



# Woodlands Primary School

## Early Years FAQs

### ➤ What age can my child start school?

Nursery children can begin in the September after their third birthday and Reception children begin in the September after their fourth birthday.

### ➤ Will my child receive funding for Nursery?

Your child will automatically be entitled to receive 15 free hours per week from the term after their third birthday. You do not need to apply for this funding. However, if you meet certain HMRC criteria you may be entitled to apply for 30 free hours per week. To check your eligibility you can visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare>

### ➤ What is a typical day like in an Early Years class?

A typical day would begin with your child meeting and greeting their class teacher at the entrance of their classroom. Children start their day with some settling in activities including completing the class register, ordering lunch, class discussion with a focus of the day such as; a story, number activity, special days or events and lots of other exciting things. The morning is then spent exploring activities initiated by either the teacher or the children themselves in continuous provision. During the morning children will also have a healthy snack and enjoy some outdoor play. At lunchtime children have their lunch in the school hall with their friends and are given another chance to explore the playgrounds and play with their friends. The afternoon follows a similar pattern to the mornings, with the register taken and children taking part in interesting and exciting activities. At the end of the day children and staff enjoy a quiet story time before children are released to their parents.

### ➤ How early do you start teaching phonics and writing?

In Nursery, children learn phonics through stories, songs, rhymes and listening games. When the children are ready, usually in the Spring term, they will start learning about letters and their sounds. This will prepare them for their phonics sessions when they start in Reception.

In Reception formal teaching of phonics begins in the first term and this will build on the knowledge they have from their time in Nursery.

### ➤ When should my child start reading?

It's never too early to start sharing books with your child and here at Woodlands we actively encourage families to read with their children. Be it sharing picture books, comics or having a story read to them, it all helps to foster that love of reading. In school we share a variety of books throughout the day to encourage a love of reading and as children move up through school they will be able to borrow books to share with you at home.

➤ **Can Early Year pupils attend wrap around and holiday clubs?**

Yes, they can, we have a club on the school site; S4YC (Sports for your Community), who also offer breakfast club and after school club. Further information can be found at: <http://www.s4yc.co.uk/>

➤ **What are lunchtime like?**

At lunchtime your child can have a meal provided by the school kitchen or you can send them in with a packed lunch. School meals are free for Reception children or provided at a cost to Nursery children (currently £2.35 a day). The menu is displayed on the school website so you can discuss with your child what they might like before they come to school. Children can have a mix of packed lunches and school dinners as there is no need to pre-order, they simply make their choice when they come into school as part of their morning activity. Children have lunch in the school hall with their friends and then are given time to play and explore the reception play areas supervised by teaching staff and our experienced midday assistants.

➤ **Will my child need to wear uniform?**

Nursery children are not required to wear uniform, although due to the nature of their play we would advise you to send your child in wearing comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Our children love to be out in all weathers so we do appreciate you sending in a pair of wellies for them too!

Reception children are required to wear our school uniform and again we would love you to send in a pair of wellies so that they can explore our outside play areas whatever the weather. Details of our uniform can be found on the school website <http://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk/page/school-uniform/3027>

➤ **What links are there between school and parents?**

We have very strong links with our families and encourage parents and carers to get in touch through email to the class teacher, a phone call to the school office or sharing work via twitter and google classrooms. When your child starts at Woodlands we will send home a 'Home School Agreement' which shows you all the things we can do in partnership with each other to provide the best learning experience and outcomes for your child.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we are currently unable to hold any face-to-face appointments. However, we do have virtual parent consultation meetings and our PTA have organised several brilliant virtual events, including an upcoming virtual Christmas Fair. There is plenty of opportunity to get involved with school, either via our PTA or Parent Forum.

➤ **Where do I go for help and information?**

For more information you can access the school website: [www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk), telephone the school office or request a call back from a member of staff.

Website: [www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk)