

Please feel free to talk to us about anything you are concerned about or are happy about! We hope that you and your child will enjoy your time with us at



Central Road
West Didsbury
Manchester
M20 4ZA

office@westdidsburyceprimary.co.uk
0161 448 1611

West Didsbury CE Primary School

Welcome to
the
Reception Year



General Matters

Starting school is an exciting time: a time of new experiences, new friends and new places. This booklet tells you a little bit about us, how we work, what we do and our philosophy. Please don't hesitate to ask if there is anything you would like to know or anything you want to talk about.

The Foundation stage consists of two classes of Reception for children aged 4 to 5.

Settling In.

Coming to school for the first time is a big change for young children. Suddenly the day is shared by up to 30 other children. It may take some time to get used to, and worried children cannot learn.

To avoid anxiety, we welcome you to stay with your child in the morning for as long as we feel it is necessary for your child to be settled.

Snack

As part of the National School Fruit Scheme, children have a piece of fruit every day. They can also receive milk, which needs to be paid for from the term your child turns five. If your child would rather have water, please send a labelled plastic bottle with a sports cap lid. Please no screw caps.

Lunch

Children can have packed lunches or a hot dinner for lunch. Every child up to Year 2 is eligible for a free school dinner.



out their feelings, fantasies and emotions. Sometimes a child may play alone while at other times they may play and co-operate as part of a larger group. The children learn to respect each other, to give and take and to respect each other's wishes.

Behaviour management

We use a traffic light system (red, amber, green), where each child has a photo of themselves which stays on the green circle provided they follow the Golden rules. Children who are exceptionally well behaved have their photo moved to the gold circle. On occasions where a child's behaviour is unacceptable, they are given warnings. If this behaviour continues, their photo is moved to the amber circle for the rest of the day. There is also a red circle, which means a trip to see Mr Whitehead or Mrs Large where their name and incident is written in the red book. The good news is that the children start each new day on the green circle!

Children's good behaviour is also rewarded with stickers, house points and smilers, which are a bit like raffle tickets. Every week, a child is selected to receive a gold award for good work, which is awarded in our celebration assembly, and their achievements are recorded in our Gold Book.



Expressive arts and design (EAD)

The children have opportunities to work with a wide range of materials and media in a creative way. They work individually or as a member of a small group and their work is always valued, shared and often displayed in the class. Creative work may be produced for the sake of creativity itself, as a means of exploring materials or as a way of recording memorable experiences. Much of the work is retained for their books and folders which will be sent home at the end of the year. Children are encouraged to listen to music and respond using dance. There are separate vocal and instrumental music sessions where children learn how to 'find their voices' and use them in a variety of ways - high, low, loud, quiet etc. Children have the opportunity to express and communicate their ideas, feelings and thoughts through music, dance, drama, imaginative play and role play.



Your Child's Day

The day is taken up with many activities such as guided group work, sand and water play, dressing up, role play, singing and story time. Our role play areas are often changed into different environments which usually link to our topic. This gives children an opportunity for role play where they can act

School Uniform

Children in Foundation stage need to learn through hands-on experience which can often be very messy! With this in mind every child wears a school uniform that can be easily washed!

This consists of the following:

- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan
- Summer blue gingham dress
- Sensible black shoes—please no shoes with toys in them.
- Sandals (not open-toed) for the summer.
- PE T-shirt in House colour (available from school)
- Navy or black shorts and trainers in a draw string bag.

You can buy official uniform with our emblem on it from the school or through the Tesco school's scheme. Any uniform without the logo is to be of the school colours but from any supplier of your choice. Please remember to always send suitable outdoor clothing (waterproof coat/wellies) as children play out every day, in all weathers.



Your Role

Children's education begins at home with their parents, carers and family members as their first teachers. When children start school, teachers build on this learning. There are always things you can do to help your child with their learning. Each week we send a newsletter home, informing you about the learning going on in school that week. Please read the letter and help your child in any way you can.

When children come to school it is a great help if they can recognise their own names as they are used for coat pegs, self registration pictures etc.

