



Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are really looking forward to starting the new school year and getting to know you and your children throughout the year. We hope your children enjoyed the stay and play sessions and they are looking forward to starting Reception or Pre-school!

We understand that starting a new school or moving into a new class can be an overwhelming process and that you or your child may have lots of questions. Hopefully this newsletter will help to answer any questions you may have. However, our doors are always still open if you wish to talk about anything else.

Here is some key information for our Early Years Unit (Pre-school and Reception classes) that we would like to remind you of at the start of the year. There is a mixture of information for both classes, so please make sure you double check which class the information is for, or whether it is for both classes.

Clothing

If your child is in **Pre-school**, please make sure that all children have a change of clothes in their bag that they bring to school every day in case of accidents. In **Reception**, we know that many children will not need this, however if you know that this is likely to be needed at the start of term with lots of change, please ensure there is a change of clothes in bookbags.

All children will need a coat that is appropriate for the weather as we will be going outside, whatever the weather! We would really appreciate it if children in Pre School and Reception could bring in a pair of **named wellies** to store at school, to ensure school shoes are kept clean when we take part in outdoor learning. Please ensure all items that are brought to school are **named** very clearly!

PE

Reception PE days will be on a Thursday and Friday. The children will need to come to school in school uniform and **bring their PE kit in a bag**. The children will get changed at school to practise some key fine motor skills. Their PE bag can stay on their peg for the half term, and we will send it home every 6 weeks for washing and sorting. We have found that this makes it easier for parents as you do not need to remember the PE days!

Water bottles

Please ensure all children are bringing a water bottle to school every day. Please ensure they are filled with water and not juice.

Parent forum

On Tuesday 12th November from 9-10am, we will be holding a parents forum for all parents at Widmer End School. This is a chance for you to come to the forum and share your views and ideas for the school, to help us improve! Please let us know if you plan on attending, so we can gain a rough idea of numbers in attendance.

Lunches

A reminder that we have a healthy lunchbox and no nuts policy at school. If your child is having a hot school lunch in Reception, please ensure you have spoken to your child about which lunch they are having and the days they are having hot lunch.

Pick up/drop off

The drop off and collection point for Pre School will be the outdoor garden gate on the left hand side of the main entrance to the school. For Reception, children will need to be dropped off and picked up by the green gate around the left hand side of the school or via the playground gate. If you have siblings or other children to collect, please come to collect your younger Pre-school or Reception children first.

Pre-school drop off - 8:45am

Reception drop off - 8:30am - 8:43am

Collection time for both - 3:15pm (or 11:45am for morning session collection in Pre-school)

Medical

If your child has any medical conditions that we need to be aware of, please ensure you bring in a signed Individual Healthcare Plan with them, along with any medication if applicable. Any medication such as an inhaler or epipen needs to stay in school and cannot be taken home each day.

Reading books

In **Reception**, when the children are ready, they will be coming home with three different books alongside their reading record. Please expect these to come home after a few weeks of settling the children in class first. They will not come home straight away.

Please read the note inside your reading record that explains these three books and how best to share them with your child. When reading together at home, please ensure that you are recording this in their records and your child's reading books go back into their book bag every day so we are able to monitor reading records. We will let you know of book change days a few weeks into the term.

Secret Storyteller

We would love to invite parents and carers into school as a secret to read the class a story every week. Please let us know if you would like to take part in our Secret Storyteller and we will contact you to arrange a date!

Trips and events

In Reception, we are lucky enough throughout the year to go on some amazing trips and sports events with the class. Without parental support, these trips would not be able to take place and we are always looking for volunteers to accompany us on these outings.

Please see below the dates for these **Reception class trips**. If you are able to help us on these trips, please do let us know as soon as possible. The earlier we get organised, the better!

Gymnastics sports event - Friday 22nd November
10:00 - 12:30pm

Multiskills sports event - Friday 28th March
10:00 - 12:30pm

Pizza Express and Library Trip - Wednesday 19th March all day

Tring Natural History Museum - Friday 27th June all day

Class Dojo

Pre-school and Reception will both be using Class Dojo this year as a form of communication to you and for observations throughout the school year. Please ensure your account is activated when you are given your welcome letter. This will allow you to access any important information we post there, and let us know if you have any problems with this. A letter will be coming home to help you set up your child's account if you have not done this already.

General reminders

Long hair needs to be tied up and jewellery must not be worn to school. Children must wear closed toe shoes, not sandals or anything similar, to school. For more information, please look at our uniform policy on the school website:

<https://www.widmerend.bucks.sch.uk/school-uniform-2/>

Please ensure children do not bring personal possessions into school.

Donations

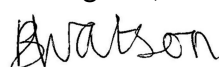
We are always grateful for any donations that you are able to give to our Early Years Unit. A few things we are always in need of, are craft items such as glue sticks and sellotape, and baking products such as flour and cornflour for messy play.

Visitors to school

We are always looking for parents and family members to come into school to enhance our school curriculum and learning journey. If you would be willing to come into school to share a career, hobby or religious festival with us, we would really appreciate it. It can be anything from being an avid gardener to a dentist!

We can't wait to get to know you all and begin the school year! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Early Years team.

Kind regards,



Mrs Watson
EYFS Lead and Reception class teacher

