



Waddell Class



Nursery and Reception 2024-25

Early Years Teacher: Miss O'Shea

Teaching Assistants: Miss Gaston, Mrs Stokes, Mrs Routledge

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this exciting journey of supporting your child's development during their time in Early Years! This document has been designed to provide you with ideas on how best to support your child's growth in various areas, including phonics, maths, physical and emotional development.

Please remember, every child develops at their own pace. Be patient, offer plenty of encouragement and celebrate their achievements, no matter how small! Your involvement and support are instrumental in helping your child flourish during their time at Weston.

I look forward to working with you.

Miss O'Shea



How to help your child make the best possible

progress:

Phonics:

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is the Phonics scheme we use. You will receive weekly updates about which sound we will be focusing on so you can practise at home too!

Each week, your child will receive a library book. This means you can spend quality time with your child to enjoy a story together; recognising letter patterns or sounds, spotting rhyming words or predicting what might happen next. All of these skills help to build a child's imagination and encourages the lifelong skill of reading for pleasure!

Once your child is confident with their sounds, they will then receive a reading book which is changed weekly. It is important that your child reads their book daily as it increases their focus, builds their vocabulary and improves their reading. Repetition is key! Please sign their reading record every time they read to you and bring it to school every day. Reading is fun! You can support your child at home with a range of phonics activities...

Phase 2 Sound Mat							
s	a	t	p	i	n	m	d
g	o	c	k	ck	e	u	r
h	b	f	l	j	v	w	x
y	z	qu	th	sh	ch	ng	nk



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Phonics is important and fun!

Singing Songs: Sing songs and rhymes that focus on letter sounds. Many nursery rhymes are designed to help children recognise and remember phonetic patterns.



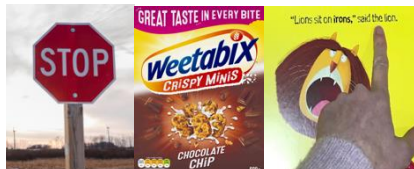
Play Word Games: Engage in word games like "I Spy" where your child has to identify objects that start with a certain sound. This enhances their phonemic awareness.



Make Letters: Create letters and words using a range of resources such as chalk, pasta or nature!



Letter Recognition: Point out letters in everyday life - on signs, labels, and in books. Encourage your child to identify and name letters and their corresponding sounds.



Practise Letter Sounds: Use flashcards or interactive apps to practice letter sounds together. Make it fun by using different voices or creating silly sound combinations.



Build Words: You can use clay, play doh, Lego or magnetic letters to physically build words!



Encourage Questions: When your child asks about words or sounds, take the time to explain and explore together. Their curiosity can lead to valuable learning moments.



Snowball Spellings: Write simple words on a piece of paper and then scrunch it up. The parent throws a 'snowball' for the child to catch, read the word quickly and throw it back!



Purposeful Writing or Reading: Get your child to write or read a simple shopping list or recipe. Then spend quality time together creating something yummy!





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Maths: Maths is equally as important and fun! It shows that maths is all around us!

Counting Adventures: Turn everyday activities into counting games. Count how many socks you have, how many steps to the door, or how many strawberries are on their plate.



Number Line Dance: Create a number line on the floor with tape or chalk. Call out a number, and your child can jump to that number while counting.



Pattern Play: Use toys or objects to create simple patterns (e.g., red-blue-red-blue) and ask your child to continue the pattern.



Cooking Math: Involve your child in measuring ingredients while cooking or baking. They can count cups, spoons, or pieces of fruit needed for a recipe.



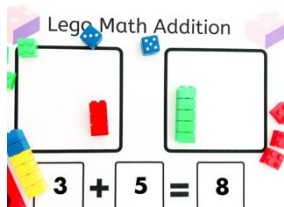
Indoor Bowling: Set up a bowling game with empty water bottles and a soft ball. Label each bottle with a number, and your child can add up the points they knock down.



Nature Math: Collect leaves, stones, or flowers. Ask your child to sort them by size or shape and then count how many of each type they have.



Building Blocks: Use building blocks to practice addition and subtraction. Your child can stack or remove blocks based on math problems you give them.



Coin Counting: Play "shop" using play money or real coins. Your child can practice counting and making change.



