

**Welcome
to
Wolsingham Primary School**



Guidance to parents of Reception children



Welcome to Reception at Wolsingham Primary School!

Starting school is a time of excitement and apprehension – not least for parents. Your child's education will, of course, already have started with you at home and possibly in a playgroup or nursery. Our job is to expand and diversify their experiences and work with you to continue your child's development.

We hope that the time you and your child spend with us will be both happy and successful. We know that you as a parent have played a crucially important role in your child's development already and believe children learn best when home and school work together in partnership. We aim to build on the wealth of knowledge and understanding about your child that both you and the staff in your child's nursery have, as your child continues on their learning journey.

At Wolsingham Primary we believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfill their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important and provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

We understand that starting Reception is a very big step for your child and like you we are keen to make your child feel welcome, happy, secure and valued. We have compiled this information booklet to provide you with the information you need about when your child starts school. We hope that you find the information useful and look forward to meeting you.

S. Kitching
Headteacher

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Starting school is a huge and exciting step in a child's life. However, it can be an emotional strain on both child and parent. Nursery and Reception working together helps to lessen this strain as children have already begun to build relationships with all staff. Your child is familiar with the routines within the Foundation Stage and the great benefits it has upon their learning. We hope that this pack will help to put your mind at rest and answer any questions you or your child may have.

Our aim is to provide a warm, friendly, welcoming atmosphere, alongside a high quality education because your child deserves the best.



The Reception classroom will build upon your child's progress in Nursery while continuing to follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This involves working towards the early learning goals in the seven areas of learning. These areas are as follows:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children will continue to learn through a play based curriculum with which they are already familiar. As the year progresses there will be increasing amounts of time spent on adult led activities such as letter and number formation, conducting scientific investigations, reading a story and then acting out the roles.

Transition into Reception

We are aware that your child, like every other child in the country, will miss numerous transition opportunities in the Summer term, to gradually ease them into school life, becoming familiar with staff, the environment and the school building. Unfortunately this is out of our control, although we are acutely aware of how important transition is for young children.

Our Reception staff have made an introductory video for parents and children to watch together introducing themselves and showing you around the Reception class.

Mrs Breen has also recorded her presentation for parents/carers that would usually be held prior to induction days. These can be found at:

<http://www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk/our-classes/reception-class/reception-intake-2020/>

If you have any questions following these videos, please use the contact form at the bottom of the webpage.

- On Wednesday 2nd September, the morning induction group and one of their parents/carers will come into school for an induction morning from 9am until 11.00am
- On Wednesday 2nd September, the afternoon induction group and one of their parents/carers will come into school for an induction morning from 1pm until 3pm.
- On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, the morning induction group will attend the morning session only (from 8.55am until 11.45am).
- On Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September, the afternoon induction group will attend the afternoon session only (from 1pm until 3.15pm).
- All children will start school on the morning of Monday 7th September 8.45am – 3.15pm.

At Wolsingham Primary School we are in a very fortunate position, that our Nursery is part of the school. Due to the amount of Nursery provision that your child missed in the last academic year, we have made arrangements to ease them into Reception life gradually, utilising the Nursery environment. From their start date on Monday 7th September, children will be in the Reception classroom every morning, building relationships with the Reception class staff, becoming familiar with the school building, their classroom environment and routine. They will then spend the afternoon in Nursery, with Nursery staff and Reception staff, giving them the opportunity to revisit the learning

opportunities that have been missed, in particular lots of personal, social and emotional development. Rather than saying that this will happen for a set amount of weeks, staff will use their professional knowledge, and decide when they believe the children are ready to spend their whole school day in the Reception classroom. We will inform you when this decision has been made.

We believe as a school that putting the children's needs first will make the transition into school life easier, and give them the best possible start to their year in Reception.



Preparing your child for school – how you can help

Starting school brings lots of exciting new changes for both children and parents. Before September comes there are lots of things that can be done at home in preparation. This will help ease children into school without having any worries about what they can or can't do. Staff will always be there with a smiling face to support children and help them become independent learners.

When children start school they become more independent in lots of different ways. Children feel more confident and sure of themselves if they are able to demonstrate to other children their ability to 'look after themselves'.



It will help if when they start school they can:

- Put on and take off their coats, hats, etc
- Dress and undress themselves with very little help for PE
- Use the toilet and flush it
- Wash and dry their hands
- Use a knife and fork

Finally and possibly most important of all, each item of clothing should be named. Children get very upset when they can't find their clothes and it makes life much easier if everything has a name on!

Children will continue to be provided with a mid morning snack and we do ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week to cover the cost of this. We try to provide a variety of healthy options, encouraging children to try new things. This money will also cover baking resources and food from other countries. Money can be sent in an envelope weekly or half termly depending on yourself.

A final word – we are sure that your child will settle into school with no problems at all, but if you have any concerns please feel free to come and speak to us. We encourage an open partnership with parents and are happy to listen and advise however small you think the problem may be.

To keep communication flowing between school and parents you will receive a weekly newsletter from school, containing any good news to celebrate and important future dates or events.

September will soon be here and we are looking forward to welcoming you and your children into school.

Mrs Breen and Mrs Wendy Hall
Reception Class Team

We hope that you have found this information pack useful. Please provide feedback to us with any suggestions as to how it could be improved or anything significant that we may have missed out.



Day to Day Details

- Your child will start school in the week beginning 2nd September 2020 (either mornings or afternoons as indicated on the transition letter for parents).
- On Monday 7th September, children and parents may come into school through the Key Stage 1 playground anytime from 8.45am until 9.00am.
- Children will leave school through the Key Stage 1 entrance at home time.
- School lunches are currently free for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. Alternatively children can bring a healthy packed lunch into school.
- PE kit should be brought to school in a named bag at the beginning of each half term. Children will need a named t-shirt, a pair of shorts and a pair of plimsolls. We encourage children to take PE clothes home at the end of each half term.
- Children will need to bring in a named water bottle at the beginning of the year.
- Friends of Wolsingham. Anyone who wishes to help in any way towards fundraising for the school is welcome to attend the meetings. Please see Mrs Hall or Mrs Emerson for further information.
- A reminder that all clothing should be named.
- Should your child have any allergies, medical conditions or food preferences please inform us as soon as possible.
- Medicines – medicines prescribed by the doctor or over the counter medicines can be administered and a form must be filled in. Please see Mrs Breen or Mrs Hall if your child needs to take any medicines. If your child uses an inhaler please ask a Doctor for an additional spacer and inhaler which can be left at school at all times.