



# Welcome to Reception at Whetley Academy

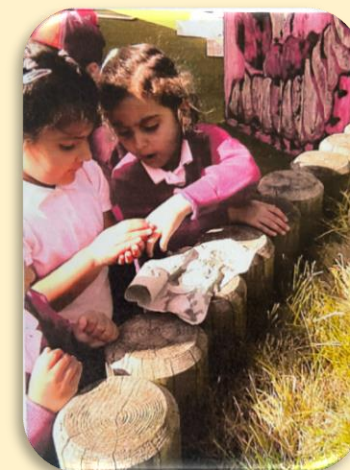


## Welcome to Reception at Whetley Academy

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Whetley Academy. We hope the time you spend with us will be both happy and valuable.

We endeavour to make FS2 a place where children feel secure, enjoy themselves and develop a good foundation to their learning.

We envisage this stage in your child's development as a partnership between parents and staff which is welcomed and encouraged.



“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high-quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”

# Staffing in FS2



Hello, I am Mrs White.

I qualified with a PGCE from Durham University. Since then, I have worked at Whetley Academy for 14 years. During my time at Whetley, I have taught in year 2, FS1 and for the past four years I have been teaching in FS2.



Hello, I am Miss Prince,

I have recently completed my PGCE at Leeds Beckett University. My teaching experience has been in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. I am new to Whetley Academy this year and am excited to be teaching in FS2.



Hello, I am Mrs Bibi

I have worked at Whetley Academy for 30 years and qualified from Bradford College as a Nursery Nurse. I have worked in FS1, FS2 and Year 2 during the 30 years.



My name is Miss Briscoe,

I am a qualified Nursery Nurse. I have worked at Whetley Academy for over 10 years, working across the Foundation Stage. I have recently achieved a BA Hons in Early Years and Education Studies Level 6.



Hello, my name is Mrs Irma,

As my daughter attended Whetley Academy, I started at Whetley Academy as a parent. For the last 9 years I have been working as a learning support assistant in FS1 and FS2.



Hello, my name is Miss Khaliq

I originally came to Whetley Academy as a student studying 'Early Years Childhood Studies' and have since worked as a learning support assistant in the foundation stage and Year 1.



Hi, I am Mrs Rogers.

I am an assistant principal at Whetley Academy with the responsibility of Early Years. During my 18 years at Whetley Academy I have also worked in FS2 and Y1. In 2003 I graduated from Oxford Brookes University with a primary PGCE.





# FS2 Curriculum

Our curriculum goals, entitled 'This is Me', puts our children at the heart of everything we do. It provides our children with the skills and experiences to ensure a secure foundation to their future learning.

It covers the seven areas of learning specified in the Early Years Framework. These include 3 prime areas: personal, social and emotional development; communication and language; physical development and 4 specific areas: literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; expressive arts and design.

We have 7 curricular goals:

- 1 Tell someone about myself
- 2 Understand how to keep myself healthy
- 3 Make up and record my own story
- 4 Care for the world around me
- 5 Make a model to use in my play
- 6 Make my own playdough
- 7 Perform in front of others.

## A Typical Day

We value the importance of children learning through play. Children have access to high quality provision throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. Children initiate their own learning and adults skilfully extend their learning.

During the day the children will have focussed learning times, these cover: English, Phonics and Maths. These start as short 10-minute sessions and as the children settle build up to longer periods.



# FS2 Assessments

## **‘Reception Baseline Assessment’:**

At the start of the academic year, each child will complete the reception baseline assessment which is being introduced by the Department for Education. “RBA will become a statutory assessment from 2021/22 onwards. It will be used as a baseline for measuring the progress primary schools make with their pupils. It is a practitioner-led, activity-based assessment of children’s attainment in early literacy, communication and language and early mathematics skills.”  
Department for Education

This is our 4th year running the assessments, as we have taken part in trials, the children have found them enjoyable and not aware they were carrying our assessments.

