



Happily to School 2025



The aim of this booklet is to welcome you to Woodside and answer any questions you have about your child starting school. It contains additional information to that found in our Prospectus and we hope it will be particularly useful to parents whose children are coming to school for the first time.

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School Ethos

We strive to establish a caring community, whose attitudes and values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. Our intention is that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We promote an effective learning environment, so that everyone can feel happy, safe and secure. We endeavour to show compassion, understanding and good manners in all that we do so that Woodside School and all the people within it are proud of where they belong.

Classes

Dormice – Reception/ Year 1

Fallow Deer – Year 1 and Year 2

Woodpeckers – Year 3 and 4

Red Squirrels – Year 5 and 6

The first few weeks in Reception

We set up daily routines as soon as your child starts in Reception, Below is a table of what a typical day in reception class looks like

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8.40 am	Enter through school gate
8.45 am	Register and activity
	Phonics
	Session one with a literacy focus. In this session I may cover writing and reading skills and phonics
	Story time with Milk and fruit
10.35- 10.45	Playtime
	Session two with a numeracy focus
12 – 1 pm	Lunchtime
	This session's focus will vary throughout the week depending on the children's interests. One day it may focus on nature, the next arts
2 pm – 2.15pm	Playtime
2.15- 3.15 pm	Reflection time/assembly then home
3.15 pm	Home time

Learning

Your child's interests play an important part of the Early Years Curriculum. Play is scaffolded by an adult and is very different to the provision in Little Dormice. Almost all people learn best through hands-on, active learning, and it's a well-established fact that young children learn best this way. In our setting we aim to provide varied activities and enabling environments to meet the learning needs of all our children.



Children in reception have regular welly walk in our school grounds and learning outside in all weather.

We have wellies in school for the children to use

Reading

Our children are encouraged to take their reading books home each night to share with their parents. Please ensure that the book is returned each day. Class teacher will provide advice on how best to help your child with his/her reading. The first reading books the children bring home will not have words in them. They are designed to make the child aware that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end, by telling stories through pictures.

At Woodside we use ELS at school. This means that your child will learn how to read using Essential Letters and Sounds. This is a phonics programme and supports your children to develop the skills and knowledge needed for reading.

Your children will begin ELS programme in Reception and complete the ELS Phonics programme at the end of Year One. In Year Two, your children will continue to practise these skills to ensure that they can become clear, confident and fluent readers

The best support your child when they are learning to read, we suggest that you read the decodable text provided 4 times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader.

It is a key part of learning to read that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision) By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency.

The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. Your child should be able to decode and read their phonics book independently, though they may need some support with blending at the beginning of their reading journey. There will be some words that are not decodable, we call these 'harder to read and spell', you can help your child with these words when they are reading.

Please can you make sure that your child's bag is BIG enough to hold books. We have found that smaller bags damage books and over time this can be costly when we have to replace them.

- Parents starter kits are available on Amazon: [Essential letters and Sounds: My phonics Activity Kit 1](#); Pres, Katie, Dodson, Tara, McLelland, Katie: [Amazon.co.uk:Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Books)

Drop off and Pick Up

We ask all parents to make sure that their children do not arrive in school before 8.35 am as we cannot be held responsible for mishaps or accidents which occur before this time. Children come in via the bottom yard straight into their classroom for a soft start.

Additional Information about drop off and picks up times will be sent out to you before your child starts.

If someone "different" is coming to collect your child, please inform the class teacher or office.

At home time, parents wait outside the reception outdoor area until the class comes out. Children will be personally handed over to their parent/carer.

If you collect your child by car at the end of the school day, please drive very slowly in the vicinity of the school and remember that a one-way system operates in the morning and at the end of the day (drive down the hill with the school on your left and continue around as you depart). **Please do not double park outside school** as this hinders visibility and could easily cause an accident.