Number and Shape Hunt: Write numbers on sticky notes and hide them around the house. Your child can find the numbers and put them in order. You could do the same with shapes and get them to describe the properties!





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Physical Activity:

Physical activity is important for Nursery and Reception development! It is great for social interaction, creativity and learning about the world around them. We will have PE on **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Please ensure your child has a labelled PE kit.

1. **Obstacle Course:** Set up a mini obstacle course using cushions, hula hoops, and tunnels. It encourages movement, coordination, and problem-solving.
2. **Dance Party:** Put on some music and have a dance party together. Dancing improves motor skills, rhythm, and provides an opportunity for self-expression.
3. **Nature Walk:** Explore your surroundings on a nature walk. Let your child touch leaves, feel different textures, and observe nature up close.
4. **Balloon Play:** Bat around balloons or play a gentle game of balloon volleyball. It's a great way to enhance hand-eye coordination.
5. **Simon Says:** Play "Simon Says" with actions like jumping, hopping, and clapping. It promotes listening skills and following instructions.
6. **Bubble Fun:** Blow bubbles and encourage your child to catch them. This helps with hand-eye coordination and gross motor skills.
7. **Hopscotch:** Draw a hopscotch grid with chalk or tape and hop from one square to another. It's a classic game that enhances balance and coordination.
8. **Nature Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of things for your child to find outdoors, like a pinecone, a flower, or a smooth stone. This combines movement and exploration.
9. **Animal Pretend Play:** Pretend to move like different animals - hop like a bunny, waddle like a penguin, or crawl like a bear.
10. **Yoga for Kids:** Guide your child through simple yoga poses like downward dog, tree pose, or butterfly pose. It promotes flexibility and mindfulness.
11. **Sensory Play:** Create a sensory bin with materials like rice, sand, or water. Add scoops, cups, and toys for tactile exploration.
12. **Parachute Play:** If you have a small play parachute, use it for cooperative games like making waves or floating objects on top.
13. **Colour Hunt:** Give your child a specific colour and ask them to find objects around the house that match that colour.
14. **Ball Games:** Play catch, kick a ball, or roll it back and forth. Ball games improve hand-eye coordination and motor skills.





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Supplies:

Please ensure your child brings their water bottle and book bag to school every day. We request that all clothing items belonging to your children are labelled—either stitched in or written on. Please make sure they have named welly boots too. Additionally, it would be greatly appreciated if your child could have a spare change of clothes in their book bag in case of accidents.

Useful Websites:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk> A range of games linked to Phonics and maths.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> Phonics game to practise reading simple real words and 'alien' words.

Sticky Fingers:

Your child WILL get dirty through painting, exploring and playing outside. We encourage the children to explore various materials and activities, providing them with first hand experiences and ensuring their learning is fun.



Star of the Week:

Two children will be chosen as being 'stars' of the week. A child can be awarded with this for various reasons. It may be because they have worked really hard, been kind to their friends or help to tidy up. The children will be presented with a rosette and their name will also go in our Weston newsletter.

Optional Home Learning:

Each half term, your child will be given a home learning grid. There will be creative tasks for your child to complete at home linked to their half term topic. There is no pressure to complete all of these tasks. Within the first few weeks, your child will be given a home learning book with a grid linked to Julia Donaldson. Each box contains an optional activity to complete at home. For example, creating a Gruffalo crumble or making your very own Stickman! You can complete as many or as little of these creative tasks as you and your child wishes. Your child is then able to bring in work that they are proud of to show the rest of their class.





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Communication:

In EYFS, communication is key to ensure your child progresses well at school. We communicate in a range of ways. For example, we use an online platform called Tapestry that enables us to share photos and videos of your child's learning throughout the term. You can also send photos and videos of your child's achievements or things that they would like to share for Show and Tell.

We will also be using an online app called Dojo which connects parents and teachers in a virtual classroom hub. We will be sharing reminders, announcements and fun activities that we complete throughout the day! This is a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child about what they are enjoying or learning at school.

It will also keep you updated with key vocabulary and information that we will be teaching; in case you would like to explore a topic further at home. Dojo points will also be awarded for good behaviour which helps to support daily discussions on how to be a kind friend. Throughout the year, we will be understanding the importance of team work and seeing how we can work together as a class to get lots and lots of points!

We are here to support you. If you have any concerns big or small, or just want to know how your child is settling, please let us know.

