

A Guide to the Foundation Stage

Thank you for choosing William Tyndale Primary School. We are excited to get to know your child and welcome them to our school community.

This guide will help you to find out about the Foundation Stage at our school. Please also refer to our Parent Handbook on the website, which should help to answer any questions you may have. Please ask if there is anything else you would like to know.

The Foundation Stage is made up of one Nursery and two Reception classes. The team consists of three class teachers who are each supported by their own dedicated teaching assistants.



Settling your child into school



The Foundation Stage is the beginning of your child's educational journey and lays the foundation for their future development and enjoyment of school. It is vital that these first steps are based on high quality provision and close relationships.

At William Tyndale, we recognise the importance of building a special bond with your child. We also recognise that all children are unique. With this in mind, we have thought carefully about the first few days and weeks that your child will be with us and how best we can prepare and settle them.

For some children these first days away from home and carers can be an exciting time. They may feel fully ready for a new challenge and thrive on the new experiences. Some children may need more support and time to make the transition. You can support your child before they start school in these ways:

- Talk to your child about change and what might happen at their new school. Use the opportunity of 'Stay and Play' to build their understanding of what their day will look like.
- Encourage them to think about all the wonderful new toys and learning equipment they will be able to experience.
- Discuss how *grown up* they are now and that they will have *grown up* things at their school, such as their own coat peg.
- There will be lots of opportunities to make new friends. Help them to feel excited about this.
- Make sure they know who will drop them off to school and who will collect them.
- Ensure they have a good night's sleep and something to eat and drink before they come to school. A tired or hungry child may find the experience overwhelming.
- Children entering Nursery and Reception should be toilet trained. We do not have nappy changing facilities; and it really helps if children are confident to use the toilets independently. Support them to be independent in this before they start school.
- Read the Social Story that you will be provided with. This will explain who all the adults are that they will be developing new relationships with.

In order to develop the important relationship between your child and the adults, we stagger the starting times and days. This allows us to focus on the children who are starting that day. The teachers are very practised in settling in new children and they soon get used to saying goodbye.

In those first few days and weeks, don't worry if your child's behaviour is out of character. They are experiencing a wave of emotions, excitement and have a busy day! Also expect your child to be tired some days, this is perfectly normal.

Leaving your child can also be difficult for parents and carers too. We fully understand and are here to offer any support that we can. Parents and carers are our partners and we are also keen to develop a relationship with you. If you have any questions, please direct these towards us at the **end** of the school day. This allows us to be fully

present and available to support the children as they come into school.

The school day:

Nursery will start at 8.55 am and finish at 3pm

Reception will start at 8.55 am and finish at 3.25 pm



Lunch will be provided at 11.30 am. You can choose from a currently free school meal or a packed lunch.

Information about what is provided, along with the menu, will be emailed each term. There are also additional opportunities for a snack that complies with our Gold Healthy School status, as well as drinks within the day.

Please arrive at school and collect your child on time. It can be very unsettling for your child if they arrive late and they may miss important information about the day. Similarly, if you are late it can lead to anxiety for a child not knowing if somebody will come to collect them.

If you know you will be late, please don't worry. Phone the school in advance and let them know. You can provide the name of an alternative person who may collect your child. Please note, if you do not tell us in advance and you have not previously provided us with the name of a person who has permission to collect your child, we will not be able to let them go. For Reception children who are more than 5 minutes late they will be taken to and cared for at Kids Club. You will be charged the full rate currently £13 after 3.40 pm. For Nursery children your child can stay for an extra 20 minutes, if needed, at a cost currently of £5. If you need your child to stay any longer there is an extended Kids' club provision which is currently charged at a rate of £16.50 a day.

Additional care and Holiday Club

We can provide care for your child before and after school. This is a wonderful space that has carefully considered provision as well as a team of staff members who know and understand your child. The times for these are below:



Breakfast Club 8.00 – 8.50 am

Kids Club 3.30 – 6.00 pm * see above for nursery additional care provision times.

We also offer spaces at our holiday club. If you would like more information about this, please speak to the school office.

What will my child need?



We encourage children to investigate and create. Busy learning can sometimes mean messy clothes. Please think carefully about this when you dress for the day. They will need a water bottle each day. From Reception, they will need a rucksack or

bag. These can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £10 or you can provide your own.

The importance of play based learning

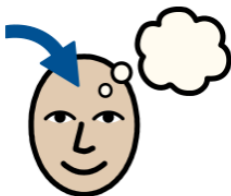
Play is the business of childhood and its importance cannot be over emphasised. We believe that play based learning is a vital element of all Foundation Stage learning.



Our work in both Nursery and Reception emphasises the value of this as the medium through which a child achieves most in the early years. The opportunities for play based learning are carefully considered and based upon the Early Years Curriculum. They ensure children learn key skills, are challenged and develop essential learning characteristics.

