

North Worcester Primary Academy

Welcome to Reception Class
Preparing to Start School



Inspiring a lifelong love of learning

Welcome

Dear Reception parents and carers,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you to North Worcester Primary Academy. As the headteacher, I am thrilled to be a part of this incredible educational journey that lies ahead of your children.

At NWPA, we firmly believe that education is a collaborative effort involving parents, teachers, and the wider community. We understand that this is a significant milestone in your child's life as they embark on their education adventure. It our utmost commitment to provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment that encourages their natural curiosity and fosters their love for learning.

Our dedicated team of highly skilled and passionate teachers and staff members are here to guide and support your child's educational and personal growth. We value the uniqueness of each child and strive to create a learning environment that caters to their individual needs, interests, and learning styles. Through a well-rounded and holistic approach to education, we aim to nurture their intellectual, emotional, physical, and social development.

In our Reception classes, your children will have the opportunity to engage in a wider range of enriching experiences and activities. We believe in providing a play-base curriculum that promotes active exploration, problem-solving, and creativity. Our goal is to inspire a love for learning by making it enjoyable and meaningful, laying a strong foundation for their future academic success.

We also understand the importance of communication between parents and the school. We encourage open and transparent dialogue, and our doors are always open for any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have. We firmly believe that by working together as a team, we can provide the best possible educational experience for your children.

Throughout the academic year, we have an array of events, workshops and parent-teacher meetings planned to enhance our partnership and keep you involved in your child's education. We value your active participation in school life and look forward to collaborating with you on this remarkable journey.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to you and your children to North Worcester Primary. We are confident that your child will flourish and thrive in our caring and stimulating environment. I eagerly anticipate getting to know each one of you and watch our little learners grow into confident, resilient, and enthusiastic individuals.

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of educating your child. Together, let us create a foundation that will shape their bright future.

Warm regards,

Stuart Grimes, Headteacher

Getting Ready for School

What will they need?

School Uniform

Our uniform plays a very important part in giving our school its identity. It helps to develop loyalty and pride in belonging to North Worcester Primary Academy and Pre-School. Please support us by ensuring that children come to school in the correct uniform. All uniform and book bags can be purchased online from Brigade Clothing Ltd. Please use the following link to enable you to order from Brigade: www.brigadeparents.info. If you have any enquiries regarding the online orders, please email sales@brigade.uk.com and your query will be responded to as quickly as possible. Please note that **only uniform items with the school logo on them need to be purchased from Brigade** e.g. cardigan/sweatshirt. All other uniform items, including the purple-checked summer dress, may be purchased from a shop/supermarket of your choice and **do not** need to be embroidered.

All belongings should be clearly named.

Hair Accessories and Styles

Hair should be neat and tidy and not an extreme style. Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons. Plain purple, navy, black or brown hair bands and bobbles should be worn to school. Large bows and colourful hairbands are not suitable. Hair colourants are not allowed unless special permission is given i.e. for fund-raising events.

School Winter Uniform

Grey school skirt/grey pinafore/grey school trousers
Purple polo shirt
Purple sweatshirt cardigan/sweatshirt with school logo
Grey tights or socks
Sensible black/brown shoes - no fashion shoes, trainer shoes, trainers or boots

School Summer Uniform

Purple checked dress or grey school skirt/grey pinafore/grey school trousers/grey culottes/grey shorts
Purple polo shirt
Purple sweatshirt cardigan/sweatshirt with school logo
White or grey socks
Sensible summer black/brown shoes - no fashion shoes, trainer shoes, trainers or boots

School PE Kit

<u>Indoor</u>	<u>Outdoor</u>
Black shorts	Black shorts
Purple T-shirt	Purple T-shirt
Indoor lessons will be done barefooted (black pumps may be worn on medical grounds if a letter is sent to school)	Pumps/trainers for playground work
	Black/navy jogging bottoms and purple sweatshirt

Children will wear their PE in to school on PE days. They will not need to bring uniform with them and will stay in their PE kit for the day. We will let you know when your child's PE days are during the first few weeks of term.

Labelling School Uniform and PE Kit

Every item of school uniform and PE Kit must be labelled with yourchild's name.

As you can imagine, if a child loses a sweatshirt, and there are a number of sweatshirts without a name, it is impossible for the teacher to determine which sweatshirt belongs to whom. It can waste a lot of valuable time. Please clearly label all clothes that come into school.

