

# Pennyhill Primary School



**Parent Information Pack**

**Starting Reception**

September 2021

# Welcome

We would like to welcome you and your family to our school. The aim here at Pennyhill is to create an environment where all Enjoy, Respect and Achieve. These key words are at the heart of everything that we do in school.

We aim to make your child's experience both happy and memorable. Within an exciting and enjoyable curriculum, we encourage all children to become confident, independent learners and to reach their true learning potential.

We are fortunate enough to have some wonderful facilities here. We have an exciting, stimulating learning environment in which the children can develop and learn. The school is sited in an extensive building with: three halls, three libraries, a stage, a gym, a music room, a child friendly kitchen, fabulous ICT resources, well-equipped classrooms, and an enormous central playing area.

Headteacher: Mrs E Williams



Deputy Headteacher: Mrs M. Williams



Assistant Head for Phase:  
Miss M Matthews



Class Teachers:  
Tigers: Mrs J Taylor Year Group Co-ordinator



Giraffes: Miss A Morgan



Elephants: Miss D Harris



# Reception Areas

## Indoor Area

The secure reception corridor leads to the three large and well-resourced reception classrooms where the children can play, explore and learn. We also have a sensory room where children can take part in quieter tasks and complete sensory games or activities. The children have access to our reception friendly toilets and hand washbasins that can be accessed from the corridor. Each class has their own cloakroom for coats and each child has their own tray where they can store their school bags and other personal belongings.



Throughout the week, the children also visit other areas of the school including:

- The school library. The children can select a book to take home and share with an adult. This will be changed weekly.
- The gym. The children will take part in a weekly PE lesson and are encouraged to get changed independently into their PE kit.
- The dining room. This is where the children will eat their lunch.
- The playground. After lunch, the children will have time to play in a large well-equipped playground with access to tricycles and playground equipment.

## Outdoor Area

The children have access to two large outdoor play areas where they can freely explore the natural environment.

Staff plan for specific outdoor learning time as well as giving the children the opportunity to lead their own learning outside to investigate and create their own games with their peers.



The children will spend part of each day outside. Please make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather including having suitable coats, shoes or wellington boots. In cold weather, children may wear a hat, scarf and gloves and in the warmer weather the children are to wear sunhats and sunscreen which can be applied at home, before school.

## Snack

All children will receive a piece of fruit for their morning snack whilst they are in reception. For all children under 5, they will receive a free carton of milk. Water will be available to all children throughout the day and children may bring in their own labelled water bottle to school. Please do not send in any other food or drinks.

## Lunch

Our school lunches are provided by *Dolce and School Grid*. Currently all hot school meals are free for all reception children. Please make sure that the school has your most recent email address so that we can send you further information about this service and you that you have completed the universal free school meals form. **Please ensure that if your child is entitled to Free School Meals, that you complete the Universal Free meals form registering for this so that, in the event of a lockdown, vouchers can be distributed without delay.**



The School Grid is an online food ordering service. All parents are able to order their child's hot school lunch online. You will receive the option to select one of the four main meal choices for your child each day. Please make sure that you share these choices with your child so they are aware of which meal they will be receiving.

The screenshot shows the School Grid website interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'Full menu', 'Orders list', 'Update allergies', and 'Next Week'. Below this, there are four panels for different days: Tuesday, 11 Jun; Wednesday, 12 Jun; Thursday, 13 Jun; and Friday, 14 Jun. Each panel lists meal options with radio buttons and a 'No order' status. For Tuesday, options include Spaghetti Bolognaise, Sweet Potato, Spinach & Chick Pea Curry, BBQ Chicken Thighs, and Fresh Jacket Potato. Wednesday options are Roast Chicken Breast, Cauliflower Cheese Tart, Cottage Pie with Root Vegetable Topping, and Fresh Jacket Potato. Thursday options are Sausage & Mash, Vegetable Hot Pot, Ham, Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheels, and Fresh Filled Jacket Potato. Friday options are Fish Fingers, Breaded Fish Fillet, Vegetable Ratatouille, and Fresh Jacket Potato.

The children can then select their side portions, salad items, a drink and a pudding of their choice. **Please note that school may need to adjust its Risk Assessment due to Covid and you will be required to preorder all items for your child's meal.**

## School Hours

School starts at **8:50am** and finishes promptly at **3:20pm**. The reception entrance, located from the main playground will be open from 8:40am to allow children to settle before the lessons start. All children and parents can access the main playground via the school gates on Willett Road and Connor Road. Parents will need to enter the main playground and walk towards the green football pitch. The children will be collected and dismissed from here.



Please make sure that you inform the office if another family member is collecting your child. We require all parents to set a password for their child before they can be collected by another person. If your child is absent from school, please call the main school office as soon as possible on **0121 588 2230** to inform us of their absence.

## Uniform

The governing body request that all children wear our school uniform. Please label **all items of clothing** including **shoes and PE pumps** with your child's name.



