



Whitnash Primary School



**Reception
2026/27**



Welcome to Whitnash Primary School

'Learning, growing and succeeding together'

Dear Parents/Carers

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Whitnash Primary School in September.

OFF TO SCHOOL



We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for your child and a supportive partnership with you. However, we recognise that starting school can be an anxious time for both children and parents/carers. The aim of this booklet, therefore, is to provide you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child's transition into the Reception Class as smooth as possible.

If there are any questions that remain unanswered or you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 01926 426773 Email: admin2324@welearn365.com



Donna Ellison
Headteacher



David Hitchins
Deputy Headteacher

Meet The Current Reception Team



Mrs Jennings
Class Teacher - Holly
Early Years Lead



Mrs Henshaw
Class Teacher
Holly & Ivy



Mrs Smith
Class Teacher - Ivy



Mrs Reading
Teaching Assistant within
Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor/Breakfast
Club Supervisor



Miss Gilfillan
Teaching Assistant within
Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor/After
School Club Manager



Mrs Fulton
Teaching Assistant within
Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor/Breakfast
Club Supervisor



Miss Shaw
Teaching Assistant within
Reception & Year 1
Midday Supervisor

Whitnash Primary School is committed to ensuring increased staffing numbers as deemed appropriate across Reception and Year 1 classes based on the needs of any cohort. As staff numbers assigned to year groups are determined by the needs of the pupil in-take each year, this may be subject to internal change.

Admission and Induction

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Autumn Term Starts

(For Year 1 to Year 6 but NOT Reception)

From Wednesday 2nd - Monday 7th September 2026

Home Visits

Tuesday 8th - Thursday 10th September 2026

Children attend half-days

9am-11am - Half of Holly Class and half of Ivy Class

1pm-3pm - Half of Holly Class and half of Ivy Class

You will be informed of the session your child will be attending.

Friday 11th September 2026

All children attend morning only and stay for lunch.

8.45am - 1pm

From Monday 14th September 2026

All children full-time

Induction Visits

Reception Parent/Carer Welcome Meeting

Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 5.00pm

This meeting is an opportunity for you to come and have a look at the school, meet members of staff and collect an information pack. However, we do realise some of you may not be able to make this meeting, and may have questions about your child starting school. Therefore, you and your child are also invited to come to the school before the end of term on our Transition Day.

Transition Day

Wednesday 8th July 2026

There are two sessions planned, you will be allocated one of the following sessions:

9.15am - 10.30am or 2.00pm - 3.15pm

You will be informed of the session your child is allocated.



The children will choose from a range of practical activities whilst getting to know teachers and the reception learning environment. It will also be an opportunity for parents/carers to meet Mrs Ellison, our headteacher, and find out about various aspects of school life.

Parents and carers must stay with their child for the entirety of this session.

Reception Parent/Carer Meeting — Reception (EYFS) Curriculum

Thursday 17th September 2026 at 5.00pm

This is a very informative meeting about the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and what you can expect your child to be learning over the course of the year.



Learning Together

Being a parent is one of the most vital, and sometimes one of the most under-valued jobs in the world! We believe that you are your child's first and most important educators.

Learning Before School

By the time your child is ready to go to school they have learned many skills and they understand a great deal. They have learnt these things mainly with people at home, as well as with practitioners in pre-school settings and the other people they meet.

During their first years of life your child has already learnt skills that will help them to make a flying start at school:



- Feeling good about themselves
- Listening carefully
- Talking about their thoughts and feelings
- Sharing stories, songs and rhymes
- Desire to learn
- Mark-making
- Talking to other people outside the family
- Respecting and getting on with other people
- Asking questions
- Following a routine
- Expressing what they like
- Managing surrounding noise and activity
- Fully toilet trained
- Some independent dressing skills, including putting on their own shoes



All these things continue to be important at school! When your child starts school, the support you give them will have an enormous influence on their achievements.

We are therefore keen to build supportive and positive partnerships with all parents and carers.