Outdoor Learning

All children have weekly 'Outdoor Learning' sessions during the year whilst in Reception and Year 1. The children come to school in their uniform and bring their Outdoor Learning clothes in a separate bag. They will need:

Full waterproofs (warmer and thicker for winter), wellies, extra layers (warm jumpers to go over school shirts and leggings to go over girls' tights), extra Socks, a warm hat and gloves are also essential.

We have sets of full waterproofs in schools for the children to use, but they are welcome to bring their own if you prefer.



Lunch Boxes and Hot Meals



All reception children are eligible for free hot dinners. Mrs. Carradine will shortly provide you with a ParentPay activation letter to activate your child's on-line account. After that, you will order your child's lunch via the ParentPay online system. Meal bookings have to be made by midnight on a Wednesday for the following week. If you prefer, your child can bring a packed lunch to school. The school promotes "healthy eating" and the children are encouraged to eat their sandwiches first before any other goodies.

Whilst the children are encouraged to be independent, there are Lunchtime Supervisors to assist your child, if necessary, with tasks such as cutting up apples and opening drinks.

If you are unsure of what to put in your child's lunch box, then the following may help.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

- ◆ Serviette or Paper Kitchen Towel
- ◆ 2 or 3 squares of sandwich
- ◆ Drink in an unbreakable flask (no fizzy drinks or glass bottles allowed)
- ◆ Yoghurt (provide a spoon)
- ◆ Piece of fruit
- ◆ Small cake or small chocolate biscuit bar (other sweets are not allowed) or crisps

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL. NO NUTS OR ITEMS CONTAINING NUTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL AT ANYTIME.



Book Bag and Other Items to Take to School

Every child must have a School Book Bag and these can be purchased online, as per the uniform sales. Your child does not need any other items to start school such as pens or pencils.

Drinks and Snacks

Milk is provided free of charge up until your child's 5th birthday. In order for your child to receive this, please complete the online Cool Milk form at www.coolmilk.com. Your child will also need a named water bottle, filled with water not juice please, which they will have freely available to them throughout the day. Please keep this separate from your child's book bag to avoid spills.

All the children are provided with a piece of fruit during the morning session.

First Day at School

Your Child's Class

Your child will be joining one of our Reception Classes.

The Class Teacher is **Miss Rudd** or **Mrs. Racic** who will be supported by a full-time teaching assistant.

Another member of teaching staff will teach your child one afternoon per week when Miss Rudd or Mrs. Racic have their planning, preparation, and assessment session (PPA).

Taking Your Child into School

If you bring your child to school by car, please be aware that we do not have any parking available on site for drop off and collection times. However, we have agreements with the both Lidl and Tenpin Worcester Bowling Alley (formerly Bowl Extreme) that allow parents park at those locations and walk the short distance to school.

To get to school from Tenpin Worcester walk towards the Old Elizabethans Cricket Ground. Opposite the Old Elizabethans Cricket Club car park turn left, walk past the Motorcycle Club and onto a short path that leads directly to the school entrance. Please take extra care with your children throughout this short walk as there are cars present on the road sections. From Lidl, cross the A38 using the pedestrian crossing and follow the footpath along John Comyn drive, past The Belmont care home, to school.



Once you are through the school gates, walk 20 yards and turn left next to our Outdoor Learning Wood. Follow this path until you reach the Reception playground gate. There will be a member of staff on the gate to help you and answer any questions you may have.

For the first couple of weeks please feel free to bring your child past the gate and into their classroom to find their peg, where you can help them hang up their coats and belongings.

After the first couple of weeks, we encourage the children to say 'goodbye' in the playground so they can be independent and go into school on their own. Miss Rudd and Mrs. Racic will be in the classroom ready to receive the children each morning.

Collecting Your Child from School

Please wait at the Reception gate until it is unlocked and then walk through and wait in the Reception playground. The class teacher will then hand over children individually from the classroom. Please be patient with us as it can take a little time.

Please inform the office if you have to change your collection arrangements during the day, if you will be late collecting your child or if your child is going home with someone else. We will not hand children over without prior permission.

Once children have been handed over, they become the responsibility of the collecting adult.

School Day

- ◆ School gates open at 8.20 am
- ◆ School Day starts 8.30am the morning includes small group adult led activities, child-initiated learning, phonics, Maths, snack, English
- ◆ Lunch Break starts at 12:00 noon
- ◆ Afternoon lessons start at 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Afternoon activities include small group adult led activities, child-initiated learning, PE, forest school, story-time
- ◆ School ends at 3:00 p.m.



Reading

Reading is very important to us at North Worcester. We will be following a phonics and

reading scheme called 'Read, Write Inc'.

The children will be learning letter formation and sounds in school. This begins immediately upon starting Reception class.

