Warden Hill
Infant Academy

Welcome to Warden Hill Infant Academy

Information for

Early Years Foundation Stage

Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage

Beginning school is an exciting time, and we are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Warden Hill Infant Academy. There will be lots of new things to learn and new friendships to make and we aim to ensure your child is well prepared and supported at this time.
We hope this booklet will provide some useful information that will help you and your child settle into school life, and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our school community.

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General Information

Our contact details are:
Warden Hill Infant Academy
Birdsfoot Lane
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU3 2DN

Telephone: 01582 595150
Email:admin@wardenhillinfant.co.uk
School Website: www.wardenhillinfant.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs L Maxted
Deputy Head: Mrs M Nelis
SendCo: Mrs S Hussain
Chair of Governors: Mrs T Pinner
Early Years Foundation Stage Head of Year: Mrs S Maran
Family Worker: Mrs K Richards

Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term

Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026	
Half Term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026
Training Days	Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September 2026 and Monday 2nd November

Spring Term

Tuesday 5th January 2027 – Thursday 25th March 2027	
Half Term	Monday 15th February 2027 – Friday 19th February 2027
Training Days	Monday 4th January 2027

Summer Term

Monday 12thApril 2027 – Friday 21st July 2027	
Half Term	Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June6 2027
Training Day	Friday 28th May 2027

School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

- White polo shirt
- Dark green cardigan or sweatshirt
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress / green checked summer dress
- Grey or white socks or tights
- Black shoes (not trainers, boots, open toed or jelly shoes)
- Wellington boots to be left in school
- Waterproof coat and trousers to be left in school

We wear our PE kits into school on PE days.

If you would like to purchase school uniform with the school logo, please go to:

J S Sports and School wear
22 Neville Road
Luton
LU3 2JQ
Tel. 01582 494401

Our P.E kit consists of:

- Trainers
- Plain white t-shirt (no logos or football shirts please)
- Plain black shorts or leggings
- Plain black jogging bottoms (no logos please)

For health and safety reasons we do not allow jewellery in school except one pair of small studs and a watch.

No jewellery is allowed for P.E. and we kindly request that your child does not wear earrings on P.E. days.

Please remember to label all of your child's clothes with his/her name.

Attendance

Good attendance at school enables your child to make the most progress, therefore we urge families **not** to take a holiday during term time. Absence for holidays cannot be authorised for children of statutory school age.

School Day Times

We open our classroom doors at 8.45am, and children can arrive at school between 8.45am and 8.55am, when we take the register. You will need to collect your child at 3.25pm. It is really important that your child arrives on time and is collected promptly. We start learning straight away, therefore it is very important for your child to be in school on time so they do not miss out on any of this learning.

Minutes late per day	Equivalent of missing
5 minutes	3.4 school days per year
10 minutes	6.9 school days per year
15 minutes	10.3 school days per year
20 minutes	13.8 school days per year
30 minutes	20.7 school days per year

Sickness and Absence

We want your child to attend school every day, so that they do not miss out on their learning. If your child is sick and unable to attend, please telephone the school office or email absence@wardenhillinfant.co.uk to report their absence. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, they must not attend school until 48 hours after the sickness or diarrhoea has stopped.

Head Injury

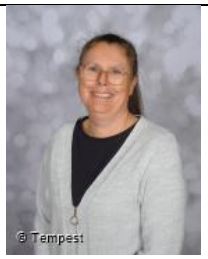
If your child has received a head injury during school time a member of staff will call you to report the incident and you will receive a red note home with your child.

Our EYFS Staff

Teaching Staff

Butterfly Class – Mrs S Maran (EYFS Lead)	Caterpillar Class – Miss Bianchi
Ladybird Class – Mrs Khanom and Mrs Nelis	Firefly Class – Miss Turvey

Early Years Educators and Teaching Assistants

Mrs S Kauser - EYE	Mrs E Crichton - EYE
	
Miss K Thomson - EYE	Mrs A Connley - TA

Mrs S Ahmed – SEN TA	Miss H Duffield – SEN TA

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage

We are really pleased to be welcoming your child to our EYFS, and will work with you to make your child's transition to school as smooth as possible. Your child will be in a class of 30, with 29 other children, a teacher and an Early Years Educator. To help make your child's start to school life happy and successful, it is really helpful if he or she is as independent as possible.

