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Woodlands Academy  
Reception Class

2024/25

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# Welcome to Woodlands Academy!

*Woodlands is a warm and friendly school and we believe in working in partnership with you to care for, and educate your child. We believe that home and school are complementary and should work closely together to help your child grow and learn. As a school we are committed to ensuring that every child has the very best, happiest and smoothest start to their school life and that parents and carers find it as painless as possible too!*



# Reception Class Team

Here is our Reception class team.



Miss Davies:  
Class Teacher



Mrs Richards:  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Braine:  
Teaching Assistant

## Reception Class Work along

During Term 2, you will be invited to a work along where you can join your child in school to watch a Phonics lesson and the children can share all of their learning with you for an hour. Date will be confirmed at the start of September.

We have had such positive feedback from previous work alongs which has been great! The children really enjoy showing their parents, their school environments and the learning they have been doing!



## Karate Readers

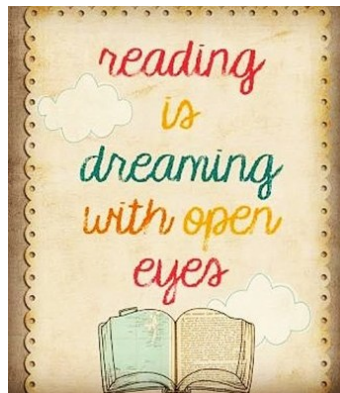
At woodlands we do something called 'Karate readers.' This encourages children to read more at home.

For a 'read at home' to count there must be a signature from an adult in their reading book. **We count the reads per day not per read.**

When a child has read at least 25 times at home they will receive a white wristband.

There are many different colour wristbands to earn:

- 25 reads – white band
  - 50 reads – yellow band
  - 75 reads – orange band
  - 100 reads – green band
  - 125 reads – blue band
  - 150 reads – brown band
  - 175 reads – black band
  - 200 reads – white band
- PLUS



## The School Day

The school gates open at 8.40am and gates close at 8.50am.

*Breakfast club is also available to Reception children, if you wish for your child to attend breakfast club then please let us know.*

Lunch time is 11.45am until 12.45pm.

The end of the school day is 3.20pm for Reception children.

*Attendance is really important and we expect children to attend every session unless they are unwell or have an appointment, When children miss sessions it can mean they are unsettled when they return.*

*Its also important that children arrive on time each morning so they can fully enjoy their day!*

*If your child is going to be absent we ask you phone the office each morning before 8:45.*

## Transitioning into Reception

To ensure your child feels secure and happy in Reception, we offer a transition morning in Term 6 of the summer term before they start Reception, for your child to meet their new teacher and explore their new classroom.

### Meet the teacher evening for parents

There will be an opportunity in July 2025 for parents to attend a meeting to meet the adults who will be working in the class and also visit the classroom their child will be in. Our staff team will be available to answer any questions or queries.

### September 2025

We have previously done a staggered transition for Reception, However we have found that the children have just enjoyed getting straight into their new class. Therefore we have removed them and all children will start for the full day in September. If your child struggles within settling in, then arrangements can be made to reduce their sessions.



## Reading at home

Children will be given a book and reading diary once they have learnt a handful of Phonemes and is beginning to pick up the skill of segmenting and blending. This is usually towards the end of the first term.

Reading at home is a crucial part of your child's reading journey of becoming readers, especially at this early stage. Our school expectation is to be reading the same book with your child at home at least 3 times a week. This supports your child's decoding, fluency, prosody (story telling voice) and comprehension.

In your child's bag you will find their Reading diary, along with a fully decodable Phonics book which is closely matched to your child's current Phonics knowledge that they should be able to read themselves and a Share together story which is a story for your child to listen to while you share and read it to them. (This is different to a Library book).

Books will be changed once a week which will be a Thursday, but please send reading books and diaries into school everyday .

## Phonics Lessons



We use Unlocking letters & Sounds to teach Phonics which provides a lot of support towards your child's learning.

We have a 20/30 minute Phonics lesson everyday from 8.55am. This is crucial for your child to take part in as it builds the foundations of beginning to read and spell words.