Useful Skills

You can help your child prepare for school by teaching them how to do these things:



Take off their coat and hang it on a peg



Put their coat on and fasten it



Take their shoes on and off



Dress and undress



Communicate wants and needs



Eat independently and use a knife and fork



Beginning to recognise and talk about feelings



Listen to and follow simple instructions



Use the toilet properly and flush it



Wash and dry hands

Share toys and be prepared to take turns

Help to tidy toys away



Follow this link for the UK Government website which has lots of information and advice for preparing for school:

[beststartinlife.gov.uk/preparing for school](https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/preparing-for-school)

Effective Learning Behaviours

At Whitnash, we encourage learning behaviours that help children become confident, curious, and independent learners.



PETER PUG PERSEVERANCE

Children are encouraged to stay focussed, keep trying when challenges arise, and enjoy their achievements.



COLIN CAT COLLABORATION

Children learn to work together, share ideas, take turns, and support one another through play and learning experiences.



ROSIE RABBIT REFLECTIVENESS

Children develop their own ideas, make connections in their learning, and find ways to solve problems



IGGY IGUANA IMAGINATION

Children use their creativity to explore ideas, role play, problem solve, and express themselves in different ways.

Each of these skills are encouraged through the use of animal characters, Effective Learning Behaviour stickers, certificates and verbal feedback.

Carry On Helping

One of the best ways for you to help your child do well at school is to take a positive interest in what happens in school. When children know that their teachers and parents/carers are working closely together, they are more likely to be successful learners.

It will make a big difference if you can:

- * Praise the progress they make.
- * Talk about school and encourage their enthusiasm for learning.
- * Support your child's reading development through hearing them read daily and encouraging their engagement in reading and logging this on our online reading diary.
- * Enjoy stories together.

Useful Information

Fruit

Each day children receive a free piece of fruit. We have a free choice snack time so children can choose when they have their fruit.



Milk



Children receive free school milk up to the age of five. When your child reaches five you can buy milk from our provider Cool Milk. However, if you are on the Free School Meal Register and you would like your child to continue to receive milk, the school can arrange this.

School Dinners

All children up to Year 2 receive Universal Free School meals. However, if you qualify for Free School Meals under the entitlement criteria i.e. if you receive certain benefits, you will need to apply to be recorded on the Free School Meal (FSM) register.

This means that school receives additional funding called Pupil Premium. This is used to help raise achievement levels. If you are unsure if you qualify, please speak to the school office. Weekly food menus are on the school newsletter and website, so you will be able to support your child in making their meal choices each day.



Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and are asked to bring in water bottles (no squash or juice). You can buy water bottles from school at a cost of £1.50. For safety reasons, water bottles should not be metal or glass.





A Typical School Day in Reception Class

- 8.55am** Children come into school, hang up their coats and put their school book bags into their class box. The children self-register (which the teacher checks) and a teaching assistant takes their dinner order.
We update the calendar and share the timetable for the day.
- 9.10am** **Maths carpet time.** This is led by the class teacher and supported by a teaching assistant.
- 9.30am** **Play and learn.** Children work in small groups with an adult to complete practical maths activities. Other children access activities of their own choice linked to various areas of learning including access to outdoor learning in our outdoor classroom.
- 11.00am** **'Read, Write, Inc' phonics.** Children work in groups with an adult to practise reading and writing.
- 11.30am** **Funky Fingers.** Children practise their large gross motor movements including crossing the mid-line. This involves dancing and moving in different ways to music as well as practising pre-handwriting shapes in our 'wand practice'.
- 11.40am** **Toileting and handwashing**
- 11.45am** **Lunchtime**
11.45 - 12.15 Reception children eat their lunch in the hall.
12.15 - 12.45 Reception children have playtime on the playground.
- 12.45pm** **Registration**
- 12.50pm** **Literacy and/or Topic/Understanding of the World carpet time.** This is led by the class teacher and supported by a teaching assistant.
- 1.15pm** **Play and learn.** Children work in small groups with an adult to complete literacy activities including writing. Other children access activities of their own choice linked to various areas of learning including access to outdoor learning in our outdoor classroom.
- 2.40pm** **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) carpet time.** This is led by the class teacher and supported by a teaching assistant.
- 2.55pm** **Storytime.**
- 3.05pm** **Prepare to go home.**
- 3.15pm** **Home time.** Parents/carers wait at the reception side gate and children are brought to their parents/carers.

