

Welcome to

Whittle Academy



We are really looking forward to meeting you and doing lots of fun and learning together in school.

We hope that this booklet will show you lots of the brilliant things that we do in Reception and answer any questions that you might have.



Welcome to Whittle Academy!

We are so excited that you are going to be starting school in September and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Reception is the most wonderful adventure where you will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year you will be able to do so many amazing things - you will have learnt to read and to write. You will be able to count to higher than you can now. You will have explored the world around and most importantly had the most amazing fun!

This book is to help you understand what being in Reception will be like. It is written to you (with a few bits of extra information for your grown-ups). We hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and that this helps you to get as excited about school as we all are!



Who will be teaching me?

These are the grown-ups who will be helping you in Reception..



Mrs Cornfoot
Reception
Teacher



Mrs Barnes
Teaching
Assistant

How will we get to know you before you start school?

Home Visit

If you are new to Whittle Academy and have been to a different Nursery we will arrange a time with your grown-ups when we can come and visit you at home before you start Reception. You can show us your favourite toys and tell us about what you like to do.

When we come to visit you, we will ask you and your grown-up some questions that will help us find out lots of information about you.

Visiting Your New Classroom

Before you start school in September, we will invite you in to meet us and to see your new classroom. There will be lots of toys out that you can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet. We will invite your grown-ups in on this day too so they will be able to see your classroom as well.



Home Visits

Home visits will take place during June or July. We will be in touch with you to arrange a suitable time that we can come and meet you and your child.

Note: Home visits are only necessary for children new to Whittle. Our current Nursery cohort will not require a visit.



Starting School



On your first day in Reception you will be put into 2 smaller groups. We will make sure that you are in a group with some of your friends from Nursery or any other children that you might know from outside of school. Some of you might come in for the morning and some of you will come in after lunch. We will be sending out a letter to you grown-ups which will give the details of your first day at school.

On your first day your grown-up will take you to your classroom and help you put your bag and coat away. Then you will be able to give them a big hug and say good-bye. Don't worry though your grown-up always come back at the end of the day for big cuddles and to find out all that you have been doing up to!

On your second and third day at school you will get to meet everyone in your class. There will be 30 children altogether. On this day you will stay all morning and have lunch at school (we will tell you more about lunch time later in this book). After lunch, your grown-ups will come and pick you up and take you home.

After those three days, you will then be staying at school for the whole day. This booklet tells you about all the amazing activities that you will be going to do when you are at school.

The first few weeks can be tiring and bewildering even if your child is used to Nursery or being with a childminder. Don't worry if your child becomes upset; we are used to dealing with this situation. Children usually stop crying quickly and we can phone you to reassure you later in the session.

What do I need to bring with me?

When you come to school you will need to bring your book bag with you. You will use this to take library books, your reading book and letters home. Your book bags will be kept in your drawer in your classroom. You will also need to bring in a PE kit that will hang on your peg.



What do I wear to School?

When you start Reception, you will be wearing your school uniform to school every day. We love to see how smart you look.

School Uniform

Girls:

- Blue Sweatshirt
- Blue Cardigan
- White Polo Shirt
- Grey skirt / pinafore / trousers / leggings
- Blue Summer dresses - check or stripe
- Black sensible shoes

Boys:

- Green Sweatshirt
- White Polo Shirt
- Grey trousers / shorts / jogging bottoms
- Black sensible shoes

P.E. Kit:

- White t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Black pumps

We want you to be as independent as you can in Reception. To help you do this we would love you to have a pair of shoes that you can put on and off and do up yourself. We would also like you to have a named pair of wellington boots that you can leave at Reception and wear every day when we play and explore outside.



What do I need to bring with me?

Lots of the fun activities you will be able to explore are very messy.

We do have aprons for you to wear but it's sometimes hard to stay clean when you are having fun.



Please can you bring a named bag with some spare uniform clothes in which include a change of underwear and socks, a top, some bottoms and a jumper or cardigan. It is fine for you to leave your change of clothes, hung up on your peg, just in case we need it.

We play outside in the outdoor area most days. In winter you will need to wear a coat, gloves and a woolly hat. In the summer you will need to wear a sun hat and clothes that keep your neck and shoulders covered.



We encourage children not to wear jewellery to Reception but understand that this may not be possible for all for faith based reasons.

What will help me be independent in Reception?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Reception as you are becoming so grown up. You will be allowed to go to the toilet whenever you need to go. Just tell a grown-up. We have our own toilets in Reception so you won't have far to go. If you do have a little accident please do not worry just make sure you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in and we can help you get changed.

Where will I put my things?

You will have your own peg in Reception, this will be your space to hang your bag and coat.



What should I leave at home?

You don't need to bring any of your own toys in to school. We have plenty of fun things to play with here and we don't want your toys to get accidentally lost or broken.

