

Slide 1 - Parent Information

Wheatcroft Reception Starters 2021

Welcome to Wheatcroft

Slide 2 - Wheatcroft Primary School

Choosing the right school for your child is an extremely important decision every parent needs to make. We hope that the information here and on the rest of this website will tell you all that you would like to know about Wheatcroft Primary School.

If you feel you have further questions, please contact us through the school office.

admin@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk

01992 587899

Slide 3 - Our School ethos

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.

Slide 4 - Class Organisation

Being a one and a half-form entry school means we can take forty five children in each year group; the children are organised chronologically in years 1-6. In Reception, the children are provisionally allocated to one of two classes. The pattern established on admission means that children will progress through the school with children of their own age, normally in a class with less than a chronological year between them.

Within each class, the teaching and learning will vary from whole class teaching to group work – either independently or under the direction of an adult – and children working individually. Teachers will group children for some activities by ability and work will be differentiated according to the ability of individual children.

Our pattern of organisation allows staff and children to work closely together in their Phase groups. Teamwork amongst staff allows them to teach to strengths and to use each other's strengths and talents when planning. Age is the deciding factor in class allocation; all children are taught the curriculum for their age and we cater for ability within each class.

Slide 5 - The Early Years Foundation stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the three prime areas first. These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. These are: Communication & Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social & Emotional Development.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World, Expressive Arts and Design.

Slide 6 - A Typical Day in Reception

8.45-9.00- Register, date, weather and lunches

9.00-9:30-Carpet Session (Topic/Literacy)

9:30-10:15 –Child Initiated Learning + Group work

10:15-10:30- Assembly/Snack

10:30-11:15- Child Initiated Learning

11:15-11.45- Phonics

12.00- Lunch

1.00-1.30- Carpet Session (Maths)

1.30-2:30- Child Initiated Learning

2.30-3:00- Jigsaw/Discovery RE/ICT

3.15- Home time_

Slide 7 - Parent communication

In the Foundation Stage we are committed to a strong parent partnership. We listen and respond to parents' views. We share and discuss children's achievements, experiences and progress, along with any difficulties that may arise. We operate an open door policy on a daily basis and also have other means of communication: Tapestry, school website, letters and texts.

Slide 8 – Transitions

At Wheatcroft, we understand the importance of transition into a new/first learning environment. You know your child better than anyone and we will work with you as a team to ensure a smooth transition into our Reception. If you are new to our Reception, in the Summer term, we arrange a home visit and also a pre-school visit if your child attends one. This is to begin to build a relationship with your child and yourselves before they begin Reception in September.

If your child is already in the Nursery, we begin transition after half term, where we take the children up to their new classroom and they can explore their new environment. Children will begin Reception with full days. It will be a soft start so a lot of CIL, outdoor learning and PSED sessions.

Slide 9 - Forest school & learning outside the classroom

At Wheatcroft, all children have access to Forest School. We teach elements of the curriculum outside throughout the year, across the whole school. In addition to this, Nursery go out every week and Reception go into the woods throughout the summer term. UKS2 take part in the John Muir Discovery Award in the spring term; this is a child-led conservation project. We have a fully trained OCN Level 3 Forest School Practitioner, many members of staff trained as OCN Level 1 and Level 2 Forest School Assistants and many willing volunteers to help. Teachers are given regular training updates and we have a range of resources.

Throughout the year we offer many Family Forest School sessions on Sunday afternoons or weekday evenings. Examples have been campfires, a range of visitors including a moth expert and story teller, natural art, orienteering, reading in the woods, shelter building, fire lighting and bug hunting.

Slide 10 - Trips & Journeys

We are able to support our trips and visits with the use of our fleet of minibuses. This enables us to reduce the cost of trips to our parents and carers.

Slide 11 – PTFA

The PTFA organise and run lots of events each school year. Some are just for the children, like the Magic Show (Foundation) and Discos (KS1, LKS2 & UKS2) held each term and Movie Nights and the annual Book Exchange. Other events are about the whole family coming along – like Fun Runs, Theatre Trips, the annual

Christmas Bazaar and, our main event, the Summer Fete! They also organise some events just for parents such as Quiz Nights and Ladies Evenings. PTFA funds have helped provide the children with a D&T kitchen, a new trim trail and a new minibus!

<https://www.facebook.com/WheatcroftPTFA>

Slide 12 - The Croft – Before & After School Provision

We have wrap around provision on the school site:

Breakfast Club – 7:45 – 8:55am

After School – 3:15 – 6pm

If you would like your child considered for a place in 'The Croft', please email your interest to the manager, Mrs Paula Smith.

the_croft@live.co.uk

Slide 13 - Thank you for taking the time to visit

Wheatcroft Primary School