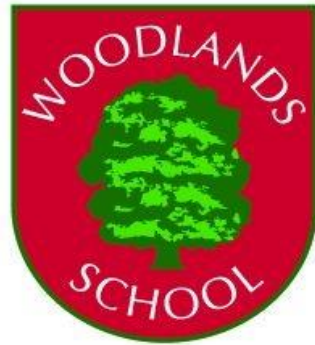


WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



NURSERY CLASS 2020/21

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

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Mrs Claire Ager

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Mrs C Griffiths (Vice Chair)
Mr J Marsh
Mr V Mahesh-Kumar
Mrs K Furness

Teacher Governor Representative

Miss S Cook

Support Staff Governor Representative Ms C Preece

LA Governor

Cllr S Evans
Mrs F English
Cllr K Evans

Community Governor

Ms P Mudher
Mr B White
Mrs J Baker

AIMS OF THE NURSERY

To provide a happy, safe, secure and stimulating environment.

To encourage all children to achieve their potential whatever their abilities.

To encourage independence and self confidence, with self discipline and thought for others.

To establish good relationships between home and school.

To develop appropriate attitudes towards learning.

A note from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents,

The Staff of Woodlands Community Primary School are pleased to present this handbook to the parents of the children entering the Nursery Class.

It contains basic information which we hope will be helpful and informative especially to "new" parents.

The children attending the nursery will be educated and cared for by qualified, professional staff. I am confident that your child will be happy at Woodlands School and will enjoy all the educational activities we have planned for them.

We look forward to meeting you and your child and are sure that your family's association with the school will be a happy one.

J. Bates
Headteacher

General Information

The nursery class is attached to the Primary School but also serves Greenmeadow Primary School.

The opening and closing times of the nursery are as follows :-

Morning session 9.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Afternoon session 12.45 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

You will appreciate that the acceptance of a nursery place implies a certain commitment on the part of parents. It is expected that children will attend **regularly** and be punctual at all times. We would ask for your co-operation, as we feel regular and punctual attendance is an essential part of a child's education.

General Safety

Woodlands Community Primary School is committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of all children in school. All Torfaen schools, including WCPS, follow the SEWSCB procedures. The school will, in most circumstances, endeavour to discuss all concerns with parents about their children. However, there may be exceptional circumstances when the school will discuss concerns with Social Care and/or the Police without parental knowledge (in accordance with Child Protection procedures). The school will, of course, always aim to maintain a positive relationship with all parents. The school's Child Protection policy is available on request.

Children need a safe, secure place in which to develop and learn. As a staff, we aim to ensure we provide a happy, stimulating, learning environment. We encourage the children to be a part of this process, learning to take some responsibility for the safety of themselves and others.

Parents also have a part to play in ensuring the safety of all the children:

- In order to prevent a serious accident, please note that cars are **not** to be driven onto the school premises.

- Please ensure that dogs are not brought onto school grounds.
- It is essential that when bringing your children to nursery, that they are brought to the cloakroom and left in the care of a member of staff.
- In the interest of health and safety, please discourage children from bringing to school sweets, toys, jewellery.

For obvious reasons, please ensure that a member of staff is informed if someone other than yourself will be collecting your child. Again you will realise this should be an adult. Please let a member of staff know if anyone is NOT to "pick-up" your child.

Practicalities

Many children will be taking their first steps into the outside world without you. It is the aim of the nursery to provide a secure, happy and stimulating environment where all the children are able to extend their knowledge and understanding, and to make their transition from home to school a happy and exciting experience.

Generally, it is not possible for parents to remain with their child during their first few sessions in Nursery. It is our experience that children settle more easily when parents are able to leave them for a short while.

At the beginning of the new school year in September, children will be admitted as soon as possible. All children will stay the full session straight away and if there are any issues this can be reviewed.

It is the aim of the nursery to provide a varied and interesting curriculum where the children become independent and actively involved in their learning.

The children will be in a very practical learning environment so please consider the following when dressing them:-

- Children enjoy many practical activities such as painting, gluing, modelling with dough. They always wear aprons at such times but occasionally clothes will inevitably get marked. If your child should spill paint the suppliers advise:-
 - a) Clothing should be immersed in cold water and left to soak for 24 hours before normal washing.
 - b) Hot water and detergent should never be administered in the first stage as this can fix the colour permanently into the fabric.
- Children can be helped more easily when using the toilet, if they are not wearing tight jeans or dungarees.
- To avoid confusion, please ensure that your child's clothing is **clearly labelled with their name**.
- Whenever possible, we give the children opportunities to enjoy outdoor play. It is advised, therefore, that children wear or bring a coat to school. In hot weather, we suggest children wear hats and cover neck and shoulders. We advise you to apply sun cream before your child comes to nursery. If your child wears wellingtons to school, please send along a change of shoes.
- Children must have clearly labelled spare clothes and wellies on their peg.
- Velcro shoes are much easier for Nursery children and allows them to be independent. Velcro is also a much safer option as children frequently trip over laces.

Each child will be given their own peg in the cloakroom, for outdoor clothing.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

All children are encouraged to participate fully and have equal access to all activities in the nursery, regardless of gender, race or disability. We aim to address the needs of all children and, with the co-operation of parents, to identify any children with specific special needs.

Complaints Procedure

If you have any concerns, please speak to the Nursery Teacher at once about them. If they are unable to be resolved at this stage, the Head Teacher is available to see parents. Occasionally it is necessary to make an appointment.

Parents wishing to make a formal complaint are advised that there is an approved procedure which must be followed. The Head Teacher will provide you with the necessary information as required.

Reporting to Parents

Parents are always welcome to come to the nursery to talk to the teaching staff about their children, as we feel it is important to work together. However, there may be occasions when an appointment is necessary.

