

A PARENTS' GUIDE
TO THE
EARLY YEARS
FOUNDATION STAGE
AT
WHEELOCK PRIMARY
SCHOOL



2026

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our thriving, happy school. We are delighted that you have chosen Wheelock for the first stage in your child's educational journey and look forward to getting to know you and your child better. This leaflet will answer some of the practical questions you have about the school. Lots more information is available on our website at www.wheelockprimary.co.uk

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Throughout the Reception Year your child will partake in an ambitious curriculum which is designed in a sequential way to ensure progress towards our end of year curricular goals.

At Wheelock Primary School our curriculum incorporates everything we want the children to experience, learn and be able to do. It meets all the requirements of the educational programmes in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has the flexibility to allow us to respond quickly to children's new interests and/or needs.

The intent for our children is for them to enter the next stage of their education ready to tackle new challenges with confidence and a positive mindset. We provide the highest quality care and education by giving our children a progressive and stimulating curriculum that will encourage each child to develop the skills, understanding and attitudes to reach their full potential. We create a safe and happy environment with engaging and challenging learning experiences, to enable our children to become confident and independent learners.





OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Children at Wheelock are taught to believe in themselves.

Children at Wheelock belong to an inclusive community where all are treated fairly.

Being kind is central to everything that we do at Wheelock.

Our values:

BELIEVE BELONG BE KIND

Children leave Wheelock knowing that they have a credible place in a global society and being proud of who they are.

They are resilient people who embrace calculated risk taking and challenge, seeing small failures as necessary steps to achieve their full potential.

They understand their rights as human beings, they are listened to and they actively support other people to be able to access their rights.

THE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 interconnected areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

**PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

These are:

LITERACY

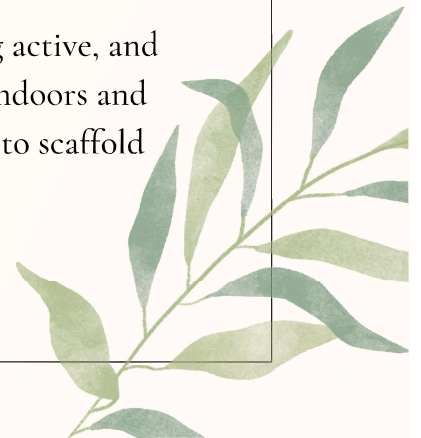
MATHEMATICS

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. At Wheelock Primary our experienced EYFS teaching team ensure that tasks and challenges are suited to your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking. Our environment indoors and outdoors is continually enhanced with resources designed to scaffold and maximise learning.