What happens if I am poorly?

Please consult the school website for latest guidelines regarding illness and absences in line with current Government recommendations.

If your child suffers from a medical condition requiring treatment such as an inhaler, we will require up to date medication to be kept in school.

It is important that we can always contact parents in cases of emergency. Please inform school immediately if your telephone number changes.



What will I do at School?

We will play inside and outside at school every day. There are so many fun activities for you to explore. Here are a few ...

Number and Shape



Reading and Stories

Writing



Craft and Creativity

Technology



Fun outside

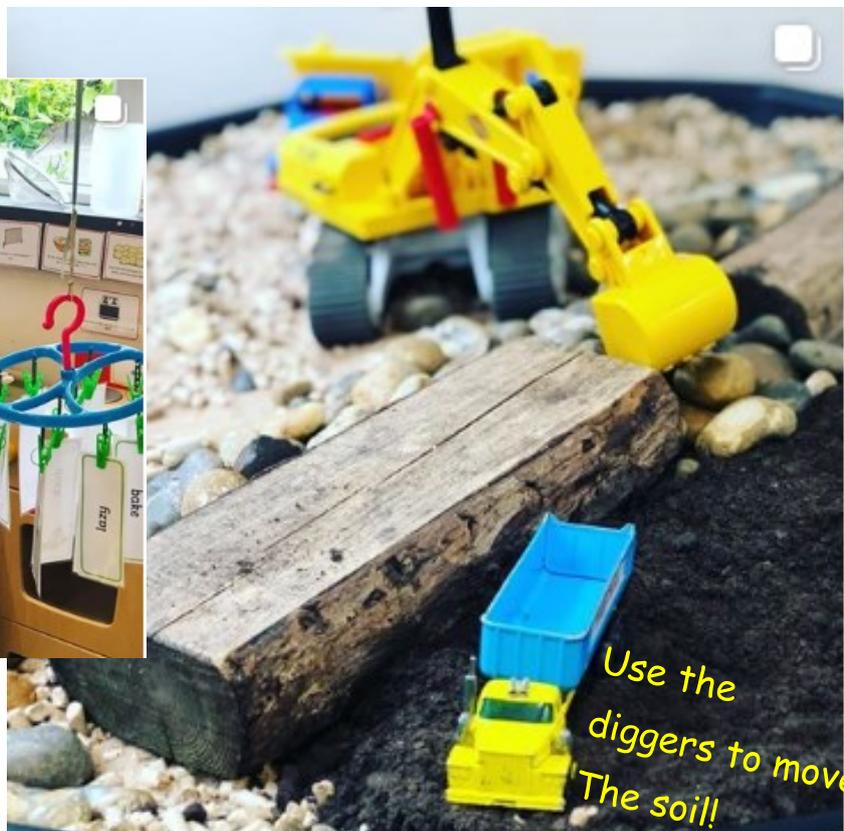


How will I learn by playing?

Playing is one of the best ways you can learn! Here are a few examples of how the toys and activities we have in Reception will help you to learn:



You will love our role-play and Small World areas where you can play and use your imagination!



- Sand and water play can be an early introduction to science and maths, eg learning that water is fluid, not solid, and that it can be measured in different sized containers.
 - Playing with dough, drawing and painting pictures, dressing up, playing with dolls can encourage creativity, imagination and expression of feelings.
 - Building blocks, jigsaws and shape sorters can help with recognising different shapes and sizes, putting things in order and developing logic.
 - Playing ball games, dancing, running, climbing all help to develop body movement, strength, flexibility and co-ordination skills.
 - Games help with turn taking, sharing and mixing with others.
 - Singing, playing simple music instruments help to develop rhythm, listening and hearing.
 - The role-play area is a wonderful place for make-believe, dressing up, trying out different roles. It provides scope for developing imagination, language, sharing, co-operation and mathematics.
 - Through cooking the children are able to discover the properties of different types of food as well as developing language, mathematical and scientific skills.
 - Reading and learning stories. Writing and mark-making. Children will also develop these skills through daily Phonics sessions.
- You will have the opportunity to play outside most days. It is important that children of Reception age develop their climbing, sliding, and jumping skills. The children have an opportunity to play in the mud kitchen as well as riding bikes and scooters.



How will I learn to read and write?