Children can only be collected from school with a parent/carer or adult (over 16) known to school.

Parents/carers need to inform the school office if a different adult will be collecting their child and a password will be arranged.

Attendance

As you are all aware attendance in school is vital to a child's education and their ability to learn. It is expected that children will achieve at least 95% across the year and many of our children do achieve this. Children absent for no valid reason and those who arrive late (after registration closes) will be marked as unauthorised..



Where there is a problem with attendance please come and speak to the teacher or headteacher.

Family Holidays in Term Time

Previous interpretations of the regulations where Head Teachers could grant pupils leave of absence of up to 10 days for the purpose of a two-week family holiday in term time has been interpreted by some parents as a right to an automatic two-week term-time holiday.

This is not acceptable and the rules have been strengthened to prevent this happening in future. For this reason, the Government brought in new guidance tightening up the regulations related to pupils taking time off in term-time.



Head Teachers are no longer permitted to authorise absence for holidays taken during term time.

They are permitted to grant leave only in exceptional circumstances. If you think you have exceptional circumstances please talk to us without delay and before arrangements are entered into or money committed. If exceptional circumstances are accepted, the Head Teacher will determine how much absence will be authorised.

Holidays which are unauthorised should not be taken. If they are taken, parents/carers are in breach of their legal duty to ensure that their child attends school full-time and may be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice or prosecution through the courts.

A form **MUST** be completed by the resident parent/carer before a request will be considered.

You can pick up a form from the school office, or download from our website.

https://www.whitnashprimaryschool.com/Key_Information/Attendance



School Uniform

We encourage all parents/carers to dress their children in full school uniform and adhere to our uniform policy. We believe that by wearing the school uniform children are encouraged to take pride in belonging to our school.

- Boys** Grey /black trousers or shorts
Blue / white polo shirt
Burgundy sweatshirt with or without school logo
- Girls** Grey /black skirt, trousers or pinafore dress
Blue / white polo shirt
Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
During the summer girls may wear blue and white check/striped dresses.
- Shoes** All children should wear black shoes suitable for the active life in school (no high / wedged heels or trainers please).

We encourage shoes with Velcro fastening for children in Reception or encourage parents/carers to teach their child how to tie their shoe laces.

A reversible fleece/waterproof coat with the school logo is available although not compulsory.

Jewellery

For the sake of your child's safety, jewellery should not be worn in school with the exception of a watch and stud earrings. Nail varnish should not be worn. If your child comes to school wearing nail varnish, we will need to call you to come into school to remove it. Long hair should be tied back.

Physical Education

To enable children to get the most from their PE lessons, children come to school wearing their full PE kit on their allocated day, which you will be informed of in September. Class PE days are on the weekly newsletter should you forget.

PE Kit

- Black shorts
- Plain white T-shirt
- Black jogging bottoms and sweatshirt or zip up top for the winter
- Trainers (Velcro fastening recommended for younger children)



Please ensure all clothing is permanently labelled with your child's name and continually check this throughout the year

Uniform found without names and not collected is made available to other parents. This is free or a small donation can be made to the school.

Uniform Suppliers



Online

My Clothing – www.myclothing.com

School gets a 5% cash donation for every purchase

School Trends – www.schooltrends.co.uk

Stitch-Tech – www.stitchtech.co.uk

Shops

Stitch-Tech Ltd

7C Jenton Road

Sydenham Industrial Estate

Leamington Spa

CV31 1XS

01926 883366

More information is available from the office or on our website:

www.whitnashprimaryschool.com/Parent_Resources/School_Uniform

Name Labels

Please note that we do not endorse the following companies, but having searched online, these are a few options.

www.nametags4u.co.uk/schools-and-nurseries

www.wovenlabelsuk.com/school-labels

www.labels4kids.com/school-name-labels



Reception Curriculum

In Reception we follow the Early Years Framework.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through seven areas of learning and development.

