



We look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.
As your child joins us in September 2020 we hope that positive relationships
will develop.

Please do not hesitate to contact the teacher or Principal if you have any
queries or concerns at any time.



WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL
38 OAKLEA ROAD
MAGHERAFELT
BT45 6HX

PRINCIPAL: MRS KAREN WHITE BEd MEd

TEL: 02879418415

FAX: 02879418905

Email: info@woods.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.woodsprimaryschool.com

WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Preparing For School 2020



Together we Learn Together we Achieve



PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

The most important time in a child's life is the first four or five years. During this time, he or she learns at the fastest rate and is influenced by their home environment. What and how your child learns during this period will prepare them for the more formal atmosphere of his/her first school. Attitudes and ideas formed in the comfort of the home are the foundations upon which the school must build.

At this stage we as adults must remember that all learning should be unconsciously done in a happy and carefree atmosphere. Children learn best through play. Listen to your child, encourage them to tell you what they did with their friends, the games they played and the stories they heard.

There is no need to teach your child to read before starting school. However, you could draw your child's attention to words in the environment – *in shops and supermarkets, on road signs, TV programme titles, writing on buses, information sheets etc.*



Visit the library or read online line books together. Let your child choose library books and read them with him/her. Look at the pictures, ask questions and wait for answers. Try and let your child see that you also enjoy reading. **Reading stories to your child every day and particularly at bedtime helps your child to develop 'a love of reading'.** You could sing or say nursery rhymes with your child to help develop their understanding of rhyme. When your child starts school don't expect him/her to be given a reading book straight away. It takes time for a child to develop the skills that they need to be able to read. The class teacher will know when your child is ready for a reading book.

Let your child . . .

- **Dress up and use their imagination – children like to act as grown-ups.**
- **Let children understand that numbers occur in life eg meal times and shopping, for example, 'How many forks?'**
- **Draw their attention to numbers all around them eg house number, cash registers, car numbers, telephone numbers etc.**
- **Introduce the language of size – large packet, small packet, big tin, small tin etc.**
- Give your child regular playtime outdoors – climbing, enjoying space, cycling, throwing and catching etc.**
- **Provide open-ended play resources eg bricks, tea-sets, dough, junk, glue, scissors and card etc.**
- **Give your child space to play – don't fill their days with busy things.**
- **Provide lots of materials for your child to draw, cut, stick, paint and be creative.**
- **Play games with your child – encourage turn-taking.**



ACTIVE LEARNING THROUGH PLAY IS FUN

Physical Education/Fundamental Movement Skills



Children will take part in regular physical activities, either indoors or outdoors, at least twice a week. Children's activities will include gymnastics, dance, games and athletics. All children will change for PE and their kit will be kept in school; comprising a sky blue round neck t- shirt (available from Cuddys, Magherafelt), plain navy shorts and black slip on plimsolls – labelled with your child's name.

Children should also bring navy track bottoms/leggings, a hoodie or sweatshirt and trainers when attending sport sessions after school.

School Assemblies

We normally have a whole school assembly on a Friday and additional assemblies as required. These have been temporally suspended due to Covid 19. Representatives of the Christian denominations will be invited to take part in our school assemblies on an average of 2 – 3 times per month. We use assemblies to develop children's singing, enhance self-esteem, promote moral values, celebrate positive learning experiences and discuss pastoral care issues. Individual classes prepare and take an assembly each term to share their learning experiences with the whole school. The Pupils' Council, the ECO Committee and classes present their work achievements to the whole school each term in an assembly.

School Clubs

Early Bird Club – 8.15 am to 8.45 am:

This club runs daily and provides classroom assistant supervision in the assembly hall. The club costs £1 per day i.e. £5 per week. Children should pay on the day or in advance if this suits parents better. Vouchers accepted.