Soon we will be sending books home for you to help your child practice their reading

We will begin by using 'Pocket Rockets'. These are a series of small paper books that only include words made up from the phonics your child has learnt in class. They are sent home with every new sound that is learnt. They begin



after the first 5 sounds have been learnt.

Every week your child will bring home two class reading books and a free choice book from the class reading corner. The class adults will change these books once a week. The Class Reading Books are colour coded on the spine. It is good for your child to read the books more than once to become secure with the new words they come across in each text. It also helps to give them more confidence when reading.

Communication between home and school

This section explains some of the ways school will communicate with you and how you, as parents, can communicate with school.

If you wish to talk to the class teacher, the best time is at the end of the school day. Alternatively, messages can be passed on through the member of staff on the gate or through arranging an appointment through the school office.

School Office

The Office Manager is Mrs. Guild and the Office Administrator is Mrs. Carradine.

Payment and permission slips for trips/school lunches is through 'ParentPay'. Information for this can be found separately.

Notifying School of Absences

Sickness - If your child is ill, let the School Office know by 8:50am (telephone 01905 953850) Parents must contact the school office on each day of illness.

Doctor/Dentist Appointments – Please try to arrange medical appointments outside of school hours where possible. If this is not possible, please notify the office in advance.

Holiday Leave - There is no entitlement for holidays in term time. The Headteacher and the Governing body may only authorize leave where there are 'exceptional circumstances', for example, leave to attend a funeral. A leave of absence form must be completed detailing the exceptional circumstances ahead of the leave being taken. This is to be sent into school prior to the event for the Headteacher and Governors to consider. These can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the school office.

Parents' Evenings and School Reports

Parents' Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms. At these meetings, you will be able to talk about how your child has settled and the progress they are making.

Written reports are sent to parents/guardians in the second half of the Summer term. There will be an opportunity for you to meet to discuss the report at the end of the Summer term if needed.

In addition to these, there will be parent workshops on various curriculum areas, which you will be informed about throughout the year.

Newsletters

Our school newsletter is sent out weekly on a Friday. This is a celebration of learning from the week as well as useful for sharing information about various events or notifications from school. We do not provide a paper copy of this newsletter (in an attempt to save as many trees as possible), instead it is emailed out and a copy is always available on our school website for your reference.

Social Media

North Worcester Primary Academy uses Facebook to share information with parents, carers and the local community. These are worth following for information.

Getting Ready for School

Your child learns more in their early years than at any other time in their life. To help them make the best start to their reception year it is hugely beneficial if over the coming months you can practice the following skills:

- Familiarity with a range of traditional stories such as The Three Little Pigs and popular stories such as The Gruffalo
- Taking their coat and shoes on and off without help
- Dressing and undressing themselves ready for PE
- Ability to ask to go to the toilet and use the toilet independently, including washing and drying hands
- Ability to sit at a table to eat using a knife and fork
- Recognising their own name

Reading

At school, we recognise the great importance of reading and the influence that parents and carers can have on children's literacy. Reading is a very complex skill and children learn to read in a variety of ways. Here are some ideas to help you to support your child's reading:

- Recite nursery rhymes
- Read, role play and retell traditional stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Share picture books and talk about them
- Make up stories together
- Show them that you enjoy reading and value books
- Visit the library
- Talk, talk, talk
- Spilt words up into sounds to help develop their phonic knowledge. Can you get your c o a t? Let's go to the sh o p s.



Writing

Learning to write is fun! Early writing involves control of lots of muscles in the hand. Things you can try at home are:

- Let the children see you writing and let them try too
- Dot –to-dots, mazes or spot the difference
- Colouring inside the lines
- Use scissors safely
- Giant writing in the sand, mud, water
- Make models with play dough
- Help them to write their name

Numbers

At this age, Maths is all around. Spotting numbers on signs, counting out amounts, recognising who was first or second in a race or spotting patterns are all important mathematical skills that can easily be practised at home.

- Encourage counting objects by pointing individually at them
- Talk about quantities using words like bigger/smaller and more/less
- Encourage them to recognise the patterns on dice or dominoes as representing numbers
- Play games that involve counting e.g. snakes and ladders, Orchard Games
- Look for house numbers
- Sing number songs e.g. 1 2 3 4 5 Once I caught a fish alive

There is a separate presentation that you are welcome to explore regarding specific ways of preparing your child for school. As well as that, we have prepared some fun Summer holiday activities that we would like to share with you.

Both of these can be found on our school website at

<https://www.northworcesterprimary.co.uk/reception-2022-transition-information/>