



Early Years Foundation Stage Frequently Asked Questions

Nursery Questions

What are the opening hours?

The opening hours for school are as follows:

Timings of the Nursery day

07.45	Early Morning Care (EMC) begins
08.25	EMC children brought to Nursery by a teaching assistant Morning routine of putting bags away and settling into the morning activities
08.30	Nursery door opened
08.30 – 08.55	Morning welcome activities and registration
08.55 – 12.00	Morning session
12.00 – 12.30	Lunchtime routine Lunch in the school dining hall
12.30 – 13.20	Lunchtime activities
13.00	Part time children are picked up
13.20 – 15.15	Registration Afternoon session
15.15	Home time Parents/carers collect children Children are taken to After School Care (ASC)
15.20 -15.50	Waiting room for children with siblings in the Foundation
18.00	After School Care ends for all children

Timings for all other pupils at WGPPS

- Reception 8.45am – 3.20pm
- Year 1 8.45am-3.25pm
- Year 2 8.45am-3.30pm

Early Morning Care runs from 7.45am to 8.30am

All classroom doors are open from 8.30am

After School Care runs until 6pm

What are the staff's qualifications?

In our Nursery, we have a qualified teacher plus a number of teaching assistants (mainly Level 3).

What educational approaches does the nursery follow?

Across our Early Years Foundation Stage, we follow a number of pedagogical approaches. In our setting, this means we focus on an immersive, child led curriculum in which we ensure we meet the needs of our children. We focus on enquiry-based learning which is story and vocabulary rich.

What activities do you provide?

Across Early Years Foundation Stage, we ensure the following are in place:

- whole class teaching
- phonics teaching and prioritising early reading
- small group focused activities
- fine and gross motor skills
- numeracy rich learning
- enquiry based learning
- outdoor learning opportunities
- PE
- skills based learning
- language rich activities
- story time
- French and music with a music specialist

How does the key person system work?

The key person system works by giving all children a key member of staff within school who will be responsible for updating your child's progress and ensuring their needs are met. This means that children develop a strong relationship with their key person and means parents have a direct contact in school. However, the class teacher has responsibility for the progress and attainment of the whole class. Discussions are held about the children between the key person and the class teacher on a daily basis.

What feedback about my child's day will you provide?

We provide regular feedback about your child and their progress. This takes many forms such as parents' evenings, end of year reports and informal feedback. We also tell you how they are socialising, what they have enjoyed learning about and the activities in which they are showing particular interest. We share the stories we are reading so you can explore the same books, books by the same author, or those that follow the same theme, at home.

Your given e-mail address allows you to log on to our Firefly school portal to access information, letters and reports. Please notify the school office if you change any of your contact details.

During the year, parents receive information from school to keep parents informed about events in the nursery and across school. We realise that parents are all busy, but we would appreciate it if important points and dates are noted. The Nursery children each have a home book, which is a useful way of passing messages from and to home and school on a day-to-day basis. Other children will have a home-school organiser. You may also phone or e-mail the class teacher.

What if my child has accidents?

When children join our Nursery, they should be out of nappies and pull-ups. Parents should make sure their child is able to have a degree of self-care and the ability to communicate their needs.

There are a number of child friendly toilets around Nursery for children to access.

Please do not worry - we understand that children have accidents and we will never sanction a child because of this. We work with parents to put a plan in place if toileting is a concern or support is needed. We would ask parents to provide spare clothes and underwear in your child's bag. If an accident occurs, we ensure your child is looked after, changed and this information is passed on at the end of the school day.

Do you take children into the local community on outings?

Prior to Covid, the schools were able to offer a variety of visits to our children. We have plans to involve the children in experiences out of school but will need to be mindful of Covid restrictions during the next academic year.

What type of food do you serve?

Children do not need to bring snacks to Early Years Foundation Stage – all food is provided by the school.

Children in Nursery have lunch slightly earlier than the other children. Apart from this, they have the same menu as other children in school.

Our menus will be available on our microsite soon but in the meantime, this is an example of a current school lunch menu.