- * Communication and Language
- * Physical Development
- * Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- * Literacy
- * Mathematics
- * Understanding the World
- * Expressive Arts and Design



More information will follow at our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum meeting on Thursday 17th September 2026 at 5.00pm. This will explain in more detail about the Early Years curriculum, how your child will learn and how you can best support your child.

Outdoor Learning

Reception children have daily access to our own carefully designed outdoor learning space. Children explore their learning in our water area, large scale block and den building area, mud kitchen, roleplay areas and even on our very own beach.

We are also very fortunate at Whitnash to have large school grounds with a variety of outdoor spaces, which we use to enrich children's learning experiences in all areas of the curriculum. For example, in 'Understanding the World' we go on nature walks in each season to see how things change over time, planting seeds in our school garden and going on minibeast hunts. We also read and act out stories outside and use natural resources for outdoor maths and art.

At Whitnash we feel it is important for our children to experience the outdoors and build up their knowledge of, and respect for nature as well as using it to create memorable learning experiences.

Children will need a warm coat and clothing, such as hats and gloves during the colder months.



Forest School

Reception children will also be very fortunate to be taking part in a block of 6 Forest School sessions with our Forest School trained staff members. Children will be supported in developing their vocabulary and communication skills, resilience, perseverance, risk-taking, physical skills, problem solving, social skills and self-esteem through nature-based activities. Children will take part in activities, such as den building, minibeast hunts, colour hunts as well as wood craft skills and outdoor cooking.

You will receive further information in the Summer Term, when it is your child's turn for their session



For Forest School your child will need to bring in a named pair of wellies.



Homework Policy

We believe that homework contributes towards a child's overall learning experience as well as being an important aspect of the home/school partnership. There will be progression in the variety, quantity and frequency of homework set reflecting the age and ability of the child, and in accordance with Department for Education guidelines.



All children will be provided with a reading book to read at home and also QR code links to phonics videos which revise the week's phonics learning at school. We expect all parents/carers to support children's reading by reading with their children every day. Reading is the most important learning skill your child needs. Developing early reading is therefore a key priority for your child.

We use an online reading diary called Boom Read to log reading in both school and at home. You will receive log in details in September once your child has started.

The school's homework policy is available on the school website.
https://www.whitnashprimaryschool.com/Key_Information/Policies



Behaviour Policy

It is a child's basic right to come to a place where they feel safe and cared for each day. Successful learning is more likely in such an atmosphere. The staff of the school work hard to create such an atmosphere not just in their own classrooms but throughout the school. Children are given trust and freedom and are encouraged to develop and accept responsibility for their own behaviour based on consideration and care for each other and their environment.

We look too, for your support as parents/carers in helping to maintain an atmosphere of calm and high expectations. The school has a Home/School Agreement which lays out the expectations for all parties and explains how we will work in partnership to help your child to learn and be part of our school community most effectively. It underpins areas such as homework, attendance and participation in school.

We also have a Behaviour Policy that encourages positive behaviour management. Rewards and sanctions work side by side with the expectation that children are caring, thoughtful and respectful towards others. Our School Rights are shared with children:

- * The right to learn.
- * The right to feel safe and be safe all of the time.
- * The right to respect.
- * The right to play

To support our effective learning behaviour initiative, every month each area of behaviour is celebrated with a school assembly. Class teachers nominate children who have demonstrated effective learning behaviours.

Other achievements, inside or outside school, are also recognised during this time. Parents/carers are notified if their child is nominated and invited into assembly.