THE SCHOOL DAY

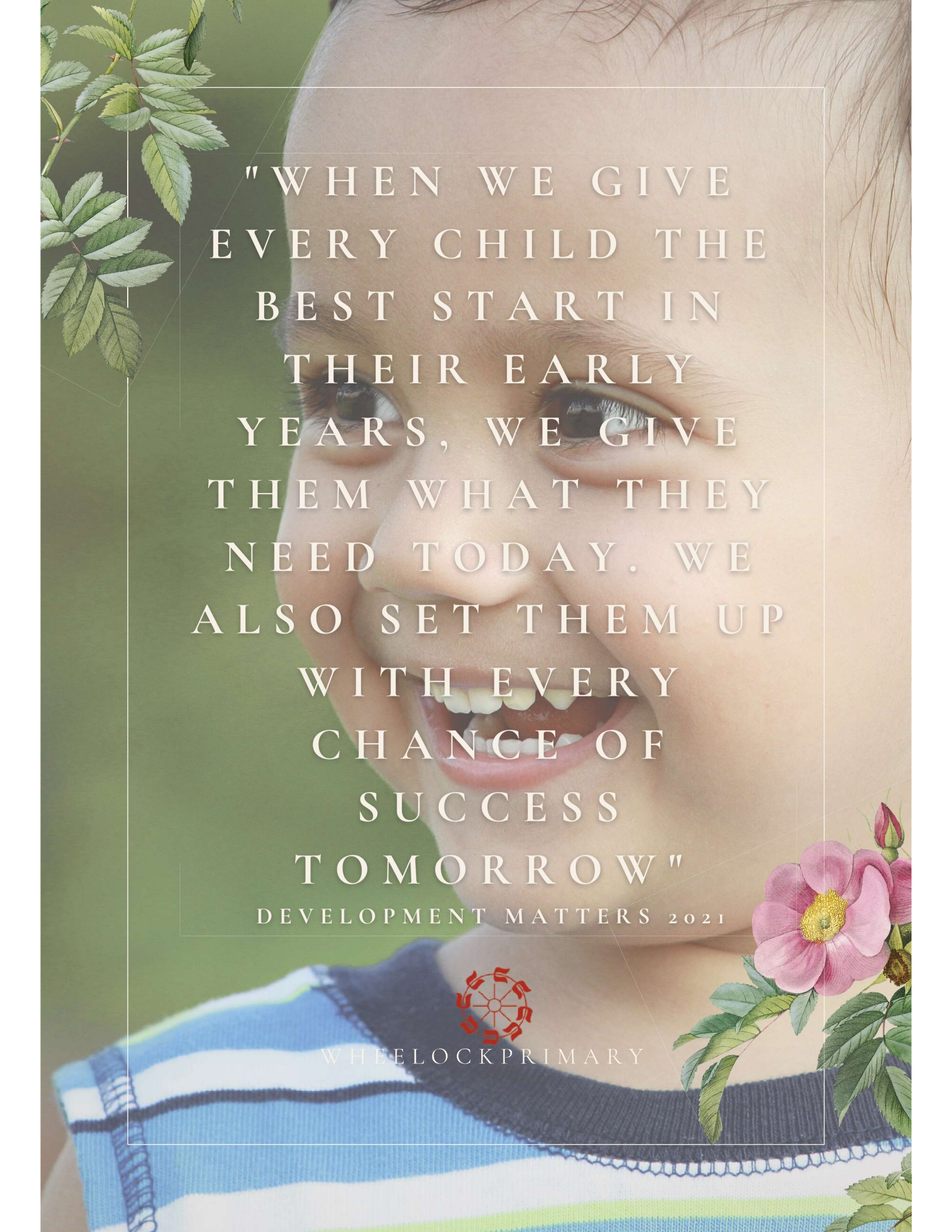
The children enter and leave school through their classroom doors. The doors open at 8.35am and until then children must be supervised by their parents/carers on the playground. We encourage the children to be as independent as possible and ask you to support this by saying goodbye to your child at the classroom door and allowing them to carry their own coats and bags. They will quickly learn the routine of where everything goes and whilst they do, there are plenty of adults around to help out.

School finishes at 3.15pm and the children should be collected from their classroom doors. Teachers will ensure that every child has a designated adult to collect them and will never allow a child to leave with anyone else unless asked to by their parents. If for any reason you wish your child to be collected by somebody other than the named adults on their registration form, you must contact the school office to complete the permission form or update Arbor with at least 24 hours' notice.

For the safety of the children, all gates are kept locked during the school day and after school from 3.30pm. Children arriving at school after 9.45am must come in through the front entrance where parents will need to electronically sign the children in.

If you are going to be late to collect your child at the end of the day, it is important that you inform the office staff as soon as possible.





"WHEN WE GIVE
EVERY CHILD THE
BEST START IN
THEIR EARLY
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NEED TODAY. WE
ALSO SET THEM UP
WITH EVERY
CHANCE OF
SUCCESS
TOMORROW"

DEVELOPMENT MATTERS 2021



WHELOCK PRIMARY



HOME READING

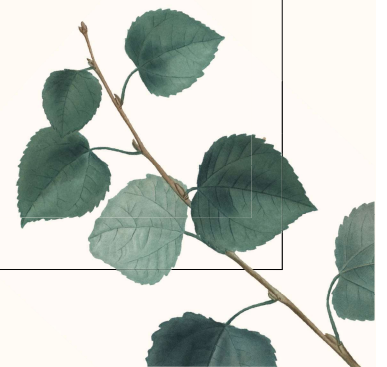
Reading with your child at home is one of the best things you can do to support their education. The children bring books home each week to read with their parents or carers. These are intended to be within the child's comfort zone as building confidence and achieving success are key factors in a successful reading programme. The children will tackle trickier new books in school, supported by their teacher.

As well as reading your child's school book with them, try to expose them to as wide a range of reading material as possible. Listening to bedtime stories is a fantastic way for children to develop a love of books and to learn new vocabulary. Reading magazines, cookery books or any other texts your child is interested in is also a great way to help your child develop as a reader. Please record all reading in your child's reading record. We ask that all children have a school book bag to carry their books and reading record in.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are very lucky to have our own woodland at the end of our school field. All classes in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have sessions throughout the year in the woodland giving children the opportunity to take their learning out of the classroom. Forest School allows the children to develop their personal and interpersonal skills including co-operation, team work, risk-taking, perseverance, resilience and exploration. These skills are central to the values and ethos of the school.