WEEK 1 Spring

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Biryani (Diced pieces of chicken in biryani sauce tossed in basmati Rice) Beef Burger in a bun served with Tomato Sauce (V) Veggie Burger Steak house Chips Broccoli Florets Baked Beans	Homemade Meat & Potato Pie (Succulent Pieces of Diced Beef & Potato in a Gravy Topped With pastry) Cod Coujons served with a lemon Slice and Tartare Sauce (V)Homemade Vegetable Pie(vegetables & Quom in a Gravy Topped with Pastry Parmentier potatoes Peas Baby Carrots	Chicken Schnitzel served with a Herby Garlic Sauce (Breaded Fillet Breast of Chicken Pan Fried) (V)Spinach & Ricotta Ravioli in a Tomato & Basil Sauce Spicy Wedged Potatoes Farmhouse Vegetables Spring Cabbage	Turkey & Sage Casserole served with Yorkshire pudding Traditional Cumberland Sausage The Classic Sausage (V)Veggie Sausage Mashed Potatoes Sweetcorn Sliced Carrots	Battered Cod Fish Finger With Lemon Wedge & Tartar Sauce Chinese Chicken Chow Mein served with oodles of noodles (V)Veggie Chow Mein Chunky Chips Mushy Peas Baked Beans
Snacks Each Day the following are available: Jacket Potato with a choice of fillings Assorted Salad Bar Make yourself Sandwich Bar with Various Breads & Fillings Pasta Bar				
Available daily: Fresh Fruit, Muller Yoghurt or Cheese and Biscuits				
Ripple Sponge & custard Cornflake Buns	Fruit Crumble & Custard Strawberry Cheesecake	Lemon Iced Sponge Toffee Apple Pie & Custard	Rocky Road Warmed Pancakes & Syrup	Ginger Biscuits Lemon Roly poly & Custard

Snack Time – morning and afternoon

The snack is provided by the school kitchen staff. Snack time is a sociable event. It consists of a variety of fruit and vegetables in season, as well as bread and butter and cheese and crackers. The children also have a cup of milk or water.

The children are often invited to help prepare the snack. As the snack is handed around, the children are encouraged to say 'Thank you' or 'No thank you' thus developing suitable responses and manners.

Lunch Time

The meals are prepared in the kitchen and menus are displayed on the school notice board and on the website. The children are supported to use a knife and fork correctly and encouraged to try new foods. Water is served with lunch.

Water

There is a water fountain in Nursery and children can have a drink whenever they choose.

What are the term dates for 2021-22?

2021 - 2022

Autumn 2021

Monday 6 September to Friday 15 October

Half Term: 18 October to 29 October

Monday 1 November to Friday 17 December

Term Ends 12noon

Staff Inset Days: Thursday 2 September and Friday 3 September

Spring 2022

Wednesday 5 January to Friday 18 February

Half Term: 21 February to 25 February

Monday 28 February to Friday 8 April

Staff Inset Day: Tuesday 4 January

Summer 2022

Tuesday 26 April to Friday 27 May (Bank Hol 2 May)

Half Term: 30 May to 3 June

Monday 6 June to Friday 8 July

Term Ends 12noon

Staff Inset Day: Monday 25 April

How do you involve parents in the children's learning?

Parents and school need to develop a strong relationship to support the children and their learning. We fully involve parents in the development of your child.

This includes use of the school learning platform and information shared via Twitter, the school microsite, newsletters and letters. We have regular parents' evenings and showcase evenings to share learning. We regularly have informal conversations and hope that parents help us to ensure the development of the whole child by sending us information about the children's interests, achievements and activities outside of school.

We use a learning platform to enable us to share observations, photos and videos with parents and children, parents and grandparents can comment on these and add their own observations.

We will hold 'Look at what we have done' evenings, in which children will become experts in their own learning and showcase this to their parents.

We run parent workshops during the Early Years Foundation Stage - this is to inform parents of the learning taking place at school and to share tips and advice on supporting their child's learning at home. We have tried previously to organise one of these a term, alongside an event where you can explore the setting with your child i.e. bedtime story session and previously we have held a dinosaur museum run by the children. We are looking forward to planning other exciting events to involve parents next year.

What extracurricular activities do you offer?

We are in the process of arranging the extracurricular provision for the new academic year. We will try to offer a range of activities to meet the needs and interests of our children.