123 Club – 2 pm to 3 pm:

The 123 Club runs daily at a cost of £2 per day. This is a fun educational club offered to P1-3. The club provides an interesting range of activities which change each term. Due to COVID 19 restrictions activities will be limited due to hygiene restrictions at this time. Outdoor play will be on most days weather permitting. Parents must sign up and pay for the club in advance each term. This enables the school to pay for sport's coaches, specialist teachers e.g. Tennis/Drama as well as pay for the classroom supervision daily.

Vouchers as payment for Clubs

Working parents who are eligible for Sodexo, Employers for Childcare or Care4 vouchers may use these schemes to pay the school for Early Bird Club, 123 Club and After School Clubs as they are classed as outside school hours childcare. Always contact the Principal, Mrs White before commencing any of these schemes. **When paying by voucher please detail the activity and your child's name beside the amount.**



THE FIRST MORNING

The transition from the home environment to school represents a very big change for any young child. The teacher understands this. She handles the situation every year with great skill, and you will find her most sympathetic.

There are some things, which you can do to help ease the ordeal for the apprehensive child. Before you leave, explain to your child exactly where and when you will meet him/her. Try not to be late when collecting your child. This is a common source of distress.

Most children make the transition quite easily. Don't be afraid if your child cries. This happens in one or two cases every year, but seldom lasts longer than a few minutes after Mum or Dad has gone.



We encourage independence in our pupils. Please encourage your child to walk down the corridor and come into the classroom by themselves, if possible by October.

SETTLING IN

To help your child settle in, we would appreciate if you could ensure that your child can:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ★ Do and undo buttons | ★ Use a tissue or handkerchief |
| ★ Take their coats on and off | ★ Wash and dry their hands |
| ★ Zip up zips | ★ Tidy away toys |
| ★ Go to the toilet alone | ★ Respect others and their property |
| ★ Listen and follow simple instructions | |

We would appreciate it if parents would:

- ★ Download the EA forms from the EA Website if you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals or bus transport.
- ★ Ensure that all items of your child's uniform is clearly marked with their **name**. This is especially important with regard to sweatshirts, coats and all items of PE Kit.
- ★ When buying your child's school bag a backpack style is best and should be large enough to hold as A4 folder.
- ★ Please send in a packet of flushable wipes for your child's use and a packet of tissues.
- ★ Not leave your children at school before 8.45 am as the front door is locked until then and their supervision cannot be guaranteed.
- ★ If you are paying for the Early Bird Club a classroom assistant will be at the door from 8.15 am to let your child into school.
- ★ Please do come inside the gate to collect your children! Make yourself known to the teacher especially if you are another adult who may be collecting a child eg grandparent, uncle etc. This is in the interest of the safety of your children.
- ★ If you have a message for the teacher – write a note and put it into an envelope inside your child's school bag or reading book. Four and five-year-old children do not always deliver messages as intended.
- ★ If your child is bringing money to school, put it in an **envelope** clearly marked with the child's name, amount inside and what it is to be used for. **A note should be included in this envelope if there is any change to how your child will be travelling home eg bus/car.**
- ★ **Large amounts of money should be paid by cheque or if in cash payment should be made at the school office. Money envelopes are available for sale in school, at a cost of £2 per booklet of 40 envelopes.**

School Meals

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60 per meal ie £13.00 per week. Dinner money is payable **each Monday** for the number of meals you wish your child to have that week. **Please adhere to this request as dinner money is lodged each Monday** If however, due to unforeseen circumstances, money were brought in during the week **it is essential that the correct amount** be sent, as we will be unable to provide change. Personal cheques can be accepted for **meals and snack money** and these may be put on one cheque made payable to **Education Authority, Southern Region**. Dinners can be paid monthly on the first Monday of the month, preferably by **cheque**. **Please send in a note with the money detailing which days your child will be having a dinner.**

Please note that if you have more than one child it is necessary for each child to take a separate cheque to their own class teacher.

We would ask you to support our kitchen by encouraging you child to take school dinners. A menu will be issued at the end of each month detailing the following month's meals. A copy can also be found on the notice board at the front door of the school or on the school website under 'Parents'.

