

# Woodsetts Primary School



## EYFS Prospectus

*'To bring inspiration and innovation to every child through highly ambitious teaching and learning which challenges young minds to 'Reach for the Stars'*

## Message from the Executive Headteacher

Thank you for expressing an interest in our Federation of schools. Our Federation draws families from well beyond the boundaries of the schools' catchment areas.

The aim of our Foundation Stage is to provide a safe and stimulating environment in which all children may develop as happy, confident, caring and enquiring individuals, interested in life and enthusiastic about the challenges that they encounter.

As parents, you are your child's first teachers. We aim to build on what the children already know and their experiences before they come to school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jane Walker

Rosie Braidley is the leader of EYFS over the Federation.

During a recent inspection of our school, the leadership of EYFS was highly praised as exceptional.

*"The leadership and management of the early years provision is outstanding. It is characterised by a thorough knowledge and understanding of how children develop and a flexible approach to the curriculum. This enables specific development needs to be identified quickly. Accurate assessment systems underpin this approach, and are used extremely well to plan imaginative activities and tailor next steps to help children develop socially and academically. "*

OFSTED Inspection Report - April 2016





## **ADMISSIONS**

### **FS1**

Foundation Stage 1 (also known as Nursery) is optional education for 3-4 year olds. Children can begin FS1 at the start of term after they turn 3 years old.

At Woodsetts Primary School, we offer the free 15 hours of education to which all 3 year olds are entitled; these are delivered as morning sessions 0-12 am. In addition, we offer the new government initiative of 30 hours for families who meet the criteria (this is applied for online); these are delivered as afternoon sessions 12:30-3:30 pm. We also extend these additional afternoon hours to families who do not meet the criteria but wish to pay for this provision at a cost of £14 per session 12-3:30pm (not including school lunch) and £16 per session with lunch. If these sessions do not fit in with your family's circumstances, please call into school to discuss this with us.

### **FS2**

Foundation Stage 2 is the first class that children join when they reach compulsory school age. This is at the start of the school year in which they become four years old. Before starting, you will have an opportunity to meet the Foundation Stage staff during a parents' meeting, home visit and sessions in the classroom where you and your child will have the chance to play in the classroom setting and meet other pupils starting at the same time.

Unfortunately, attendance in our Foundation Stage 1 class does not automatically entitle you to a place for your child in our Foundation Stage 2 class. Primary admission arrangements are published annually by the Local Authority and sent out to the parents of children eligible for full time education in the year before they are due to start. In order to help you make an informed choice about your child's continuing education, we will be pleased to show you around the school and talk to you about the curriculum and organisation. You can find out more information about admissions on our school website homepage.

## SCHOOL START AND END TIMES

Foundation Stage 1 9 am – 12 Noon  
12.30 – 3.30 pm

Foundation Stage 2 8.45 am - 3.30 pm

## DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

The provision for children’s development and learning is guided by ‘The Early Years Foundation Stage’ document (EYFS) which says...

*“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child’s experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive.”*

‘The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that provides that assurance’ (EYFS 2007)

Whilst catering for the needs of individuals or groups of children, the play activities which we provide in our Foundation Stage are carefully planned to stimulate learning and cover:

### 3 prime areas of learning:

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Physical development
3. Communication and Language development

### 4 specific areas of learning:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design

In our unique provision, we teach two days of literacy and two days of numeracy to secure a firm foundation of the basic skills before children enter Y1 and begin the National Curriculum. Literacy and Numeracy teaching is a combination of play-based themed experiences and structured teaching, e.g. the Read, Write, Inc. phonics programme and the Numicon number programme (Every Child a Counter). The success of our EYFS practice is evidenced in our end of Foundation Stage results and Y1 phonics screening test results. Fridays are enrichment days where children do activities such as outdoor exploration, baking, gardening, PE, etc. Parental support is encouraged; we do offer a menu of 'special' learning events during one afternoon every week for FS2. In FS1, we encourage parents to stay for the first 15 minutes each day to do morning tasks.

*“As a result of strong teaching and thoughtful provision, children make good progress through the early years so that above-average numbers have achieved a good level of development during each of the last three years, ensuring that they are ready for learning in Year 1.” OFSTED Short Inspection Feb 2017*

## TESTING

Within the first term of Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2, your child will be assessed against a baseline of key skills that the average child is expected to achieve. The outcomes and targets will be shared with parents at formal parents' evenings.

*"The work of staff to engage children in learning and to make learning appealing is effective. Teachers are careful to record the next steps that children need to take in order to make the progress expected."*

*OFSTED Short Inspection Feb 2017*

## PARENT WORKSHOPS

Early in autumn term you will be invited to reading and maths workshops. These will explain in great detail how we teach your children the key skills needed to read and count. You will also be invited to a formal Parents' Evening in the Autumn term.

## LIBRARY BOOKS / HOME SCHOOL READING BOOKS

These are books for you and your child to share. Read them to your child and let your child tell you the story in his/her own words - or make up another story using the pictures in the book. Often your child will choose the same book on another occasion or want the same story over and over again. This is a natural stage of development and should be encouraged. Please allow your child to enjoy books. A love of books and stories at this age helps with reading at a later stage.

We know that you will realise that books are a precious resource and that our funds are limited.

We would appreciate it if any damaged books could be paid for.

*"Children are articulate, happy and sociable when they are accessing learning activities independently."*

*OFSTED Short Inspection Feb 2017*

## HOME LEARNING

Britain is ranked near the bottom of the top quartile in the world educational league tables. China and Singapore are ranked at the top.