## **End of the Academic Year Assessment:**

The ‘Early Years Foundation Stage Profile’ (EYFSP) is an assessment of children’s development and learning at the end of the reception year. Children are given scores in all 17 areas of learning—these are determined by whether they have achieved the ‘early learning goal’ in each area. This information will be shared with parents and Year 1 teachers at the end of the academic year.

## **Focus Child:**

Every term we ensure that each child has a focused overview. During this week, practitioners will gather many observations, photographs, sample of mark making/work and use these to identify children’s progress and their next steps. At the beginning of the week parents are given a simple form to complete that shares achievements and key events at home and to ask questions about their child at school. At the end of the week, parents are invited in to share the week’s learning and reflect on their progress. This means that throughout the year you will meet with your child’s teacher at least 3 times.

## **Observations:**

Whilst staff are working with the children during provision, they will take photos and write observations of significant moments of learning which are added to the children’s learning journeys. These support the staff in knowing where the children are working at and what their next steps are. Learning journeys are always available in the classroom to view.

## **End of Year Report**

At the end of the year, you will receive a written report informing you on whether your child has achieved the Early Learning Goals and a summary of their learning.

# Information

## **School Uniform**

This includes:

\*A blue sweatshirt with school logo.

\*A white polo t-shirt.

\*Black trousers/ skirt/ pinafore/ shalwar kameez.

\*Sensible black or dark shoes with fastenings that children can manage themselves.

It is important that children wear a school uniform every day, school jumpers can be purchased from the office or online from [www.sptuniforms.co.uk](http://www.sptuniforms.co.uk) and delivered to school.

## **Book Bags**

All children starting school with us will receive a free book bag containing a book and phonics resources to support you and your child with the start of their reading journey. If the book bag is lost or damaged a new one can be purchased from the office.

## **Jewellery**

Only small stud earrings to be worn.

No other jewellery to be worn (exceptions made for medical or religious reasons if appropriate).

## **Home Learning**

During the year children will be provided with phonics resources and reading books. These will be matched to your child's phonics level. We ask that time is spent each day reading with your child and writing a short comment in their reading journal.

## **Seesaw**

All parents will receive a login for Seesaw Family which will be used to communicate between home and school. Children will receive login details for Seesaw Class which will be used to share activities and photos/videos related to learning at school.

## **Snack**

Milk, fruit and vegetables are provided free for all children in FS2 on a daily basis. However, we often like to bake or allow children to taste foods from other cultures and countries and therefore we do ask parents to contribute £2 each half term to allow this to happen. This is a voluntary contribution that will be collected at the beginning of each half term.

## **P.E. Kit**

All children will need a PE kit in school.

This includes:

\* a white crew neck t-shirt.

\* black shorts or jogging bottoms

\* black pumps or trainers

Please put all items in a named bag to be kept on your child's peg.

## **Dinner Times**

All children in Foundation Stage, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to Universal Free School meals and do not need to pay for their school dinners.

From experience we know that dinner time can be the most unsettling time of day to begin with. All our staff spend lunch times with children in the first few weeks, building up children's independence until they can manage by themselves. Children may not eat much to begin with, this is normal and nothing to worry about. Children always have milk and snack available throughout the day. When you come to collect your child, staff will inform you on how they have eaten. If you opt to provide your child with a packed lunch then please ensure they contain healthy options, sweets and fizzy drinks should be avoided as they prevent your child from concentrating during the afternoon session.

## **Settling**

Children settle at different. Some children may settle straight away, some can take 6 or maybe 10. We ask that children are dropped off at the classroom door and come in by themselves to build up their independence. If your child is needing more support with settling, we will discuss this with you and work out a way forward. It may be that your child needs you to stay with them a while. It is important that children do not have a lot of time off as this can prolong the settling period.

## **Tooth brushing**

Whetley Academy are involved in Bradford's Brushing programme. Children brush their teeth each day at around 1pm. All resources are provided and replaced regularly for hygiene purposes.

