsibility for themselves and others. They share, work collaboratively and support one another's successes. They share the whole school's commitment to high expectations in all areas of their personal development.



Playing and Learning



We follow the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' (EYFS) which starts from birth and continues through their time at nursery until the end of their Reception year at school. All of the staff in the nursery are highly skilled in planning and delivering a range of activities for the children. All of these activities are delivered through a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is based upon four principles:

A Unique Child: At Wheatcroft Primary School we recognise that all children are unique and develop at different rates, however we believe that all children are competent learners who can be resilient, capable and confident when they have positive attitudes and dispositions to learning.

Positive Relationships: Children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. During your child's time at nursery we hope to develop caring but professional relationships with the children and their families and encourage positive relationships between the children and their peers. Each child is allocated a key person to ensure that these relationships are formed.

Enabling Environments: At Wheatcroft Primary School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting children's learning and development. The nursery environment is designed to allow the children to explore and learn safely. The environment supports the children to become independent and children can choose to move between the indoor and outdoor environment freely.

Learning and Development: At Wheatcroft Primary School we understand that children develop in different ways and at different rates. The Early Years Foundation Stage has seven areas of learning. All of the areas of learning are equally important and are all interconnected. There are three Prime areas in the EYFS, these are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

The four specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

If you would like any more information on the EYFS, please go to;
www.foundationyears.org.uk/early-years-foundationstage2012
www.education.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stageeyfs



The Characteristics of Effective Learning



In planning and guiding how our children learn we use the characteristics of effective learning.



Playing and exploring: children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'. At Wheatcroft we encourage children to make independent choices and bring their own interests into our setting.

Active learning: children concentrate and keep trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements. We encourage children to use a range of strategies to reach a goal and to keep trying when things get difficult.

Creating and thinking critically: children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things. We help the children to come up with their own ideas and make links between them.

Staff report on the characteristics of effective learning in observations and in the end of year reports.



Physical Development



Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives.



We develop both gross and fine motor skills.

Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. We have a wide variety of play equipment in the school to develop these skills. As well as using the climbing equipment daily in our outdoor areas, we have weekly PE lessons.

Fine motor control helps with hand-eye coordination and is linked to early literacy. Each morning children begin the day with activities to help their fine motor skills develop.

In the Foundation Stage writing is assessed as part of a child's physical development as well as managing to look after their own needs such as dressing after PE and putting their coats on.

You can help your child by letting them have a go at putting their own shoes and coats on when you go out and getting themselves dressed. This will help their independence when they start school.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development



This aspect of a child's development is crucial in order for children to lead healthy and happy lives.



Strong, warm and supportive relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others.

We support children in creating relationships and making friends. We help them to have a positive sense of themselves, develop respect for others and manage their feelings and behaviour. Together we encourage children to have confidence in themselves and their abilities.

These qualities will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve in school and later life.

We value our working relationship with parents and carers. We plan using the children's interests and parents are encouraged to add their observations to our online learning journeys.



Communication and Language



The development of a child's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.



Within our Foundation Stage children have the opportunity to experience a rich language environment. Staff have a good understanding of speech and language development and support children in developing their confidence to express themselves.

We help children to gain the skills to speak to others and listen with increasing attention.

We read frequently to children and provide them with opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts.

Children share their ideas through conversation and role-play and language is modelled sensitively by staff.

English as an additional Language: Please let us know if your child speaks an additional language to English at home.



Literacy



Literacy develops a child's ability to read and write. This is shown in a range of ways including understanding simple sentences, familiarity with phonics and writing a sentence.



Books and stories are a very important part of our curriculum.

By providing children with access to a wide range of reading materials linked to their interests, they develop a love of reading.

In Foundation Stage we provide opportunities that encourage children to link sounds and letters to support them in the process of learning to read and write.

Children in Nursery will begin to develop their awareness of rhymes and initial letters whilst children in Reception will have daily phonics teaching and will be reading and writing short sentences.

In Reception we will send home phonics homework and reading books so your child can practise the skills they have learnt in school at home.

In the summer term of Nursery we will send home books without words for you to share with your children.



Mathematics



At Wheatcroft we understand that a strong grounding in number is an essential building block for Mathematics in a child's life.



We provide children with opportunities and experiences that develop their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers. We encourage them to solve problems, including those that include addition and subtraction. In nursery we support children in using everyday language to talk about and describe shapes, spaces and measures.

We provide children with opportunities to develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections and not be afraid to make mistakes.

We provide opportunities for children to pursue their own mathematical interests in both our indoor and outdoor environments.

At Wheatcroft we teach Maths using practical resources before we move onto visual and abstract concepts.



Understanding the World



Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and community.



We support children in making sense of their physical world and their community.

We provide opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

We do this through a mix of visits and visitors in addition to listening to a variety of books that foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. Enriching and widening the children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

We have a mix of activities inside and outside so the children can explore the world around them.

We have a fantastic Forest School area which Nursery and Reception visit weekly for lessons. We have had campfires, listened to stories on the story circle and made pictures with natural materials.



Expressive Arts and Design



The development of children's artistic awareness supports their imagination and creativity.



Children in Foundation Stage have the opportunity to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.

Opportunities are provided and encouraged for children to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

We have opportunities to explore these activities in our indoor and outdoor environments.

At Christmas we put on a Foundation Stage Nativity play and we also take part in whole-school concerts and fun days.

We encourage the children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.



Learning Journey



At Wheatcroft Primary School we use an online learning journey. The platform we use is Tapestry. You will be able to see the observations made by staff about your child's learning and progress. Staff will post next steps so you know how you can help your child's learning at home. This is an important link between home and school and we welcome parents putting on their own observations and photographs to help us build up a picture of your child's learning in different areas. At the end of the school year you will receive a CD copy of your child's learning journey.



Reception Hours



8.45-8.55:	Start of day
8.55-9.15:	Finger-strong activities for fine motor control development
9.15-10.00:	Literacy
10.00-10.15:	Snack
10.15-11.15:	Child-Initiated Learning
11.15-11.45:	Phonics
12.00-1.00:	Lunch
1.00-1.45:	Mathematics
1.45-2.30:	Child-Initiated Learning
2.30-3.00:	Assembly/RE/PSHE/Music
3.15:	Home time