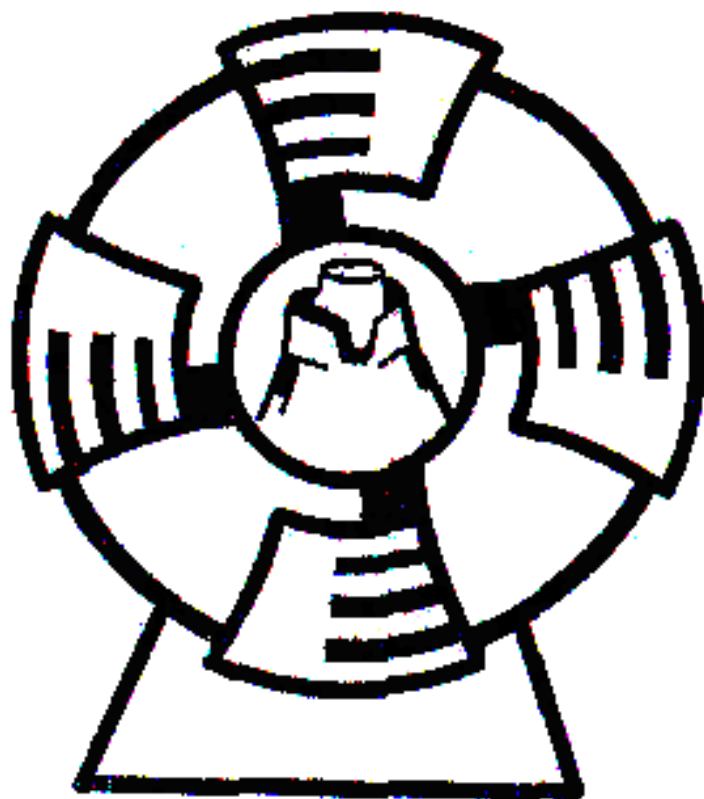


Windmill Hill Academy



Foundation Stage
2018 - 2019

Information for
Parents/Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to have your child with us in Year F. We look forward to the year ahead and the exciting learning opportunities that we have planned.

Curriculum

Foundation stage is all about laying the foundations for lifelong learning. We work to develop children's skills in the Prime areas of learning, these are Personal, Social and Emotional development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. By creating a firm and well rooted base in these prime learning areas children develop into mature, well-rounded individuals who enjoy learning and are ready continue their journey throughout the school and beyond. Our curriculum is child led. We plan our learning by following the children's interests.

We spend a lot of time outside in our wonderful school grounds riding bikes, climbing banks, mixing magical potions and building camp fires. This provides children with the opportunity to develop team working skills, communication, physical skills and most importantly the time to be a child in a safe and secure environment.

Phonics

Phonics will be taught on a daily basis in ability groups. The emphasis will be on applying their phonic knowledge in reading and writing.

Assessment

Children will be assessed through careful observations and planning.

On-going formative assessment is at the heart of effective early years practice. Children are observed as they act and interact in their play, everyday activities and planned activities. This is collected through a mix of long, short and incidental observations. Information from parents is also collected about what the child does at home so we have full coverage of a child. These observations are collected and stored in a 'Learning Journey' which tracks the child's development and achievement over the year.

The observations are then used to plan effectively to ensure the child moves on in their learning and is sufficiently challenged in their next steps.

At the end of the year children are assessed against 17 Early Learning Goals (ELG's). They will be assessed as either being emerging, expected or exceeding the Early Learning Goals.

Parents will be given this information at the end of the year in a school report.

Class Rules

As a school, we are following the R time rules. They are: show good manners at all times, follow instructions with thought and care and care for everyone and everything.

Class Enrichments

The children in Year F will be engaged in enrichment activities this year in order to support their learning. Each term, the Year F team will plan opportunities that best match the learning in the classroom. This will also include events with the other town schools. In order for these visits to take place, we really appreciate and value parent help. If you think you are able to help at any time this year, please let us know.

Homework

We encourage you to support your child daily with their reading and their phonics. Please do make a comment in your child's reading record as this is very valuable to us. Children will begin to have access to Sound Packs once they are secure in their first sounds. These packs will support them with their phonics learning at home. The activities and games are linked to phonics play. Your child has access to this great website as well as Bug Club EBooks. The login details for both websites can be found in your child's reading record.

We also have Maths Packs that the children can use at home; we will start to send these home in the next few weeks.

Sound packs and Maths packs will be changed on a fortnightly basis (one week sound packs and the following Maths).

In addition, children will have a homework book (sound book) with the newly taught sounds in for your child to practise.

PE

Please can you ensure your child has their PE kit at all times. All items, including the bag, need to be labelled. We have PE on a Friday.

Year F will be swimming in the Summer Term and we will provide you with more information closer to the time.

Wild Tribe

Throughout the year, we will take part in Wild Tribe activities. Please can your child have a spare set of clothes and a pair of wellies or old shoes in school.

Beginning/End of the Day

We will now be encouraging the children to come into school in the mornings without parents. We ask that the children line up on the far side of the playground and Miss Jones will collect the children from there. Adults in school are able to support children with their belongings, although we do encourage children to be independent with their items. If you need to speak with an adult for an urgent reason in the morning, please inform the adults in the playground or address a note to your child's class teacher. There is a member of the team available to speak to you at the end of the day however if you feel the need to have a more in depth

meeting please make an appointment to see us. We will have opportunity through parents' consultation meetings to discuss in more depth your child's learning and progress in school.

Opportunities to visit the School

We will be holding many opportunities for parents to come into school to see their child's learning. These events will be sent to you in advance and be listed on our school website.

Kind Regards,

The Foundation Stage Team

The Year F team

Miss Jones (Class Teacher)

Mrs Rutherford (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)