

West Hill Primary School



Starting School in Reception Class

Welcome to Reception Class

Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old and it won't be long before your child will be starting with us at West Hill Primary School. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want to ensure that you child is well prepared for this important event. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience. We hope that this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

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Our Vision

At West Hill Primary School our vision is “a school where everyone shines.”

We focus on 6 core values in what we do and encourage as a school family:- **achievement, happiness, friendship, respect, responsibility and cooperation.**

We constantly review our provision and in consultation with parents and our wider community, we strive to retain our family ethos whilst also equipping our children for the future.

We hope to encourage a shared commitment to the success of our children, where parents have a positive role in complementing and supporting the work of the school.



Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's developing stages and we value your input, opinions and the information that you share with us about your child's learning and progress.

To aid communication between school and home, we use an online Learning Journey called 'Tapestry'. This records a snapshot of your child's achievements and accomplishments at school. Just as importantly it allows you to share milestones and achievements in your child's life outside school, with us.



We provide many other opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- Half-termly Curriculum Letters and 'Aspirations'
- Weekly 'This week we have..' notes on Tapestry
- Weekly school newsletters
- Storytime Tuesday

Our family ethos is central to our school and we operate an 'Open-Door Policy' where parents are encouraged to meet with staff to discuss concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Class teachers are usually available after school to answer questions and Mrs Boulton is generally outside the school on a daily basis.

If you need to arrange an appointment with your child's teacher please email the School Office.

The School Day

The school day is 8.55am until 3.30pm.

- The school gates open at 8.45am and shut at 8.55am. Children are to arrive in the small playground at the side of the school and will be met by the Teacher/TA who will ask them what they would like for lunch. Children then go into the classroom and begin their learning. Arrival after 8.55am needs to be via the school office and will be recorded as late.

Morning Break

- Children are offered fresh fruit and milk daily. Every child under the age of 5 qualifies for free school milk, you will need to register them at www.coolmilk.com/register. Once your child is 5 you will need to register and pay using the same site.

School lunch

- School lunches are free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and we encourage all children to take up the option of a hot meal daily. Menus are sent home regularly.

Afternoon snack: Please note that we are a NUT FREE school. (IMPORTANT – see allergy flier)

- If your child needs a mid afternoon snack we ask you to following our Healthy School Policy by only sending in **one item** from the list below, please send these in a small, **named** container for your child to put in their tray.
 - **Fresh fruit or vegetable(s), plain crackers, plain rice cakes, breadsticks or cheese.**

Collecting your child:

- The small playground gates open shortly before **3.30pm**. It is vital that you inform us if someone different is collecting your child. If we are unsure they will remain at school until we can contact you.

The EYFS Curriculum

In our Foundation Stage, children follow the new 2021 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' (EYFS).



From September 2021, all pupils starting in Reception take part in a **baseline assessment**. This is an assessment of each child's early ability and carried out by the teacher. It has been introduced by the Department for Education. Through activity-based observation, the teacher will gather a snapshot of each child's current level of learning during the first few weeks of their school life. The result of each child's assessment is later used in conjunction with the year group's Key Stage 2 SATs results for the government to measure the overall progress primary schools make with their pupils. The aim is to ensure primary schools are held to account so they can succeed in providing a good education for their pupils.

There is no need to prepare your child for this, in fact, they shouldn't even be aware that it is happening. For further information see: <https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Parents/Reception-baseline-assessment-RBA>

Early Learning Goals

Within the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage,' there are 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas. This framework provides the basis of how we structure the setting, the activities and opportunities we provide; as well as how we assess your child's development. For each of these areas your child will have an 'Early Learning Goal' to work towards.

Prime Areas

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

Specific Areas

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

Characteristics of Effective Learning

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Over the year we will be using a secure online Learning Journal called 'Tapestry'

What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is an online Learning Journal used to reflect your child's time in Reception Class at West Hill Primary School. It may include photographs, videos and observation notes of your child's learning. The aim is to provide you with a continuous picture of your child's year in Reception. The Learning Journal will capture their journey, based on their own individual starting point, interests and experiences.



Sharing achievements from home

We hope that you will contribute to Tapestry by sharing photographs and information which show new achievements, milestones or moments you feel celebrate your child's learning. It is important to share significant achievements and activities they have experienced at home as this information will help to ensure that the care, learning and development opportunities we offer your child at school reinforce their skills, interests and abilities.

Tapestry Learning Journal entries may contain images of more than one child in our class taking part in joint learning, however no child's personal information will be shared with any other parent. To enable us to record learning on Tapestry, you will need to give permission via our Parental Consent Form, which will set out the conditions of this platform. You will also need to nominate an email address to be linked to your child's account.

Clothes to Wear at School

Uniform - Our school uniform consists of a dark green sweatshirt or cardigan and a white polo T-shirt (with the school logo being optional). Footwear should be black shoes. Girls have the option of wearing a green and white checked style dress in Summer. The only jewellery permitted are studs for pierced ears. Please ensure long hair is tied back neatly with plain or green/white checked bands or scrunchies. Please refer to our Uniform Policy for further information:

<https://west-hill-primary.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/School-Uniform-Policy-May-2023.pdf>

P.E. Kit - (NB *not needed* until the **Summer Term for Reception children**) Our PE kit consists of a white t-shirt, green shorts and trainers or plimsolls, kept in school in a drawstring bag. We recommend NOT buying a P.E. kit until later in the year as your child is likely to have grown between September and April!

Wellies - As we use our inside and outside classroom, please provide a named and pegged pair of Wellingtons that we can keep at school. If possible, **please label the sole and the inside of each boot.**



As our learning environment is both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is practical and suitable for the seasonal changes. Waterproof jackets and winter clothing for cold weather; sun hat and protective clothing in the summer months. We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school so that they are ready for the day.

Things to Bring to School

- **Wellies** - we learn outside in all weathers!
- **Suitable coat** - nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.
- **A spare pair of pants/socks** - just in case we have an accident. (Children can keep these in their trays.)
- **Hats, scarves and gloves** (winter) or **sun hats** (summer) – as appropriate
- **Water bottles** – clearly named.
- **Afternoon snack** if required – please supply **one item** from the list on page 5, in a **named pot**
- **Book bags, home-school diary and reading books.**
Book bags can be purchased from [Thomas Moores](#) in Exeter
Further information will follow in September about reading books.
- **Toys** – We respectfully ask you **NOT** to send your child to school with toys. These precious items very often get lost, broken or damaged and cause a great deal of upset.





We are really looking forward to meeting you and to being part of your child's learning journey.

When you enter this **classroom**:

You are **scientists**.

You are **artists**.

You are **explorers**.

You are **important**.

You are **loved**.

You are **respected**.

You are a **friend**.

You are **the reason** we are **here**!

