

Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery School



Welcome Pack

Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage at Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery School. This booklet will help to guide you to help make your child's start at Wessex Gardens a very happy one.

Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

At Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery school we believe in the power of play. It is one of the most important ways that children learn about themselves and the world around them.

We aim to create a balance of child-initiated and adult supported activities and resources to help children develop.



The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning:

1. Communication and language
2. Physical development
3. Personal, social and emotional development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

We follow the children's interests to motivate them in their learning and assess them through observing their play.

Settling in

We recognise that children come to Reception with different experiences of being away from home and family. Starting in Reception will be a gradual process. Your class teacher will fully inform you of the process. Some children will have a slower settling in process, as it is dependent on your individual needs.

Reception

Week 1 – 8.40 to 11.45

Week 2 – 8.40 to 1:30

Week 3 – All day – 8:40 – 3:30

It is important that you are aware that children can be very tired when they start school as they are coming to terms with meeting new children, new adults and exploring new surroundings. Based on their individual needs and by working in close partnership with parents/carers we hope to enable your child to settle happily into Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery school.



Please note that it is very helpful if you are available to help your child settle into Reception.

Structure & organisation of the day

When the children come into Silver Birch in the morning, they self-register.



We welcome parents and carers to stay and support their children to settle at an activity. We have a whole class learning session at the beginning and end of each session (morning/afternoon) with self-initiated play inside or outside in between.



There are a wide range of carefully planned activities on offer each day in both classrooms, and the shared outdoor classroom. The children are free to choose as we know that children learn best when engaged in activities that interest and excite them i.e. self-chosen activities.

The Early Years staff plan the activities from their observations of the children in order to ensure that activities are relevant to the children's interests.

Working in partnership with parents

At Wessex Gardens Primary and Nursery school we recognise that you are your child's first educator and so we aim to work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for your child. We do this in the following ways:

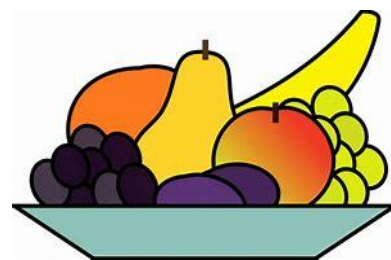
Meetings: we will invite you to meet with us to discuss your child's progress and development. You will receive information about this throughout the year.

Tapestry: this is an online Learning Journal which we use to make observations and assessments about your child. You will have access to this program and be able to post your own observations. We will support you in how to access the website in September.



Lunches/healthy snack

Every day the children have access to healthy snacks (such as fruit, bread sticks, raw vegetables, i.e. carrots, cucumber).



PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

If your child is going to be full time and they are going to have packed lunch, please note we are a nut free school.

Reception children are eligible to have hot lunches free of charge.

Arrangements for dropping off/collecting:

Reception is open 8.40 am each morning. All children must be in school by 8.50 am when school starts. Reception finishes at 3.30 pm every day.

It is important to be on time at the beginning of the session to give your child the best start to the day and to settle in with their friends. Many children find it hard if they are late.

Jewellery:

On the grounds of Health and Safety, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. The exception to this is earring studs or jewellery worn for religious reasons. Please note that the school cannot accept responsibility for personal items that are lost.

Important things to bring to your class

Please bring a pair of boots for your child to wear when it is wet weather.

These boots are kept in school.



School book bag and water bottle

Please bring a waterproof jacket – write your child's name inside.

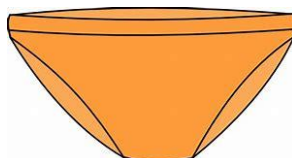
Hats, scarves and gloves are important in cold weather.



Please bring a change of clothes in case your child needs to be changed.

These can be any clothes, in named bag to hang on your child's peg.

Please include underwear, socks and spare shoes.



Reception

Please make sure that your child is in the correct school uniform and that **ALL items are clearly labelled.** It is very difficult to find a child's lost jumper when there is no name in it!

Blue jumper or cardigan



Grey skirt or trousers

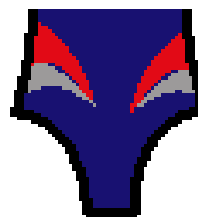


Black shoes or plain

black trainers



Swimming in Reception



Children need to wear a swimsuit, hat, goggles and have a towel.