These skills are central to the values and ethos of the school. So that all children are able to take part in these sessions, we ask them to come to school wearing practical, old clothes on their Forest School day and to have in school access to a waterproof coat and trousers or a puddle suit and wellies. In winter they will also need hats, scarves and gloves..





UNIFORM

Clothing & Footwear:

Red or white polo shirt

Red jumper or cardigan

Grey or black trousers, shorts or a skirt

In the summer, red and white chequered dress

Black tights, black or white socks

Children are expected to wear sensible, black, school shoes.

Trainers must only be worn for PE lessons as they are sportswear items. Boots may be worn to school in cold weather but should be removed when children enter school and replaced with school shoes.

All uniform, including polo shirts, cardigans and jumpers with the school logo on can be purchased from Badged in Sandbach.


Please ensure that every item of uniform is marked with your child's name.

LUNCH & SNACKS

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal. Each day the children can choose from two hot options, including one vegetarian, a jacket potato or a sandwich option. With such a good choice of healthy meals available, we do encourage all the children to take their free meal. However, if they prefer, children can bring their own lunch from home. This should include a healthy balance of items and should not include sweets or fizzy drinks.

Fresh fruit and milk are available in the Reception classrooms throughout the day. Children may also bring their own snack from home but again, this should be a healthy option and may not include crisps, chocolates or sweets.

All children need to have a water bottle in school for use throughout the day. These can be filled from the water dispensers in school as needed. They should not contain any drinks other than water.



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents are a child's first educators and have a prime teaching role with their children. At Wheelock Primary School we understand the importance of the parent partnership as part of the school community and the crucial role as part of their child's learning journey. We create strong relationships through our welcome to school meetings, parent meetings and stay and play sessions at the start of the school year. During the school year, parents receive updates through our online learning journey, Tapestry, and also receive regular updates to inform them of what their child is learning and how they can support learning at home. Parents are supported to contribute to their child's profile through Tapestry, at least once each half term. We also invite parents into the setting to take part in our 'watch me learn' sessions and to share our learning throughout the year. Parents are also invited to a formal meeting (parents evening) at which the teacher/EYFS Practitioners and parent discuss the child's progress.

Regular communication between home and school is vital to the success of every child's educational journey. Class teachers are available for a quick chat on the door most mornings and after school once they have dismissed the other children safely. Tapestry is also used as a form of communication between yourselves and the class teacher. If you need more time to discuss a question or concern, we ask that you contact the school office to make an appointment.

All issues relating to your child should be addressed to their class teacher in the first instance. If you then still need to speak to someone else, you can make an appointment to meet with a member of the senior leadership team:

Mrs Michaela Taylor - EYFS Leader
Mrs Sally Whitehead - Principal





HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

Building positive relationships with the families of Wheelock Primary School, creating a 'triangle of trust' between children, parents and practitioners begins in the Early Years. We understand that when parents relinquish part of the care and teaching of their child to the staff in our setting it is a big step. We pride ourselves on creating an environment that is warm and welcoming. Each day leads to a deeper knowledge and understanding of each child and their family.

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. You are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input, opinions and information you can share with us about your child. Working together as partners will set the scene for your child to thrive at Wheelock Primary School.

Share a book daily.

Make time for your child to run, jump, climb and
PLAY OUTDOORS!

Cook / bake together.

Allow your child to see you reading for pleasure or writing for a purpose such as making shopping lists or writing birthday cards.



Play board games that involve moving a certain amount of steps on, and play with dice and dominoes.

Sing and tell nursery rhymes.

Plant seeds or bulbs in a pot or garden patch.

Play games that encourage sharing and taking turns.

Talk to your child at every opportunity – e.g. what you are doing that day.

THE HIVE

The Hive is our before and after-school club which is open from 7.30 to 8.45am and from 3.15 to 6.00pm. Information and registration details can be viewed on our school website.





THANK YOU FOR
CHOOSING WHEELOCK
PRIMARY SCHOOL!

You can find a more detailed document outlining our philosophy and policy for Early Years at Wheelock Primary on our website. This provides a thorough outline about how we teach early reading, phonics, and maths. It shows how we use assessment in the EYFS and how important our interactions are with your child.

