



Head of School: Mrs G Hooper

Welcome to Whitemoor Nursery 2020-21



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working together, inspiring excellence

WELCOME TO WHITEMOOR NURSERY

Here at Whitemoor Academy we aim to be friendly and approachable, so if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. Further information and copies of our School policies are available on our website or from the office, or you can email:

hello@whitemoor.org.uk

A note from the Head Teacher....

Welcome to Whitemoor Academy and Nursery,

Thank you for choosing Whitemoor Nursery as the starting block for your child's learning journey. For each child, the step to starting school is a very important and our goal is to make sure that each learning journey is positive and rewarding.

Our school is a place of learning, laughter and fun and we strive towards our core values in all that we do. We encourage all children to achieve their very best and offer many exciting learning opportunities in order for them to do so.

Whitemoor is part of the Aspire Multi Academy Trust. There are many other pre-schools and nurseries within Aspire and we enjoy working closely with them.

This booklet contains the key information that will support your child with starting at Nursery. We hope that this will help you and will ease any worries you may have.

I am looking forward to meeting you and your children.

Mrs G Hooper

Welcome to our Nursery

Key Workers

The key worker approach is used to help children settle into the nursery environment, respond to children's individual needs and to build strong communication between parents and the nursery; usually sharing information on a daily basis.

Miss Stone is in overall charge of all the children within the nursery and ensures all children are happy and have a wealth of opportunities to play and explore. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to share information from home at the beginning of their child's session, alternatively you can arrange a telephone appointment with Miss Stone if needed.

Learning Journeys

Throughout the nursery year, you will have access to an Online Learning Journey called Tapestry. This records your child's individual learning experiences.

During the year there would usually be opportunities for you to come into nursery and discuss your child's progress, both at formal parent's evenings and informally with the key workers at open afternoons. We will keep all parents/carers updated with these plans subject to Government guidance. Your child's Learning Journey will be available for you to access online and we encourage you to contribute to these by commenting on things your child does at home. This gives us a complete picture of what your child can do.



Starting Nursery

Nursery children can attend for 15 funded hours each week the term after their third birthday. An additional 15 funded hours are subject to eligibility. Additional sessions will be charged at £4 an hour. Requests for additional sessions will be allocated depending on availability. All funded sessions will take priority over paid sessions. Please contact the school secretary if you would like to request additional sessions.

Morning sessions would usually start promptly at **9:00am** and Afternoon sessions begin at **12:00pm**. It is beneficial to your child to arrive as close to this time as possible to enable them to be settled ready for the 'welcome' routine.

It is also important for you to collect your child on time as children can become upset if they are left. If you are late, please let the school know as soon as possible

Due to current circumstances, welcoming children into the premises may take a little longer. For the safety of your family and our staff, we will be welcoming and dismissing children from the nursery gate one at a time. Unfortunately, this does mean that we cannot welcome parents/carers into the building, goodbyes will have to be done at the nursery gate. There will be markings on the school railings to ensure a safe distance between each family. A detailed video of the new entry to nursery process will be available online before your child begins their journey with us in September. Please share this with your child so they understand what to expect.

***Please note: for the safety of your child we must know who is picking them up from nursery. If you cannot collect your child yourself, please let the nursery staff or office know who is coming in your place. We have a password system in place where you will have to fill in a form. We cannot let children go home with someone different unless they are aware of the password or you have informed us beforehand.**



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into 7 areas of learning. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

There are 3 prime areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
 - Communication and Language
 - Physical Development

There are four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

A strong foundation in the prime areas is essential. Evidence shows that, if it is not securely in place by the age of five, it can impact other areas of the child's learning. In nursery the prime areas will be the main focus with elements of the specific areas being fed into

activities and the continuous provision, often implemented through a topic or theme.

Children will mainly learn through practical activities as studies show that this is the most effective way for young children to learn. It may appear that they are spending most of their time 'just playing', but it is important to realise that their time in nursery is carefully planned.

Young children learn through structured play activities. Activities will be planned with the children's interests in mind as well as having a range of child initiated activities and a small amount of adult led learning activities for both indoor and outdoor environments, the children will be able to choose freely where they would like to play.



What can I do to help my child?



Your child is learning every day, no matter how young they are. The best way to support your child's learning and development is through communication, it is never too early to sing, share books, talk with children, count together and take turns during everyday activities.

Singing nursery rhymes, sharing books with your child and talking about what might happen next is great for developing children's vocabulary and understanding. Discuss the details within the pictures and draw attention to the words, so they begin to realise that the print tells the story to accompany the pictures.

To help you do this, children can regularly choose a book to share at

home

What does my child need to wear?

School uniform in the nursery is optional. The children will be taking part in messy play and sensory activities; we recommend children bring a bag containing spare clothes. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for dressing themselves (when appropriate), therefore, we request that children wear clothing which they find easy to manage, for example jogging bottoms as these are easy for children to pull up and down. They should also wear shoes that are easy to fasten. Children must **NOT** wear open-toed sandals, flip flops etc. All clothing must be name tagged. You can purchase school uniform if required at www.PMGschoolwear.co.uk. You can also order by post or phone. All items are posted free of charge.

As the outdoor area is used continuously in all types of weather, we would like to ask children to bring a coat, wellies, sun hat and sun cream so that they are protected in all weathers. We do provide children with waterproof trousers and jackets when needed.

Lunch Club and Snack

Children staying for lunch are welcome to either bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. We simply ask that packed lunches are as healthy as possible (no sweets or fizzy drinks allowed). If your child is having a school dinner, this **must** be ordered and paid for through Parent Pay by 9:15am.

Children are provided with milk, water and a piece of fruit for snack during their session. We do ask that parents provide a water bottle for your child which will stay in the nursery throughout the week, we will clean them at the end of each day. We ask that these go home for a thorough cleaning each weekend.

Medical needs

If your child has any medical needs e.g. an asthma inhaler, there is a permission form that you would need to fill in at the school office. The form tells us that you give permission for trained members of staff to administer the medicine. On the form it would also state how often and how much we need to give your child. We are only allowed to give children medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor.

If your child has been sick at school or at home, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last time they were sick. This helps us to reduce the spread of any illness to other children.

Can I get involved in school life?

We welcome parents into school to help with just about anything: (subject to a DBS check)

Cooking	Games	Reading	Art and Craft
Drama	School trips	Gardening	

Parents would usually be invited into the nursery throughout the school year to experience how small adult led activities can influence the children's own learning through play. This would include; nursery rhyme time, storytelling, introducing numbers, counting and various other activities intended to develop children's learning throughout the EYFS.

Due to current circumstances and Government guidelines, we cannot currently offer this, however, we plan to upload videos regularly to share with you.

The bits that nobody mentions (except we do)

Headlice can be a real problem in any school. They spread very easily among young children. We ask all parents/carers to check their child's hair regularly. (We all check our hair at least once a week!) If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied up for nursery. From time to time when we notice that someone in the nursery have headlice we will text all parents or send home a letter asking everyone to check the whole family's hair. The letter also gives advice on how to deal with headlice if you do find them.

We hope you have found the information in this booklet useful.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your child throughout your child's time in the EYFS.

Have a lovely summer and we will see you in September.

Miss N Stone
Nursery Manager