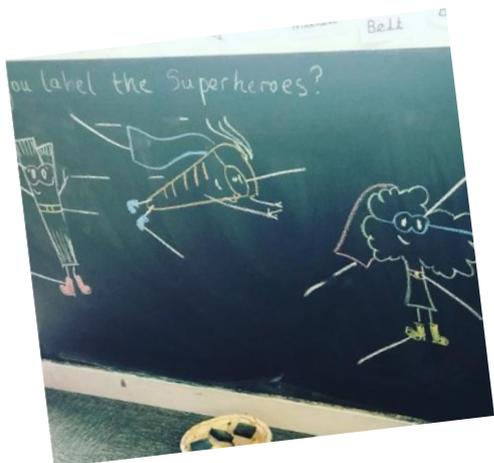
Phonics

In Reception we are always learning and using lots of new and interesting words and listening to the sounds and rhymes in them. In the Autumn term, we will start to learn the letter sounds and how to form the letters. To do this we use a phonics and reading scheme called Read, Write Inc which is packed full of rhymes, movement and sound games.

Writing



You will have lots of opportunities to develop your writing skills in Reception. Using a variety of writing equipment, you will be able to make marks and symbols and write words and sentences using the sounds you learn in Phonics.



How will my grown-ups know about all the fun I have been having in Reception?

The adults in Reception will record the amazing learning you do on an online Learning Journal called Tapestry. Your grown-ups will be given a secure log in which will enable them to access Tapestry and see all the fun you have had in Reception. Your parents will also be able to add their own photos or comments about the adventures and achievements you have outside school, we can't wait to see them.

If you have any questions about Tapestry or need any support accessing your account please speak to a member of the Reception team.

We have termly Come and Share sessions where your grown-ups can visit and play with you.



We even have tea parties to share special events and celebrations with your grown ups!



Everything in Reception is carefully planned and structured to help your child's development. This is undertaken through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised to take care of and develop the whole child and not just their academic learning. Our Foundation curriculum covers the following:-

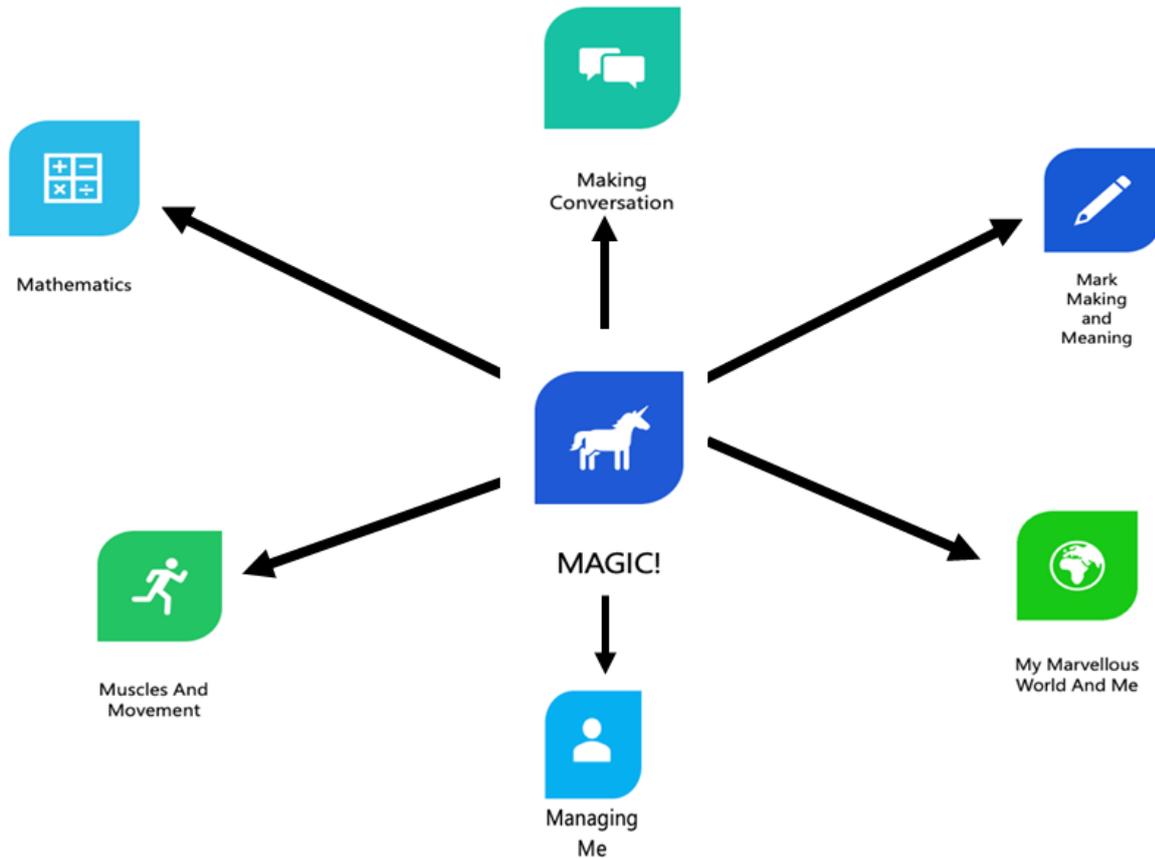
- *Personal, Social and Emotional Development;*
- *Physical Development*
- *Communication and Language;*
- *Literacy;*
- *Mathematics;*
- *Understanding the World;*
- *Expressive Arts and Design.*

We are keen to share your child's progress in these areas at termly Parent Teacher consultations. We highly value these sessions and very much look forward to seeing you there.