These are reviewed regularly and new activities introduced to different year groups as the needs, and interests of our children, develop.

We offer a wide range of clubs, those run by school staff (free) and those run by external providers (small charge).

How do we ensure children are ready for school?

We work closely with parents to ensure children are ready for school.

Parents receive a parents' booklet in the summer term which will lay out stepping stones of key skills we would like the children to be able to do to be ready for school.

All children will receive a booklet giving information about the school in the summer term.

Children new to the Early Years Foundation Stage complete a 'Me, Myself and I' transition booklet in the summer term, which gives their new teacher information about their needs and interests.

How do you ensure the safety of my child?

We ensure the ratios of adult:children are met at all times (and where possible exceeded), whether in school, on the playground or on school visits.

Risk assessments are completed and reviewed regularly and where new activities introduced, new risk assessments are undertaken.

Daily checks are undertaken to ensure the environment, both inside and outside, and the resources are safe for the children to use.

Medical plans are written for any child who has a medical need or allergy and this information is shared with staff as appropriate.

All staff in school are first aid trained and there are a number of staff, who are also paediatric first aid trained.

Clear and well communicated routines for the school day, in particular the start and end of the school day, ensure that all stakeholders know what is expected.

We quickly get to know the needs of our children and develop relationships with them so they feel confident to come to staff with any issues.

We encourage parents/carers to develop a strong relationship with school to ensure the needs of the children are met.

Are all staff first aid trained?

All staff in school are first aid trained; in addition, some are paediatric first aiders.

What happens if my child becomes poorly or has an accident?

From time to time children do become ill in school. If this happens, we will monitor your child and if we feel they are too ill to remain in school, we will contact you to come and collect them.

If your child has a head injury, parents are contacted by telephone by a member of staff or the school secretary. A head injury letter is also issued and any child should be monitored at home and school for 48 hours.

If your child has a serious injury in school, parents are contacted, an accident form completed and parents asked to sign this.

If your child has a minor injury, such as a graze from a fall, this is treated in school and parents are told verbally when they collect their child or it is written in the child's home book.

If we feel your child needs Calpol during the school day but they are well enough to remain in school, we phone parents and ask for verbal permission to give this to them. Parents are asked at the beginning of the school year to sign permission for school staff to administer Calpol.

Where can I learn more about the school?

Parents are given a Parents' Handbook, which clearly outlines procedures and what is expected of them as a parent and what they can expect from us, the school. All children starting at our Pre-Preparatory school will be given a booklet '*Welcome to Wakefield Grammar Pre-Preparatory School*'.

We now have a microsite – it is accessed through the main Wakefield Grammar School Foundation website. This will be updated frequently over the coming months as we add more information about our new school. We will also have a school twitter account, which will showcase our new school and the learning opportunities on offer to our pupils.

There will be the opportunity to ask questions during the summer term parents' meeting. We are currently arranging opportunities for parents to speak with our Mrs Butler, Deputy Head and Mrs Gill, Headteacher.

Reception Questions

What skills does my child need before starting school?

Prior to the summer holidays, all parents of children will be sent guidance about ways of supporting your child prior to starting school. We are currently reviewing this document. There are some key things you can start to put in place now, which will help your child.

These include:

- modelling speaking in full sentences
- using manners
- playing games which involve sharing and turn taking - games like memory, snap and Dobble are good for learning that they may not always win

- reading as much as possible to your child - be as silly as you want by including voices as your child will begin to understand about expression and listening to stories will help them to understand sequencing, develop empathy and enhance their vocabulary
- eating with a knife and fork - many children find they have not fully developed the motor skills needed to control a knife and fork, particularly when cutting, and this is a skill which needs continued practice during the first school year
- independently dressing themselves
- toileting/washing hands
- listening
- following simple instructions
- puzzles / jigsaws
- saying and participating in nursery rhymes

Where do I take my child on the first day of school?

Classrooms will be open from 7.45am on the first day of term.

The deputy head and headteacher will be available to introduce themselves to parents and pupils and direct them to classrooms. We will ask that parents take the children to their classroom and settle them in (this will be Covid dependent). If we are unable to invite parents into school, parents can drop the children off at the school doors. Either way, all adults will be available to settle the children and introduce them to the school routines.