The structure of the Foundation Stage day involves a mixture of adult directed learning as well as learning through play. Through the Reception year we move towards a more formalised approach in readiness for Year 1 and to meet their changing learning needs.

What will my child be learning?



We have high expectations of what children will learn in the Foundation Stage. Learning is underpinned by three characteristics of effective learning which we nurture and develop during their time with us. These are

- Playing and Exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

The Foundation Stage curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning:

1. Personal, social and emotional development

This develops an awareness of the self and others and a sense of caring. We also develop a positive attitude towards learning.

2. Communication and Language

This encourages the children to become confident users of spoken language, promoting listening and conversational skills. Throughout the Foundation Stage the children build their vocabulary and develop confidence with sharing their ideas and interacting in a social setting.

3. Physical Development

This area focuses on improving the children's gross motor skills in coordination and control through physical activities including PE. We also focus on fine motor skills through manipulative activities

4. Literacy

A structured activity programme to promote





listening, discrimination and blending of oral sounds, including phonics, takes place in the Early Years. In Reception, children are introduced to guided reading and writing. We provide varied opportunities for mark making and developing letter formation.

5. Mathematics

Children are provided with a range of opportunities to become competent in counting, sorting, matching, patterns, working with numbers, shape, space and measures and developing mathematical thinking. Children learn to organise their ideas and explain what they have done.

6. Understanding of the World

This area helps children foster an awareness of the world they live in and be curious. They develop skills of observation, exploring living and non-living things, investigation and solving problems. Through technology they plan, design models and build, using different materials and methods. We further support topic learning with off site visits.

7. Expressive Arts and Design

This area includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. Children are provided with a secure environment in which they can take risks, use their imagination, and be adventurous.

Curriculum information for all year groups can be found on our website.

The development of language is the primary link for all these areas. It is a vital life skill through which children are able to express and regulate their emotions, talk about and understand their learning as well as develop relationships. Adults are highly skilled in talking to and developing your child's language. If for any reason, your child experiences a delay in this area of their development, we have programmes of support and specialists who are able to assist.

When will my child start to read?

Nursery children will be able to borrow books from the Nursery Book Box. These are



changed by staff once a week. We teach children that books are fun and to be enjoyed and respected.

Once Reception children are settled in, we introduce our PACT reading scheme (Parent and Child Together) as well as a decodable, phonics book. A meeting all about how this is managed will take place during the first half term. We encourage parents to read stories with their children, as much as possible, to foster an enjoyment of books. Try to include a variety of books and discuss them with your child.



Additional Needs

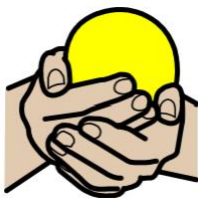
We believe in equal access to the curriculum for all children. If your child has additional needs and requires support accessing the learning opportunities within the day, our staff are very skilled in working with you to support them. We have much experience in working with a range of needs and value neurodiversity. There is a team of specialists and a pastoral team here to help. We provide individual plans of care to ensure your child is able to achieve their maximum potential.

What information will I be given about my child's progress and time in school?

We work hard throughout the year to ensure the level of learning for your child is just right and provides an appropriate level of challenge. To support this we regularly observe, assess and consider your child's development..



In Nursery and Reception we will report their achievements and next steps within a formal conference twice a year and you will receive one report at the end of the summer term. At the end of Reception, your summer report will provide information about whether your child has reached the expected level across the Early Years curriculum and their readiness for Year One.



School Values and Skills Builder

REACH for your future is the motto that underpins all that we do at William Tyndale Primary School. Respect, Enterprise, Ambition, Confidence and Happiness are the values that we instil in the children and are modelled by the adults.



As a school we also follow the Skills Builder Program of development. These are life skills that will help children to achieve not just in school, but in the workplace and future that they are reaching for.

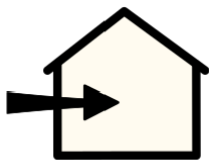
How will I know what is happening in school?

Parent meetings will be organised in the first term so teachers can fill you in on Foundation Stage routines and how to support your child at home. Information about the class topics will be on the school website. We work hard to provide your child with rich experiences such as trips to the Little Angel Theatre, shows for parents and workshops that complement the curriculum. These will be communicated to you through email as well as google classroom.



You will receive regular messages from your class teachers through email. On Friday you will also receive a weekly update about the learning that has taken place on Google Classroom or a weekly bulletin. In the first month you will all receive instructions, as well as a login, that explains how this works.

Admission into Reception



Children attending our Nursery do not automatically transfer to our Reception Class. Please see our website www.williamtyndale-islington.co.uk which details the criteria for admission to the Reception Class.

We look forward to welcoming your child into the Foundation Stage!