Our uniform consists of:

- A green jumper or cardigan. These can be with or without the school logo.
- A white shirt or white polo t-shirt.
- Grey trousers, skirt or dress. A green gingham summer dress or grey shorts can be worn in warm weather.

### Shoes

In Early Years, we promote independence and ask children to take off and put on their own shoes when we are changing for PE. Please make sure that children have buckle or velcro fastening shoes that they can fasten themselves. Please label all footwear as the children may have similar shoes and sizes.



### PE Kit

All children will require a PE kit to change into when we have our PE lessons. This consists of:



- A plain white round neck t-shirt (no buttons)
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- A small drawstring bag to place the PE kit inside.



This PE kit will be kept in school and sent home at the end of each term. Again, please make sure that all items are clearly **labelled** with your child's name.

Children should not wear any jewellery to school. All jewellery should be removed before the start of the school day.

In reception the children will each be given a green school bag to transport their books and letters to and from school. The children will not need any other bags or belongings.

## Our Curriculum

At Pennyhill, activities in our Foundation Stage are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

When we plan activities we use a topic-based approach that is led by key texts or stories as well as following the children's interests and responding to specific events. If you would like to see our long and medium plans please visit our school website: <https://www.pennyhill.sandwell.sch.uk/>

We invite all parents and children to contribute to our short term plans. We ask the children for their views and ideas for activities through our planning sessions and we also ask parents to share their goals for their children during our progress meetings.

There are 7 Areas of Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). These are split into the following prime and specific areas of learning.

<b><u>Prime Areas of Learning:</u></b>		
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development:</b> Building relationships Self-regulation Managing self	<b>Physical Development:</b> Fine motor skills Gross motor skills	<b>Communication and Language:</b> Listening, attention and understanding Speaking
<b><u>Specific Areas of Learning:</u></b>		
<b>Literacy:</b> Comprehension Writing Word reading	<b>Mathematics:</b> Numbers Numerical patterns	
<b>Understanding the World:</b> Past and present People, culture and communities The natural world	<b>Expressive Arts and Design:</b> Creating with materials Being imaginative and expressive	

Whilst we deliver a range of teacher-led sessions and phonic lessons, we encourage the children to select their own resources to develop their own play or ideas through the continuous provision that we provide. This allows the children to develop their independence and allows them to consolidate their learning, over the course of a day or a more extended period of time.

## Home Learning

As the children settle, we will be sending tasks and activities for the children to complete at home with an adult. These will include:

- A library book for you to read together
- An online reading book based on your child's phonic ability
- A Resources linked to weekly phonic sounds

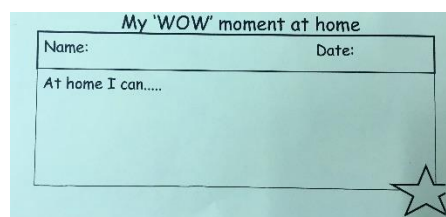
## Partnership with Parents

All children are unique, develop at different rates and learn in different ways. There will be opportunities, throughout the year, to share their work with you. In the summer term, we will provide you with a written report of your child's achievements over the academic year.

We value the contributions that parents make to their child's education. During your child's induction, we ask you to share specific information about your child in order for the staff to plan a personalised start to their education. During this time we find out their likes and dislikes, their home and family, their favourite toys and games that they like to play. This is also an opportunity for you to share any sensitive information that you may have about your child.

We aim to invite parents into school to attend stay and play sessions and to take part in learning workshops with your child. Through our workshops, you will be able to see how your child has settled, how they interact with others and observe how the teachers deliver the lessons to the group.

We encourage all families to send in '**Wow Moments**'. These are little notes or messages to inform the staff of recent experiences or achievements that your child has completed at home.



The form is titled "My 'WOW' moment at home". It contains a table with two columns: "Name:" and "Date:". Below the table is a large text area with the prompt "At home I can....". A star icon is located in the bottom right corner of the form.



# Help from home

Before your child starts school, here are a few ways that that you could help your child to get ready for reception.

- Talking- Talk to your child about their interests or latest experience. Talk about what they are looking forward to. Discuss any worries that they may have.
- Singing- Learn and sing a variety of new nursery rhymes and action songs. CBBC has lot of these: [Nursery Rhymes and Songs - BBC Teach](#)
- Reading together - Share a variety of books and nursery rhymes together. Talk about the characters, the illustrations and the main events.
- Dressing – Encourage your child to put on their uniform and fasten their own coats and shoes.
- Hygiene – Encourage your child to use the toilet independently and manage their own personal hygiene by washing their hands or wiping their own nose.

# Personal Information

## Medical information

Please inform the staff if your child requires prescribed medication or requires regular medical treatment. Parents will need to complete the relevant paperwork at the school office before we can administer any medication.

## Contact information

Please make sure that we have your most recent contact information. If you change your phone number, home address or email address, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

# Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this handout, we hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions or queries regarding starting our school, please contact a member of staff.

School telephone number: 0121 588 2230

School email address: EYFS@pennyhill.sandwell.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you and your child very soon.