Where do they go at playtime?

Early Years Foundation children play on their outdoor area. This means the Nursery children have access to the outdoor area throughout the day. From September, Reception will also have a base on the ground floor, giving them frequent opportunities to take their learning outside.

Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will play on the playground at the front of the school.

We are currently developing the outdoor provision for both the Foundation Stage and also the Key Stage 1 outdoor area to ensure we are giving the children opportunities for team games, development of gross motor skills and also opportunities for imaginative and creative play.

What equipment does my child need?

On the first day of school, your child needs their PE kit and PE bag. We ask that PE kits are brought into school on a Monday and left in school all week. A labelled water bottle and snack box, containing a small healthy snack can also be brought into school each day. Book bags, reading books and organisers will be provided by school and sent home. All other equipment the children need will be provided by school.

Alongside uniform and PE kit, the following will be able to be purchased from school:

- snack box
- water bottle
- swimming towel
- swimming goggles
- PE rucksack (containing internal drawstring swimming bag)

Although uniform and PE kit need to be purchased from school suppliers, please feel free to choose your own towel, snack box, water bottle etc. School will provide all children with a reading wallet on the first day of the autumn term.

We will inform parents/carers about uniform and equipment shortly.

Do they need a school bag?

Children need a bag to house their PE kit. These can be bought through school. We ask that swimming things (Year 1 and 2) are brought in the internal drawstring bag so as not to wet the children's PE kit.

Please clearly label all of your child's uniform, PE kit and equipment. If they struggle with identifying left and right, it may also be useful to put stickers in their shoes so they know which shoe is which. For example, these could indicate which foot is which, or a picture (cut in half) so when the shoes are the right way round, the picture is complete.



What if my child has trouble settling in?

We know that it takes time for children to get used to a new environment, to staff and to each other. Much of the learning that takes place in the first half term is devoted to establishing routines to allow our children to build their sense of security and confidence. This is particularly important for children who may not have been in an educational setting for prolonged periods over the last 12 months.

The staff in school work closely with parents to ensure your child settles in. We understand that all children experience some anxiety when leaving parents/carers and we will help to support your child (and you) with this process. We inform you of any concerns in school and ask that parents communicate with school to share any worries you may have.

How do I tell you who will be collecting my child from school?

When your child starts with us, you will be able to inform us about who will be collecting them on a daily basis. There may be more than one parent or grandparent, childminder etc. who collects your child. Please ensure you let us know who will collect your child each day. If this needs to change for any reason, you can inform us when dropping off your child. If this needs to change during the day please ring the school office, as long as a parent notifies us then we can act on this information.

If someone comes to school that is not on our records to collect your child, we will do not let them go until we have contacted and confirmed that this is at the request of parents.

What happens at lunchtimes?

We know that lunchtime is a key learning opportunity for social skills, developing speech and listening and also the opportunity to develop relationships across school. Children are supported at lunchtime by midday supervisors, teaching assistants and teaching staff. The children are given the opportunity to sit together, discuss their day and learn table manners. Children have a choice of hot meals. Menus are available on the school website in advance of each week so parents can discuss meal choices with their children.

Children have their lunch in a family style service, which means they have the opportunity to sit with children from different classes (this may be in year groups or across year groups) and may change depending on Covid restrictions. After lunch, our Foundation Stage children have the opportunity to play in their outdoor area and Year 1 and 2 have a separate playground. We are currently exploring ways to further develop the outdoor provision and lunchtime clubs that are available for next year.

Do I need to provide a snack?

Early Years Foundation Stage children do not need to bring a snack - this will be provided by school.

When will my child have PE?

Prior to the start of term, we ensure all parents are informed of the days your children have PE. The children have several PE sessions over the course of the week. Children in Year 1 and 2 also go swimming at the pool on the QEGS site. We offer this to Reception children in the summer term. There are opportunities for the children to be taught by specialist PE teachers.

How are literacy and numeracy taught?