Absences and School Closures

Reasons for being absent are regarded as **authorised**: -

- Illness, minor ailments, coughs and colds
- Receiving part-time or temporary education at an off-site unit
- Family bereavement
- Medical or dental appointment
- Day of religious observance
- Absence of school transport for an entitled pupil
- Participation in an approved public performance
- School closure (i.e. due to snow)

There may be other circumstances when it is reasonable for the school to allow leave of absence, otherwise the absence is UNAUTHORISED. Attendance is monitored closely by the Educational Welfare Officer on behalf of the Local Authority and they will follow up cases of excessive absence whether authorised or not.

All absences are recorded electronically and coded according to the reason you give us for the absence. Parents are asked to notify the school before 10 a.m. on the first day of absence and to keep the school informed if the absence continues for more than 2/3 days. This can be done by telephone. If your child is absent and we do not hear from you then we will try and ring, where possible, throughout the day.

Lateness is also recorded and monitored so please try and make sure that your child is at school before the start times you will be given so that they can start the day in a relaxed and happy state, ready to learn. We teach phonics at the start of the day and don't want children missing out on their learning.

In the event of school closure (this is most likely to happen if it snows), please look at the school website or school App.

Or our school website: www.woodside.gloucs.sch.uk

Milk and Snack Time

Milk is available at snack time. If you would like your child to have milk, **we have enclosed the leaflet explaining what you have to do.** Milk is available free for children up to the age of 5 afterwards you need to pay for milk.

Children may eat fruit at snack time. Classes 1 and 2 are provided with fruit free of charge through a scheme run by the. Please do not send sweets, chocolate or sweet biscuits.

Dinner time

Hot meals will now be provided **free of charge** for all reception and Key stage 1 children, alternatively they can bring a packed lunch. We do request that you do not give them items such as 'winders' or yoghurt in containers that they have to suck. These may be fine for home but not suitable for school as the children find them very difficult to unwrap and eat nicely.

Lunches are served on a choice basis (a sample menu is enclosed), the class teacher

Children whose parents are in receipt of Family Income Support are eligible to a free school lunch. Please register (form enclosed) even if your child may not always wish to take up the free meal option and bring sandwiches. Further details are available from the school office,

If your child has a packed lunch, please do not overfill his or her box. We do request that you do not give them items such as 'winders' or yoghurt in containers that they have to suck. These may be fine for home but not suitable for school as the children find them very difficult to unwrap and eat nicely.

Try to ensure that your child can use a knife, fork and spoon and that he/she is in the habit of washing hands before a meal.

Uniform

We encourage the children to wear our school uniform. It is economical to buy, looks extremely smart and is easy to change out of for doing P.E. We do hope that you will support us in this and send your child/children in the school colours. Uniform is available from the School Trends/My clothing – leaflet enclosed or online orders

www.schooltrendsonline.com/ www.myclothing.com

Please ensure all items of clothing are named.

P.E. Uniform

At the beginning of term, a letter will inform you of when we do PE in Dormice Class. Each child will need a pair of daps (slip on variety please), Emerald Polo Shirt, shorts and draw- string bag, these can be purchased from School Trends/my clothing

Please note the statement in the Prospectus regarding the wearing of jewellery.

Medical Information

In your welcome pack we will distribute Pupil Information/Data collection sheets, which includes questions about your child's health and well being, so make sure that you complete them and return them to the school office. This information needs to be kept up to date throughout the time your child is at Woodside School, so if changes occur please let the office staff know.

Please note: - **WE ARE NOT NOTIFIED OF ANY MEDICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CHILD BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES WE WILL NOT BE AWARE OF ANY CONDITIONS UNLESS YOU TELL US.**

Medicines will only be given to children when it is absolutely essential*. If your child is taking antibiotics, then make sure you ask the doctor to prescribe them in such a way that they can be effectively given before and after the school day. Classrooms are very busy places and inevitably the teacher forgets send the child for the medicine at the required time or often ends up with the medicine overnight because the child has forgotten to take it home.

* With the Administering Medication form being filled out (in School office)