## **First Aid**

At Whetley, we have a very thorough first aid policy. If your child has an incident at school, they will always be seen by a first aider, a slip will be completed, which your child will bring home and share with you.

If the incident occurs above the neck, it is our policy to ring home and inform parents/carers. Children are very active at school and bumps and falls do happen frequently. Please do not be alarmed if we ring home or your child brings home several first-aid slips. Take this as a reassurance that we are taking care of your child.

## **Attendance**

It is very important that children attend school **every** day. The basic skills of number, reading and writing are taught everyday and regular absence can result in children falling significantly behind their peers. If your child is too ill to attend, then you must ring school before 8.30am on **each** day of absence. If your child is absent for more than 3 days, then a home visit will be carried out by the attendance team.

## **School Times**

The school day starts at 8.30am and finishes at 3.00pm.



# Outdoor Learning

Our outdoor area is always open and here's why:

## **Encourages an Active Lifestyle**

Children who learn to play outdoors are much more likely to continue to enjoy outdoor activities such as walking, running and cycling as they get older. Given the number of gadgets and new technology available to us all, outdoor play is an extremely important factor in combatting an increasingly sedentary lifestyle.

## **Appreciation of Nature and the Environment**

Learning in an outdoor environment allows children to interact with the elements around us and helps them to gain an understanding of the world we live in. They can experience animals in their own surroundings and learn about their habitats and lifecycles.

## **Develops Social Skills**

Indoor spaces can often feel overcrowded to children and naturally, they may feel intimidated in this type of environment. More space outdoors can help children to join in and 'come out of their shells'. Giving children outdoor learning offers them a chance to talk about what they have done with their friends, teachers and parents.

## **Encourages Independence**

The extra space offered by being outdoors will give children the sense of freedom to make discoveries by themselves. They can develop their own ideas or create games and activities to take part in with their friends without feeling like they're being directly supervised. They'll begin to understand what they can do by themselves and develop a 'can do' attitude, which will act as a solid foundation for future learning.

## **Understanding Risk**

Being outdoors provides children with more opportunities to experience risk-taking. They have the chance to take part in tasks on a much bigger scale and complete them in ways they might not when they're indoors. They can learn to make calculated decisions such as 'should I jump off this log?' or 'can I climb this tree?'

**Taken from "5 Benefits of Outdoor Learning in Early Years" Anne Rodgers, Early Years Resources**

## **Suitable clothing:**

We ask that children come to school wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes to reflect the weather. For example—raincoat and wellies on a wet day or warm coat, hat, gloves and sensible shoes on a winter's day. Ideally, every child should have a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies in school everyday.



# School Term Dates 2023-24

| Aug 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Sep 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Oct 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Nov 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|          | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |          |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |          |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |          |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 7        | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 4        | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 2        | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 6        | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 14       | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 9        | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 13       | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 21       | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 18       | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 16       | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 20       | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 28       | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |     | 25       | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     | 23       | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 27       | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |
|          |     |     |     |     |     |     |          |     |     |     |     |     |     | 30       | 31  |     |     |     |     |     |          |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Dec 2023 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Jan 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Feb 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Mar 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|          |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 1        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |          |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |          |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4        | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 8        | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 5        | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 4        | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 15       | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 12       | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 11       | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18       | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 22       | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 19       | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 18       | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25       | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 29       | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     | 26       | 27  | 28  | 29  |     |     |     | 25       | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

| Apr 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     | May 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Jun 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     | Jul 2024 |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |   |
| 1        | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |          |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5        |     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2        | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7 |
| 8        | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 6        | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 3        | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 8        | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |   |
| 15       | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 13       | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 10       | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 15       | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |   |
| 22       | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 20       | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 17       | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 22       | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |   |
| 29       | 30  |     |     |     |     |     | 27       | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     | 24       | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 29       | 30  | 31  |     |     |     |     |   |

School is closed to students on all the dates marked green. Yellow is when school is closed for Eid (please note these could be subject to change).