With partnership in mind, we always welcome parents/carers who would like to come into school to help. There are a variety of activities which parents can help with, from simple jobs to helping a group of children with a given task. At the start of term, do let us know if you would like to come in and help and we can discuss an area in which you would like to be

number. Another aspect of this area of learning is shape, space and measure, which includes learning the names and properties of 2d and 3d shapes, measuring using non standard measures and making patterns.

Understanding the World (UW)

This heading encompasses children's learning in Science, Design and Technology, I.C.T, History, Geography and RE. We use a hands on approach which enables the children to find out about the world through their senses. In the Summer term, children will get to watch frogspawn turn into frogs and caterpillars turn into butterflies—an amazing experience for them to watch first hand. We learn about many different festivals and celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Christmas and Eid to give children as wide a range of experiences as possible. We also participate in Godly play sessions led by our staff, or the clergy.



Communication and Language (CL)

This involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment. They will develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and will learn to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Literacy Development (LD)

Children learn to do their own emergent (pretend) writing which will gradually develop into more meaningful writing throughout the year. They will learn to hold their pencil correctly and write their names. They will take part in daily Letters and Sounds lessons, helping them to link sounds to letters, which will have a huge impact on their reading and writing. They will learn to love books and stories as their ability to learn to read develops.



Mathematics (M)

This area includes number recognition to 20, accurate 1-1 counting and ordering numbers.

When they are ready, children move on to developing calculation skills, adding and subtracting objects, doubling, halving and writing number sentences. They will find numbers that are 1 more and 1 less than another



Reception order of the Day (very flexible)

Morning

- 8.45am Children come into school with their parents. Parents/ carers are welcome to stay until their child is settled in class.
- 9.00am Assemble on the carpet for register and whole class carpet time; phonics
- 9.20am Activity time ; independent, guided or Focused.
- 10.20am Group time; Collective Worship or PSE UW
- 10.20am Activity time– independent, guided or focused .
- 11.45am Group time; literacy
- 11.55am Lunchtime prayer. Children wash hands then have lunch.
- 12pm Lunch time.

Afternoon

- 1.10pm Register then group time. maths
- 1.25pm Activity time; independent, guided or Focused.
- 2.45pm Group story time/celebration time
Distribute pictures/ bookbags etc.
- 3.10pm Home time.

Staff:

Reception Teachers : Miss J Rouge, Miss S Tarmey

Reception Teaching Assistants : Mrs C Craven, Mrs R Pope

Curriculum Details

Starting school is a step towards independence for your child. Our Foundation Stage classes provide a secure and anxiety-free environment where your child can play, explore, experiment and investigate. We encourage the children to acquire skills and knowledge through first hand experience, gaining a sound understanding of the world around them, discovering for themselves at their own pace. General understanding must be strengthened before children can make sense of the specialised skills that school will soon be helping them to learn.

At certain times of the day, children assemble on the carpet with an adult to work in a group or with the whole class. At designated times, the children are free to move throughout the learning environment, both inside and out. At these times, groups of children or individuals will also be working with an adult on specific tasks.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning, each with its own Early Learning Goals. These goals are targets which the children are guided towards and challenged to achieve during their time in Foundation Stage.

Prime areas

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and language

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

In PSED, the children will learn to be confident, form good relationships with adults and peers and gain an understanding about right and wrong. They will learn to develop an awareness of other people's views and feelings and how important it is to take turns and share fairly in order to play and work together harmoniously. There is a strong emphasis on children learning to manage and understand their own feelings and behaviour.

In our Foundation Stage, we are sure your child will make friends for life!

Physical Development (PD)

The children are given lots of opportunities to move with confidence, control, imagination and co-ordination in a safe environment. They will learn to have an awareness of space and recognise the changes that will happen to their bodies when they are active. They have opportunities to ride bikes, push and pull trucks and cars and use a range of large and small equipment outside. Children will have an opportunity to use the large apparatus in the hall during gym lessons in the summer term in Reception.