Home/School Agreement

Whitnash Primary School's vision and ethos is best achieved by fostering a close working partnership with our families. Therefore, our school has a Home/School Agreement, which staff, pupils and parents/carers are requested to follow. Not only does it set out the school's responsibilities towards its pupils, it also highlights the responsibilities of the pupils and their parents/carers to enable the very best for our children. The aim is to strengthen the partnership between home and school and make clear the respective roles, responsibilities and expectations so that our children can thrive.

The school will make every effort to ensure your child reaches their full potential by:

- Ensuring the safety and security of your child.
- Looking after the mental and physical well-being of your child whilst in our care.
- Upholding the school rights and rules, addressing pupil concerns and unacceptable behaviours in an appropriate and timely way.
- Ensuring your child receives the legal entitlement of a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Promoting high standards and high expectations of effort and attainment in every lesson.
- Recognising and celebrating 'effective learning behaviours'.
- Provide properly planned homework opportunities which are realistic, achievable and related to work in school.
- Provide opportunities for extra-curricular activities.
- Provide a written report informing you of your child's progress with his/her class teacher at least once per year and provide opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher at least twice per year.
- Deal with parental concerns promptly and inform parents/carers of how they have been resolved.
- Keep parents/carers well informed about school life and special events through regular newsletters and correspondence.

Parents/Carers will make every effort to ensure your child reaches their full potential by:

- Supporting the aims of the school.
- Ensuring their child maintains good standards of school attendance in line with the School Attendance Policy and government expectations.
- Ensuring their child is punctual each day.
- Ensuring their child wears the appropriate, clean school uniform and follows the school uniform policy.
- Encouraging their child to adhere to the school's expectations and rights.
- Supporting the school's Behaviour Policy and co-operate fully with any behaviour procedures should they become necessary (i.e. target setting, reviews etc.)
- Attending any parent/carer consultations, reviews, assemblies or events which involve their child, including those provided where a child is identified with Special Educational Needs (SEND).
- Understanding how vital reading and early phonics development is for their child and supporting regular home practice.
- Ensuring their child completes any homework and returns it on time.
- Reading (at least) weekly with their child and record this reading using 'Boom Reader' for productive communication and home/school partnership.
- Ensuring their child has regular access to wider, recommended learning platforms to support home learning, e.g., Times Table Rock Stars, Read Write Inc. QR Code lessons, MyMaths etc.
- Keeping school informed of any changes in circumstances (address, phone, emergency contacts etc.), ensuring school always has at least two up-to-date contacts at all times.
- Informing the school, in a timely manner, of any problems that may affect their child's learning or behaviour.

Children will make every effort to:

- Follow the school rights and expectations.
- Follow instructions.
- Be polite and well-mannered.
- Let an adult know if there is a problem.
- Complete and return homework.
- Be prepared for learning (arrive on time, with the right equipment i.e. P.E.Kit etc.)
- Contribute to lessons and listen when being spoken to.
- Stay on task.
- Respect other's right to learn by avoiding distracting others.
- Be open and honest when things go wrong and allow adults to help them resolve difficult situations. 'Own up' if things go wrong.

Breakfast Club



Breakfast club is from 8.00am until the start of the school day, 8.55am at a cost of £3.50 per session. Sessions include breakfast and a selection of activities. Contact the school office for more information.

Information on booking will be provided in your welcome packs.

After School Club - Treetops

After School Club is from 3.15pm with two finishing times:

4.15pm at a cost of £4.50 (no tea is provided)

5.15pm at a cost of £7.50 (no tea provided)

5.15pm at a cost of £9.50 (with tea provided)

Parent/Carer, Teacher Association - PTA

Whitnash Primary School is very fortunate to have an active group of people who work hard organising activities and events to raise money for the school.

The PTA have a page in the weekly newsletter which shows you what events are coming up, photos and information about past events and how much money is collected and what the money will be going towards.

All parents and carers are welcome to join. Meetings are held regularly and we are always looking for new ideas for raising money and are very grateful for everyone's support. You do not have to make the meetings, just helping out on one or two events would still be an amazing help.

