

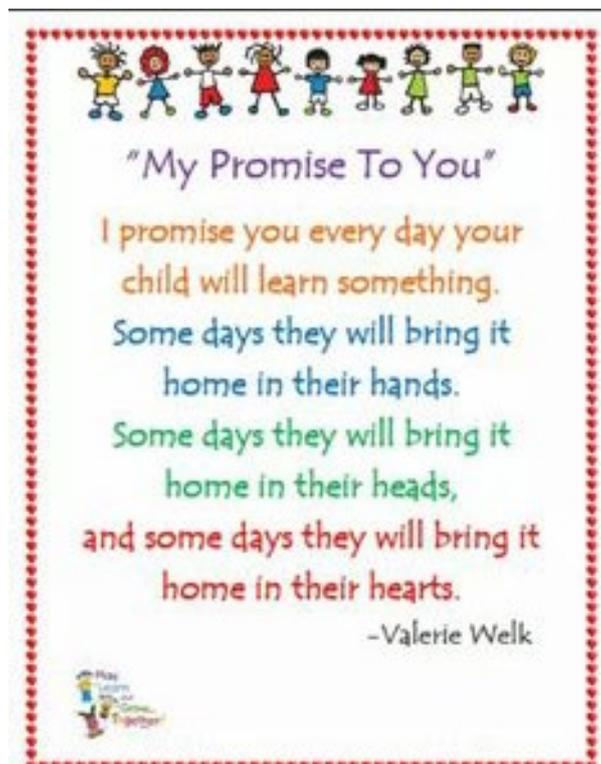
West Melton Primary School

Striving for success, with pride and happiness



Transition Booklet

Welcome to Foundation Stage
Preparing to start School



Welcome

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to West Melton Primary School. This is an exciting time for your family as your child begins their school life at West Melton. We hope that your child will be very happy, and enjoy many opportunities, experiences and achievements, while they are here.

We appreciate that this year we face an unprecedented set of circumstances for our new parents and pupils. We will endeavour to achieve the very best transition plan we can with the social distancing limitations placed upon us. Our first line of communication will be through 'virtual' means so keep an eye on your emails for further information and updates.

Firstly, this document can help you to gain some practical information to help prepare for your child's transition to school. Some of the information it contains will already have been provided to you (e.g. in the School Prospectus) but we have repeated this and provided some very basic practical advice for you to refer to in one document to help you settle your child into school as easily as possible.

In term-time, your queries can be referred to your child's class teacher and the school office

We hope you find the booklet useful. Please let us know if you think there is something we have missed out so that we might include it in the future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Arnold

Assistant Headteacher/EYFS Leader

Getting Ready for School

What will they need?

School Uniform

- Black skirt, trousers or shorts
- Black pinafore dress or green/white checked summer dress
- White blouse/shirt or white polo shirt
- Purple sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (with/without school logo)
- Black, sensible flat shoes (not boots or trainers)
- Black tights or Dark, plain socks
- Coat / jacket (any colour)
- Long hair should be tied up using in a plain hair bobble

Please note: No jeans or other fashion type trousers will be allowed. Plain stud earrings are permitted. However, for safety reasons these should be removed for PE and no other jewellery should be worn at school.

Helpful Tips on School Uniform

- Independent dressing is encouraged at school so the following tips are given to help your son or daughter dress and undress at school for PE lessons.
- As some girls find taking a pinafore dress off for PE difficult, consider buying a skirt or ensure the pinafore dress does have buttons or a zip.
- You can also buy skirts with elasticated waists rather than buttons.
- Most girls and boys find that the buttons on shirts/blouses are tricky when undressing for PE. Consider buying the White Polo Shirts as these only have two buttons at the neck.
- Tights are usually worn by girls when the weather is cold, but practise putting them on and taking them off at home, as they can get frustrated at school if they can't perform this task.
- Some children can manage buckles on shoes, most cannot manage laces. Again, practise at home and consider Velcro shoes if your child cannot manage buckles.

You will have noticed the word "independent" is mentioned already in this section. The children are encouraged to be "independent" and it will certainly help them at school if they are able to dress and undress themselves for PE.

PE Kit

All FS2 children must have kit for PE lessons.

The PE kit should be taken to school on the first day of each term and hung on your child's peg (with their coat). The PE kit remains at school until half term when the children are instructed to bring it home for washing!!

PE kit:

White T-shirt

Black shorts

Plimsolls/trainers

Labelling School Uniform and PE Kit

Every item of school uniform and PE Kit (including the PE Kit Bag) must be labelled with your child's name.

As you can imagine, if a child loses a sweatshirt, and there are a number of sweatshirts without a name, it is impossible for the teacher to determine which sweatshirt belongs to whom.

