

Whitemoor Academy

Head of School: Mrs G Hooper

5th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We will be delighted to welcome your child to start school at Whitemoor Academy on **Wednesday 8th September**. Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th September are INSET days for staff training. The first day of school is the start of a new adventure for every child and their family and this year should be no exception.

We want your child to get off to a flying start and settle as quickly as possible. Your child's initial few days at school will be staggered so that children can get to explore the environment and build their confidence. We have decided to split the children in to two groups for the first few sessions. The sessions we want you to attend are highlighted below. Smaller sessions on the first few days enables us to support your child to settle in and means we can really get to know them individually. Below are the sessions and times you child will need to attend.

	GROUP A	GROUP B
Wednesday 8 th September	9:15-10:15	10:45-11:45
Thursday 9 th – Monday 13 th September	8:45 – 11:30	12:30-3:15
Tuesday 14 th – Wednesday 15 th September	All in and stay for lunch* 8:30am-1:15pm	
Thursday 16 th September	Full time 8:30am-3:15pm	

(*A lunch menu is on our school website if you wish to look. We will be on Week 2)

Regrettably due to Covid-19 and as stipulated in Government guidance, we are not able to welcome parents and grandparents into the classrooms and goodbyes will have to be outside the classroom gate. We will make a video of the route you and your child will need to take in order to get to the Reception classroom. This will be available on our school website under the parent tab / starting school. Please share the video and talk to your child about going to school. There will also be a video of the inside of the classroom made available on the 6th September so you will be able to see the classroom environment. Please also share this video with your child.

T: 01726 822274

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In the next few weeks there will be more stories videos available on our parent tab showing our staff members reading stories. It is important that you talk positively to your child about starting school. You can do this by supporting your child in practising to put on their school uniform. Find photos of you and other family members wearing school uniforms and share them with your child. Talk about the fun you had when you went to school. It is a really good idea to walk the route to and from the school entrance on more than one occasion. Discuss with your child how they might be feeling and explain that you will not be able to come into the classroom. During the next few weeks frequently discuss starting school and the names of the adults that will be in their classroom. Continue to follow the 'Ready for School' poster which is also available on the school website.

Please use the summer holidays to create your 'All About Me' boxes that we can share when we start school. Remember no more than 10 items in the boxes but they can be decorated in anyway you like. We are asking that you bring these in for the first stay and play session so we can store them safely before sharing them with the rest of the class. A video of my shoe box is on the school website to give you an idea of the things that can go inside.

Please only bring in essential items so we ask that you only bring a simple book bag and lunch box if needed.

PE will start from the week Starting 20th September. The children would need to come dressed in their suitable PE kits. We will notify you what day our PE lessons will be during the first few days at school in September. Please ensure they have something warm to wear in the winter and comfortable shoes. Thank you.

Enjoy the summer and we look forward to welcoming you in September

Best wishes

Mrs G Hooper and Miss S Towner

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