If you would like more information or would like to jump on board, please email them at friendsofwhitnash@gmail.com



**CAN
YOU
HELP?**

Our Governors

Governors work in partnership with the Head Teacher and staff to ensure the provision of quality education for the children attending the school. They do so by showing concern for every aspect of the school's welfare and development. They contribute an independent view and provide an important link between the school and the wider community.

The full Governing Body meets twice each term. Individual governors also serve on committees, according to their special interests, skills and experiences. These committees are responsible for the financial management of the school, the curriculum, special needs, community links, the school buildings and environment and staff appointments.

The governors report to parents/carers on the various activities, developments and achievements relating to the School Improvement Plan. The Governors would, therefore, like to be kept in touch at all times with any opinions, concerns or suggestions which parents/carers may have about school matters. From time to time a questionnaire is sent home to all parents/carers to support this process.

If you ever need to contact the governors it is best to write. Letters to the Chair of Governors can be left at the school office.



Type of Governor	Name
Chair of Governors	Mr K Mullis
Staff Governors	Mrs D Ellison, Miss L Simmons
Parent Governors	Mr I Maor (Co Vice-Chair), Mr W Hollowell
Co-opted Governors	Mr N Rice, Ms S Potter, Mrs M Vaezi
Local Authority Governor	Mrs M Kaloghirou

If you are interested in joining our governing body then please let the head teacher know, or alternatively you can contact the Chair of Governors.

What should I do if ...

... we arrive late?

The school day starts at 8.55am. If you arrive after this time, please bring your child through the main entrance and sign your child in using the electronic sign in system with the reason for lateness. This automatically updates the school register. Lateness will be recorded and monitored. Lateness after the register closes will impact your child's overall rates of school attendance.

... I need to collect my child during the day?

Please let the school office know when you need to collect your child and the reason for collection. We will inform the class teacher and arrange for your child to be brought to the main entrance for you to meet them. If you make arrangements for another adult to collect your child, please inform the school office who will arrange a security password to share with the person collecting.

... my child is unwell before school?

To prevent the spread of illness to other children and adults, please do not send your child to school if you are unsure about their health. Please contact the school office as soon as possible to inform us of your child's absence. If your child has been sick (vomited) or had diarrhoea then please keep them at home for two clear days after the last 'incident' (48 hours). Of course you should always follow your doctor's advice over when your child will be fit to return to school.

If your child has had an infectious illness, it is helpful if you could let us know what it was (though you are not obliged to). We can then be alert to signs in other children. All such information will be kept strictly confidential.

The school monitors attendance weekly and we want to work with all parents/carers to ensure that children are in school at least 95-100% of the time.

Please refer to the previous section on School Attendance.

... my child has an accident?

A trained Paediatric First Aider will administer First Aid, and if we feel that the injury needs further attention we will contact you. Your child will come home with a medical slip if they have had first aid administered. These are usually given to your child to put in their school bag. We will always arrange appropriate treatment for your child, even if you cannot be contacted. The school has a policy of informing parents about any bumped heads via a telephone call and a medical slip, even if the child has fully recovered.



... I am concerned about something?

Please do not hesitate to contact us. Often a phone call or a brief word can prevent a problem from developing. Feel free to talk directly to the office, Headteacher or your child's Teacher.

... our home circumstances change?

Your address, phone number and emergency contacts are key pieces of information, which enable us to contact you. Please let the office know as soon as possible of any changes. It can often help us to support your child or explain why their behaviour might change.

... if I am held up and cannot collect my child on time?

We will, of course, always look after your child until you arrive. We will not allow your child to go home with another parent/carer or adult unless we have been notified of such an arrangement in advance. However, please remember that after a long day at school, it can be quite a distressing experience for your child to have to wait to be met at home time.

NOTES

Please use this space to make any notes or questions you wish to ask at the meeting.





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www.whitnashprimaryschool.com