Lunch Boxes and Hot Meals

All **FS2** children are eligible for free hot dinners. A lunch time menu will be given to you to discuss the daily options with your child. Children will order their lunch time choice every morning during registration.

30 hour funded FS1 children are welcome to order a hot lunch option, however these will need to be paid for at the beginning of each week. Please hand the monies to the class teacher/school office.

If you prefer, your child can bring a **packed lunch** to school. The school promotes "healthy eating" and the children are encouraged to eat their sandwiches first before any other goodies.

Drinks and Snacks

Your child will need to bring a named water bottle to school filled with water not juice.

All children are provided with a free drink of milk (carton) until their 5th birthday. All children will be provided with a snack during the morning session- this is usually a piece of fruit.

School Day

FS1

Morning session- 8:30-11:30

Afternoon session 12:00-3:00

Small group adult led activities, child initiated learning, phonics, maths/literacy, snack (indoor & outdoor)

FS2

School gates open at 8.45 am

◆ School Day starts 8.55am the morning includes small group adult led activities, child initiated learning, phonics, maths/literacy, snack (indoor & outdoor)

◆ Lunch Break starts at 12:00 noon

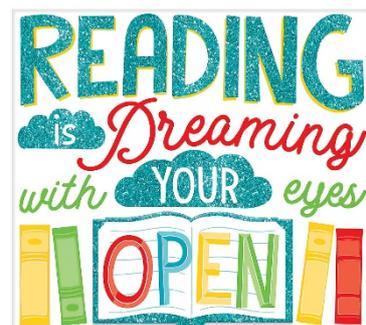
◆ Lunch Break finishes at 1:00 p.m.

◆ Afternoon activities include maths/literacy, small group adult led activities, child-initiated learning, PE, story (indoor & outdoor)

◆ School ends at 3:00 p.m.

Reading

Once the children are established in class and have begun to learn some of the letter sounds they will bring home books to read. Books are sent home and returned in the Book Bags, which need to be brought into school every day. It is essential for your child to read the books more than once to become secure with the new words they come across in each text. It also helps to give them more confidence when reading.



Communication between home and school

This section explains some of the ways school will communicate with you and how you, as parents, can communicate with school.

If you wish to talk to the class teacher, the best time is at the end of the school day. Alternatively, messages can be passed on through the member of staff or through arranging an appointment through the school office.

To share the home learning, activities and experiences your child has we use the home communication system Class Dojo. You will need to provide your email address to school in order to set up an account on Class Dojo.

Notifying School of Absences

Sickness

If your child is ill, let the School Office know by 9:00am (telephone 01709 760538). Parents must keep the school informed daily.

Doctor/Dentist Appointments

Notify the office, in advance if possible.

Holiday Leave

There is no entitlement for holidays in term time. The Head Teacher and the Governing body may only authorise, 'exceptional circumstances' for example, leave to attend a funeral. A leave of absence form must be completed detailing the exceptional circumstances. This is to be sent into school prior to the event for the Head Teacher and Governors to consider. These can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the school office.

Getting Ready for School

Your child learns more in their early years than at any other time in their life. To help them make the best start to their reception year it is hugely beneficial if:

- They are familiar with a range of traditional stories such as *The Three Little Pigs* and popular stories such as *The Gruffalo*
- They can take their coat and shoes on and off without help
- They are able to have a go at dressing and undressing themselves
- They can ask to go to the toilet and use the toilet independently, including washing and drying hands
- They can sit at a table to eat and use a knife and fork
- They can recognise their own name

Reading

At school, we recognise the great importance of reading and the influence that parents and carers can have on children's literacy. Reading is a very complex skill and children learn to read in a variety of ways. Here are some ideas to help you to support your child's reading:

- Recite nursery rhymes
- Read, role play and retell traditional stories such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*
- Share picture books and talk about them
- Make up stories together
- Show them that you enjoy reading and value books
- Visit the library
- Talk, talk, talk
- Spilt words up into sounds to help develop their phonic knowledge. Can you get your c oa t? Let's go to the sh o p s.

Writing

Learning to write is fun! Early writing involves control of lots of muscles in the hand. Things you can try at home are:

- Let the children see you writing and let them try too
- Dot -to-dots, mazes or spot the difference
- Colouring inside the lines
- Use scissors safely
- Giant writing in the sand, mud, water
- Make models with play dough
- Help them to write their name

Numbers

At this age, maths is all around. Spotting numbers on signs, counting out amounts, recognising who was first or second in a race or spotting patterns are all important mathematical skills that can easily be practised at home.

- Encourage 1:1 pointing
- Talk about quantities using words like bigger/smaller and more/less
- Encourage them to recognise the patterns on dice or dominoes as representing numbers
- Play games that involve counting eg snakes and ladders
- Look for house numbers
- Sing number songs eg 1 2 3 4 5 Once I caught a fish alive