Children's progress is carefully monitored while in nursery. Parents are invited to make an appointment for a more formal parent consultation to discuss their child's progress.

At the end of the Summer Term you will be given a written report on your child's progress.

The staff of Woodlands Community Primary School treat children and parents with courtesy and kindness. It is the responsibility of parents to show the same consideration towards staff. Acts of verbal abuse, threatening behaviour or violence towards any member of staff will not be tolerated and will result in a referral to the Local Education Authority.

The Curriculum

Children in nursery learn under the following areas:

Literacy skills

Numeracy skills

ICT skills

Personal & Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Physical Development

Creative Development

Welsh Language Development

Literacy Skills

We aim:-

- to extend the children's vocabulary and language.
- to encourage careful listening through stories, songs and poems.
- to encourage a love of books.
- to encourage children to enjoy making marks for a range of purposes.
- to encourage the children to begin learn some sounds of the alphabet.
- to encourage children to recognise and begin to write their name.
- to realise that spoken word can be written down.
- To draw using lines, dots and shapes to create named drawings.
- To dictate to an adult so that they may scribe what the child has to say.

Numeracy Skills

We aim:-

- to give children experience of number activities in visual and practical contexts.
- to give children a wide range of mathematical experiences and vocabulary.
- to encourage the children to think and talk in mathematical terms.
- to encourage the children to recognise the numbers 0-5 initially and then progress to numbers up to 10.
- to encourage the children to count reliably by counting in a line, a group and counting out given amounts.

Personal and Social Development, Well-Being and Cultural Diversity

We aim:-

- to help children feel confident and become independent whilst forming relationships with other children and adults.
- to help children to concentrate for lengthening periods.
- to help children develop care, respect and affection for other children and adults.
- to encourage children to take turns, share and begin to exercise self control.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We aim:-

- to stimulate the children's interest and natural curiosity so that they may explore the world using all their senses.
- to make children aware of their environment and culture, whilst giving them experiences of other cultures.
- to encourage experimenting, testing and finding out how things work.

Physical Development

We aim:-

- to encourage children to gain greater control of their own bodies and for them to become more independent.
- to develop manipulative and motor skills, physical control and co-ordination.
- for children to begin to understand the concepts of health, hygiene and safety.

Creative Development

We aim:-

- to create opportunities for children to express themselves creatively through a variety of media.

- to provide a variety of experiences which develop the senses to enhance learning.

Welsh Language Development

We aim;-

- To create opportunities for children to listen to and use words and phrases from the Welsh language in their play and during their time in the nursery.

Teaching and Learning

Our Nursery provides well structured and purposeful activities which will enhance and extend children's learning. Structured play is, for a young child, a very serious business. It needs concentrated attention. It is all about perseverance, attending to detail, learning and concentrating - characteristics usually associated with work. Play is not only crucial to the way children become self aware and learn about social behaviour, it is also important to intellectual development.

Young children learn most effectively when they are involved in first hand experiences. Our curriculum is centred around the child. It is about staff understanding, inspiring and challenging each child's talent to learn. We are here to help children, to guide their play, to offer choices, to challenge children with care and sensitivity, to encourage them and to move their learning along.

As you are aware, children learn a tremendous amount during the first five years of their lives. Therefore, as parents you have been your child's first teachers. It is important that we continue to build on the foundation you have laid and that we should work together for the benefit of your child.

Children are often asked to bring to school objects of interest about particular topics. You can help by encouraging your child to participate, and also by marking each item with your child's name.

Forest School

Your child will have the opportunity to experience the outdoors through Forest School. Forest School fosters the children's sense of awe and wonder, develops independence and develops 'life skills' such as cooking on a fire, using tools etc. It also develops the child's emotional development.

In order for your child to attend Forest School you need to provide them with:

- Warm gloves, hats, scarves
- Wellington boots

Please note - Your child will experience the outdoor environment daily, whatever the weather (within reason) so appropriate attire is vital.

Helping Your Child

There are many ideal learning situations at home and quality time spent with your child learning new things will be very worthwhile.

Children of all ages enjoy drawing and writing with a variety of pencils, crayons and paper and it is helpful for them to have access to these tools as often as possible.

Try to encourage your child to dress him/herself, even if this takes a long time. Your child will feel a great sense of achievement when he/she is able to do this independently, which helps to develop confidence and to raise his/her self esteem.

Let your child share 'everyday' activities with you in your home, such as laying the table at meal times, putting away the shopping, getting ready for bedtime, counting the stairs at bedtime.

It is most important to talk to your child often, to help develop his/her vocabulary and language skills.

Homework

To ensure that your child reaches their full potential it is **vital** that you spend time developing their skills daily in short bursts. For example, reading, singing, pointing out letters and numbers, playing I-spy, counting everyday items such as groceries.

Toilet Training

- We expect that your child will be toilet trained but understand that it can be more challenging for some children.
- Toilet Training Plans will be drawn up (hopefully before they start) in certain cases in which an agreement between school, home and perhaps other professionals will be made.
- This plan should be reviewed after 6 weeks. If there has been little or no progress made in achieving continence a range of options can be taken as appropriate for the individual child such as a referral to a specialist Nurse or a modified day.
- Accidents are common place in Nursery and we will support the children in changing themselves.
- When supporting children to change themselves, an adult will take them to a private cubicle in the bathroom and coach them through removing their shoes etc. and support where necessary. They will coach them in how to wipe and flush. In some cases they will use the 'hand over hand' technique to support. Occasionally if a child is perhaps too soiled to leave in a comfortable state we will ring you to come and change them/take them home if needs be.
- All children should be provided with spare clothes and it is the parent's responsibility to provide nappies and to make sure that they are taken to the toilet before they start the session unless they have been to wrap around.