In a rapidly changing world of work, it is our moral duty to prepare the next generation so that they have the skills needed in order to secure a prosperous future.

Statistics show that parents in these countries spend at least 20 minutes per day doing home learning with their children and also spend some time each day communicating with their child to develop oral skills e.g. through singing and rhyme. These are skills for life.

We highly recommend you teach your child nursery rhymes to help with their language development.

## **SAFETY**

For safety reasons we ask that you enter and leave the classroom through the outer door only and enter the classroom only when a member of staff is there to welcome you.

Before your child begins school with us, we will ask for photographs of people for whom you give consent to collect them at the end of the day.

The dedicated safeguarding lead is S. Bruce. The deputy safeguarding lead is S. Willey.

## **OUTDOOR VISITS**

School visits are central to our educational philosophy that first-hand experiences generate enthusiasm and a curiosity for deep and profound learning. In order for a visit to take place, you will be asked to give your permission and to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost.

Please state on your contact details form if you wish to accompany the class on visits. Names will be randomly selected prior to each visit and parents informed well in advance.

## **MEDICAL MATTERS**

If your child is ill, please leave a message on the school answerphone before the start of the school day; the office hours are 8.30 am - 4.30 pm. If your child has had a tummy upset or has been sick, please keep them at home for 48 hours from the last instance of this before considering their return to school. Wherever possible, please make medical appointments outside of the school day. Appointments in school time must be validated by a GP/Hospital letter. If your child has medical needs or specific dietary requirements, please let us know. It is important that all staff are aware of any on-going medical condition e.g. asthma or allergies. If medical information changes, please inform us as soon as possible.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

The European school milk scheme provides a daily drink of milk for all Foundation Stage children. If your child does not drink milk then a beaker of water will be provided. Fruit is also provided daily as part of the government's fruit and vegetable scheme. If you do not wish for your child to be included, or if they have any known food allergies, please inform the teacher. Please see the School Council webpage for information about the school snack bar.

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES**

We offer healthy, balanced meals based on Local Authority menus, which have been specifically designed to incorporate choices popular with children, whilst ensuring menus are nutritionally balanced. The children have 4 choices per day. Their options are a hot choice, vegetarian choice, jacket potato and sandwich. The children can choose from a salad bar. There is also a choice of puddings. Main meal options can be ordered and paid for online.

## **PACKED LUNCHES**

A balanced packed lunch should contain:

- Starchy foods – these are bread, rice, potato, pasta and others
- Protein foods – including meat, fish, eggs, beans and others
- A dairy item – this could be cheese or a yoghurt
- Perhaps a small snack item e.g. one chocolate or biscuit

Please see our website for ideas.



## UNIFORM

Wearing a uniform encourages a sense of belonging to the school community. Our school uniform can be purchased using Tesco Online. Please refer to the Whole School Prospectus/website for further information. Sensible footwear is encouraged; laces are discouraged unless your child can fasten them.

Young children have a habit of losing their belongings, so please clearly label all outer garments with your child's name.

We hope that your child will want to 'have a go' at everything we have to offer. Sometimes the activities provided may be rather messy and, although aprons are available, clothes may become soiled. Please do not send your child to school in 'best' clothes. We would also ask you to avoid clothing which may cause your child difficulty when using the toilet. For the children's own safety (and in line with general school policy) children should not wear jewellery to school.

For outdoor days, please could you provide waterproof trousers and wellington boots. These can be kept in school.

In EYFS, all children take part in a weekly P.E. session. They begin by taking their shoes and socks off; however, they quickly progress to wearing their school P.E. kit which should include a simple, white, crew-neck T-shirt and black shorts with trainers for outdoor P.E. and black plimsolls for indoor P.E. P.E. kits are best left in school Monday to Friday and taken home to be washed over the weekend.

*"Leaders have ensured that the outdoor area is very well resourced, providing an effective setting through which staff can develop children's physical, social and emotional skills."*

*OFSTED Short Inspection Feb 2017*



## CAN YOU HELP?

In our class we encourage children to use their imagination and creativity to the full. We like to have lots of 'raw materials' for the children to use. You can help us to offer a wide variety of choice by providing any of the following 'junk' materials:

- Boxes
- Plastic – e.g. cotton reels, bottles, bottle tops, yoghurt pots
- Tin foil trays
- Cardboard tubes - e.g. from tin foil or kitchen rolls but NOT toilet rolls.
- Fabric remnants – e.g. ribbon, braid, lace, fabric, wool
- Buttons and other decorative materials - e.g. sequins, beads, shells
- Pieces of card – e.g. old birthday and Christmas cards
- Used wrapping paper
- Any other materials which are safe for use by children

We avoid using materials like polystyrene, which is dangerous if inhaled or swallowed.

***The Early Years Foundation Stage is the starting point for your child's education in our school and we place great emphasis on this important stage of learning. We want to make your child's time in our class happy and secure. If at any time you have any worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to come in and share them with us.***

## TIPS TO HELP YOU AND YOUR CHILD

- Label clothing, especially coats, jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves and wellingtons.
- On wet days, bring a pair of shoes for your child to change into from their wellingtons.

We will try to go outside whenever possible and will do in wet or snowy weather when it is safe to do so, therefore please provide suitable outdoor coats and footwear on those days. On sunny days please put sun cream on your child and provide a hat.

Toys and 'precious things' should not be brought to school except to show the teacher. Parents/carers should then take the item home again.

Please do not send sweets to school.