IF YOU WISH YOUR CHILD TO TAKE SCHOOL MEALS PLEASE FILL IN THE REPLY SLIP PROVIDED.

Healthy Breaks

If you wish to send a drink with your child it is school policy that NO fizzy drinks are allowed and we encourage children to drink milk or water. We operate a system of healthy breaks in our school and encourage all pupils to adopt healthy eating and lifestyle habits.

All children will be given the opportunity during school to have a healthy snack. They will be provided with a range of snacks during the week including; toast, fruit, scones, crusty bread, crackers and cheese and wheaten bread. If you wish your child to take part in our Healthy Break Initiative **do not** send a break time snack with your child.

There is a charge of **30p per day** to help cover costs. This money should be paid **on the first Monday of each month – September £6.60 (22days).**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE CONSENT FORM AND ENSURE YOU INFORM THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR CHILD HAS AN ALLERGY.



WHAT DO THEY DO ALL DAY?

The statutory curriculum in the Foundation Stage is set out under the following areas of learning:

Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

The Arts

The World Around Us

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Physical Development & Movement

Religious Education (as specified by DENI)



The curriculum will focus on the development of children's cross-curricular skills, which include:

- ◆ Using ICT, Communication and Numeracy skills;
- ◆ Managing Information;
- ◆ Thinking, problem-solving and decision-making;
- ◆ Being creative;
- ◆ Self-management;
- ◆ Working with others.



The majority of children's learning in the Foundation Stage (P1 and 2) will be provided through a range of well-planned, challenging play experiences both indoors and outdoors. This reflects an understanding that young children learn best through interactive, practical, multi-sensory, fun experiences.

So don't be surprised if your child goes home and says that they played all day.

On the initial return to school some experiences may be limited due to current COVID 19 restrictions.

Why Play?

- 🎨 Play helps children make sense of the world
- 🎨 Through play children learn about themselves – they discover their capabilities and limitations
- 🎨 In playing with others, children develop social skills
- 🎨 Children talk in their play and extend vocabulary and general language skills
- 🎨 Children develop thinking skills as they play, tackling problems, making decisions, using logic, reason etc.
- 🎨 As children use and control arrangement of tools and equipment they develop physical competency and skills.

STARTING SCHOOL

The new School Year will begin on **Monday 24 August 2020 (P7 Pupils ONLY)**

P1-6 classes will commence on 1 September 2020. However, P1 Children will be phased into school in two groups. Group 1 will attend on 1 Sept and NOT on 2 September. Group 2 will attend on 2 September for their first day and we will have the full P1 class from Thursday 3 September.

School Hours

School Day Begins:	All pupils	9.00 am
School Day Ends:	P1 (1 – 25 September)	12.15 pm
	P1 (from Mon 28 Sept)	2.00 pm
	P2	2.00 pm
	P3	2.00 pm
	P4 – P7	3.00 pm

PLEASE NOTE:

We would remind parents that children should **not** be left on school grounds **before 8.45 am** as the front door will be locked and their supervision cannot be guaranteed. We will have an adult on duty between approx. 8.45 am and 9 am, after which the school doors will be locked and the school day will formally commence.

We encourage independence in our pupils and this means we expect our children to enter their classroom by themselves, hang up their coat, put away their lunch box, carry out self-registration etc. However, Foundation Stage and KS1 children, especially those without older siblings, should be escorted to the front door of the school.

In the event of late comers

All children should be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the school office where the secretary will sign them in and ensure they get to their class safely. If the secretary is not in the office, then a parent should report to the Principal or P7 class teacher.

School Holidays 2020/21 (All dates Inclusive)

26-30 October (5 days)

21-31 Dec (9 days)

1-4 Jan (2 days)

15-19 Feb (5 days)

17 March (Half Day)

29, 30, 31 March (3 days)

1-9 April (7 days)

3,4 May (2 days)

27, 28, 31 May (3 days)

1 June (1 day)

Please note these are provisional and there may be small changes for staff training etc.