The Ms

At Whittle, this is just the start. We have designed our own bespoke curriculum that encompasses the 7 areas of learning and the characteristics of learning in an engaging and exciting curriculum that we call **The Ms**.



We prioritise **making conversations** and learning to communicate, teaching and supporting children to **manage** themselves and their friendships, **mark making** and understanding the **meaning** of marks, developing secure early **mathematical** skills, exploring the **marvellous world** around them, and giving children the opportunities to use and develop their **muscles and movement**.

Magic is at the heart of all we do, making sure that our children are engaged and excited in all their learning. This does not mean we will be teaching your children card tricks but that we find engaging and exciting ways to introduce topics and themes to your children. This could be anything from building Superhero dens in Nursery to finding a beanstalk has grown in one of the Reception, classrooms as part of their learning about Jack and the Beanstalk.

Parents/Carers the last few pages are just for you.

Starting School

Monday 5th	Tuesday 6th	Wednesday 7th	Thursday 8th	Friday 9th
INSET No children are in school today	INSET No children are in school today	Reception in – half day 15 in am 15 in pm	All in 8:45-1:30 Staying for lunch	All in 8:45-2:15 Staying for lunch
Monday 12th	Tuesday 13th	Wednesday 14th	Thursday 15th	Friday 16th
Reception in for full days 8:45-3:15				
*This is the best fit transition. It may not be right for everyone. We will work with you and your child to make sure that they have the best and most positive start to school.				

We will be writing to you nearer the time to give you the exact times and session that your child will be in school for and to also invite you all for a stay and play session in your new classrooms.

Our transition to completing a full school day is quick as we know that lots of children will have been in Nursery for full days and will be ready to stay for a full day at school from September. This may not work for all children and for some this process may be too quick and too much. You will have the opportunity to talk through this transition process during your home visit or at the parents meeting.



What can you do to make sure that you child is ready for school?



You will have received with your welcome pack some targets that you can start working on with your child to make sure that they are ready for school. These include everything from practising putting their coat on to writing their names. There are also lots of other things that you can do to support your child with the transition to school. Here are a few ideas...

- Talk to them and listen to them
- Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together
- Play games with them - practise taking turns
- Read books to them
- Visit your local library.
- Teach them to take care of books - how do you turn pages carefully?
- Count regularly

E.g. How many buttons on this dress?

How many cups on the table?

- Recognise different sizes

E.g. Large/small

Thick/thin

- Talk about shapes and colours.

E.g. Sort and match objects.

- Give your child the opportunity to write and draw and scribble using pens, crayons, felt tips and pencils.
- Practise self-care skills

Go to the toilet and wash and dry hands?

Put on/take off coats?

Put on/take off shoes?

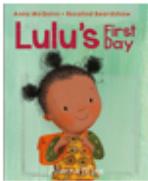
Hold and use scissors?

There are some fantastic books and resources that you can use with your child to begin talking about starting school.



This is a lovely game that can be found on the BBC Bitesize website. You can create your own character and choose what school uniform they are going to wear.

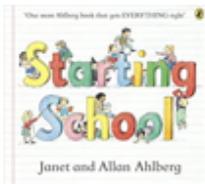
Below are some lovely books that you could use to start talking about starting school.



Lulu's First Day by Anna McQuinn



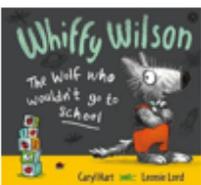
Lucy and Tom go to School by Shirley Hughes



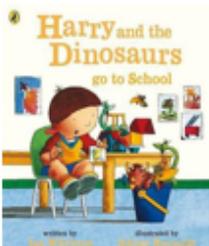
Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg



We are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold



Whiffy Wilson: The Wolf who wouldn't go to School by Caryl Hart



Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow



Soon this classroom will be yours!
We can't wait to see you in September for Lots of fun and super learning!
Mrs Cornfoot and Mrs Barnes.



It is good to talk...

For some of you September cannot come soon enough! For others the thought of your child starting school may make you feel worried and anxious. Whichever camp you may fall into one thing that we ask of you is that you talk to your child about starting school. Let them talk to you about any worries that they may have or what they are looking forward to. Show them that you are excited about the new adventure that they are about to start and use this booklet to talk about what the school day will look like for them.



Thank you for reading our Reception booklet. We hope it has given you all the information you will need before your child starts school. If there is anything else you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask.

We cannot wait to see you all in September!