### Phonics for Parents— date TBC

This is where we will go through Phonics terminology, how to pronounce the phonemes correctly and go through a typical lesson that your child would be doing. Please do come along!



## Tapestry—Online Learning Journal

Tapestry is an app that we use to record observations of your children. This includes photos and videos. You can then access these observations on an app that is on your phone.

It can also be used by yourself to show us things your children have done or achieved at home. When you upload a photo or video we receive a notification and can comment on your post. We really enjoy seeing what your child has been doing at home!

We value quality over quantity and you will find observations at school record WOW moments and recording special activities we have done together, such as sports day. At the meet the teacher evening, staff we ask for your email address which can then be registered with tapestry. You will then get an activation email to sign up to the website or app.



## Curriculum

In Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This curriculum emphasises play based learning to help children's development, fostering a safe and engaging environment for children to grow. By following the EYFS we can support your child's development. We have a topic each term as our main focus but also use children's interests and fascinations to help us plan engaging activities.

These are the termly topics.

Term 1	All about Me
Term 2	Let's Celebrate
Term 3	In the Garden
Term 4	Once upon a time
Term 5	Zoom to the Moon
Term 6	Amazing Animals

## Uniform

All children, are expected to wear our school uniform with pride.

Children are expected to wear a white polo shirt, school jumper (or a plain dark blue jumper) with dark-coloured bottoms.

Uniform needs to be ordered online through the Price & Buckland website. Woodlands Academy ([pbuniform-online.co.uk](http://pbuniform-online.co.uk))

Reception children can wear jogging bottoms or leggings in dark blue, dark grey or black to enable them to use the toilet easily.





## Library Sessions

We are very lucky to have a lovely library at our school . The children love looking at the books and sharing them with the adults. The children can then choose a book to bring home and share with you! These are perfect for a bedtime story or for sharing after a busy day. Each week Reception will have an allocated slot to visit the library and change their books. If your child then returns the book the following week they can choose another to bring home.

However if your child does not return their library book, they will not be able to take another one out until the previous one has been returned or paid for.

The allocated day will be shared in September 2025.



## Our Timetable!

Here is an example of the Reception timetable.

### **Register**

**Carpet time** – this is our daily 20 minute Phonics lesson

**Free Flow** – Children choose to play inside or outside.

**Snack time** - We sit and share a piece of fruit and milk

**Carpet time** - This is our daily math session

**Lunchtime** – We sit and eat lunch in the hall with all of the other children.

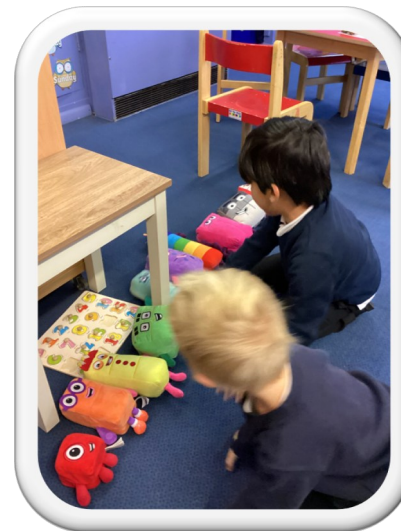
**Relax time** – Children listen to relaxing music whilst they lay down quietly for 5-10 mins.

**Group time** - this is an adult led group time where children complete an activity.

**Free Flow**—children choose to play inside or outside

**Singing or story**

**Home time**



## Snack Time

Snack time is a lovely sociable time of our day. We sit on the carpet and children can select some fruit and choose to have milk or a drink from their water bottles.

Children all have free milk until the term after they turn 5. This is offered once a day.

Children should come into school with a clearly labelled drinks bottle everyday.

Fruit is also available as part of the school fruit and vegetable scheme and a piece is offered once a day. We have a different sort of fruit or vegetable each day!



## Lunches

Your child may have a school dinner or a packed lunch. School dinners need to be ordered and paid for in advance via the 'Parentmail' website or app. This will be set up for you ready for the beginning of September.

If your child has a packed lunch this needs to be in a labelled container or bag and must not contain fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate bars or anything containing any kind of nut as we are a nut free school!

We all sit in the hall with the older children and collect our lunch & dessert from the hatch each day.