Across our school, we will follow the Read, Write, Inc. scheme for phonics to enable children to learn to read. This is consistently followed by all staff for as long as the children need phonetic decoding for reading. Literacy is taught through key texts. The curriculum is hands-on and experiential and involves many opportunities for immersive and outdoor learning. We want our children to develop a genuine thirst for knowledge and an enquiring mind. Key texts underpin the curriculum and offer children a deep vocabulary. The curriculum offers children the chance to embed prior knowledge and master key skills.

In numeracy we teach very practically so children gain knowledge in the concrete, pictorial and abstract to ensure they fully understand and experience numeracy. We try to take our numeracy learning outdoors and link it to science and the topic where it fits. Our learning gives the children real life experiences.

How can I support my child's learning?

The key thing any parent can do to support your child's learning is to take an interest in what they are doing. Helping your child to develop a love of reading, showing that you are a reader, reading aloud to your child and allowing them to read to you will make the most difference to your child. Reading is the key to unlocking other areas of the curriculum and reading for pleasure makes the biggest impact on a child's attainment.

We send out topic newsletters each term so parents know what is being studied in each year group in school. This also gives suggestions of activities, key texts to read and places you may want to explore together.

When are reading books sent home and changed?

A child's reading book is changed as they develop independence in their ability to read the book. This normally means they read a book 3 or 4 times whilst developing knowledge of the phonemes and key words within the text. This book is phonetically decodable, which means a child will have been taught all of the sounds which appear in the book. Once a child can read the majority of this book independently, it is changed. The children also bring home a weekly 'reading for pleasure' book. This is a text that they may be unable to read independently but allows them to experience the pleasure of reading through sharing this book with an adult at home. Reading is a key focus for every child and is a high priority within school.

Children also have 'recommended reads' - a list of key books that they are able to borrow from school. These cover a range of poetry, non-fiction and fiction texts that we have chosen, as books that will engage, motivate and inspire our children. All children also receive a book journal - this is an opportunity for children to document their reading journey and share their book choices with adults in school.

What do I do if my child is sick?

If your child is unwell, please phone the school office and let them know the reason for your child's absence. Please go through the office rather than passing this information on to the class teacher as this ensures your child's absence is correctly recorded on our school system.

Can we take our child out of school for a holiday?

We prefer children to be in school every day and if you are going on holiday we would prefer this to be within the school holidays. If you must take a holiday during school time we would ask you to add these onto the school holidays (i.e. go on holiday the Friday before the end of term). If you need to take your child out of school, please fill in a request of absence form to ask permission for the holiday or leave of absence from the headteacher.

When will our first parents' evening be?

Mrs Gill will be in post from the summer term. She will be available for 1:1 meetings and to show parents round school (either in person or remotely, depending on Covid). She will also post videos on the website during the summer term to introduce herself and the new school to potential and current pupils and parents.

We will be holding parents' evening early in the autumn term. We will be holding an additional parents' evening in the spring term and then sending a report home during the summer term. However, this is by no means the only opportunity for parents to find out about the progress of their child. We are always available should parents wish to discuss any matters with us and you do not have to wait for an official parents' evening.

Previously, the schools have held a meeting for new parents in the summer term to welcome them to the school and share general information. They are able to meet the teachers and have a look around the classroom areas. As of yet, we are unsure whether we will be able to

do this due to Covid, however we are looking at alternatives and will inform parents about how we will welcome you to school very shortly!

What communication will be received from school?

During the course of the year, parents receive regular communication from school, including a weekly newsletter, termly topic newsletter and regular feedback about your child's progress and attainment. Please keep an eye on the school website and Twitter feed as this keeps you up to date with what is happening in school and upcoming events.

How do we pay for fees?

Fee bills and other financial matters are dealt with by the Director of Finance and Operations at the Governors' Office: Mr L Perry ACMA

158 Northgate
Wakefield
WF1 3UF
Telephone: 01924 231600

How do I contact you if I have a question or a worry?

All of our staff are very approachable and are able to deal with any concerns or questions. We do not want our parents (or children) to worry about school or to be uncertain about expectations so please ask questions or pass on concerns at the earliest opportunity. We often find that if one parent has a question, many others are also wondering the same thing!

We look forward to welcoming you to the school family and meeting you and your child.