Listed below are some of the things it would be useful for your child to be able to do, building on their experiences at Nursery:

Can he/she:

- Dress and undress himself/herself?
- Use the toilet independently?
- Put on/take off his/her shoes?
- Tidy up after himself/herself?
- Recognise his/her own name?
- Share toys and equipment with others?
- Hold a pencil?
- Listen well and follow simple instructions?

What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible even if it takes longer to get ready
- Get them used to a routine - early to bed with you reading them a story and up early enough for them to have a stress-free time getting ready for school
- Be positive about school; show them that it is an enjoyable experience
- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible, such as: drawing; painting; playing with play dough; cooking; doing jigsaws; going to the park, or library
- Read to your child, helping to develop a love of books and reading
- Sing nursery rhymes together
- Talk with them all the time. Name familiar objects and discuss what they see around them, what they are doing, and what things are for.
- Get them used to holding a pencil correctly and encourage them to write their name using a capital letter just for the first letter

- Please ensure your child is toilet trained before starting school. If you are concerned please let us know

The School Day

In September, we support the children to settle into their classes, and to get to know the routines of the school day. The table below shows what a typical day looks like.

8.45	Doors open
8.55	Morning registration
9.00	Read, Write, Inc Phonics
9.20	Snack and movement break
9.35	Handwriting
9.50	Independent learning time
10.30	English teaching input followed by independent learning time and adult focus group
11.20	Time for a Rhyme (songs and nursery rhymes)/Time to talk
11.30	Lunchtime
12.30	Afternoon registration
12.35	Maths teaching input followed by independent learning time and adult focus group
3.00	Story time
3.25	Home time

The children have frequent access to the outdoor learning environment throughout the day.

Once a week they will have a PE lesson, and visit the school library to choose a book to bring home each week.

School Lunch

All children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals up to the end of Year 2.
Our school kitchen cooks a hot lunch on our premises every day. Parents are able to order their child's meal using the Relish app. We will send you the instructions to join Relish once your child has started school. Please bear in mind if you already have a child in a different school who is using the Relish app, you will need to set up the child in this school with a different email address. We provide a halal and vegetarian option daily and salad and bread are always available as accompaniments.

Milk and Fruit

Milk and fruit are provided by the Government for each child in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).
Once your child is in Year 1 or Year 2, milk is still available, however it is no longer free and is payable half termly.

Learning in the EYFS

We pride ourselves on providing a stimulating learning environment to encourage our children to be independent learners through engaging in practical activities.

As our learning takes place both indoors and outdoors, we ask that you make sure your child is equipped for these areas at all times of year. Please ensure their clothing is suitable and practical for the seasonal changes.

Winter months: waterproof jackets, waterproof trousers, hats, scarves.
Please bring in a spare pair of wellington boots that can be kept at school…. we play outside in all weathers!

Summer months: sun hats and sun glasses. (We ask that sun cream is applied before the children get to school.)

At Warden Hill our curriculum planning is informed by the principles outlined in the 2021 statutory framework of the EYFS, and the 2021 Development Matters guidance. The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas.

PRIME AREAS	SPECIFIC AREAS
Communication & Language	Literacy
Physical Development	Mathematics
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts & Design

We aim to build on children's prior learning experiences and to enable all children to make good progress in all areas of their development. As part of the high-quality enabling environment, we aim to provide, and in following the guidance linked to the prime and specific areas of the EYFS curriculum, children should:

Be encouraged to follow their own interests	Be supported in developing their mathematical understanding
Have access to a rich learning environment, both indoor & outdoor	Have access to a range of technology to support their learning
Be encouraged to develop positive relationships with their peers and adults, to benefit their social and emotional development	Have opportunities to learn in the natural environment as a key ongoing part of our provision
Be given daily opportunities to develop their language and communication skills	Have opportunities to take part in a range of trips, workshops and cultural experiences
Have opportunities to be active and develop physically	Be supported in developing independence and resilience in their learning, and to persevere when faced with challenges
Be encouraged to represent their ideas and experiences in a wide range of ways – e.g. deepening their understanding through talk, pictures, role play, small world play, first hand investigation and movement	Be helped to develop key skills to support their future learning
Be supported in developing their mark making ability in a range of media	Have fun!

At the end of the year, we assess children's attainment against the Early Learning Goals. These are end of key stage assessment statements which provide an indication of the expected level children should have achieved by the end of the year in Reception. We

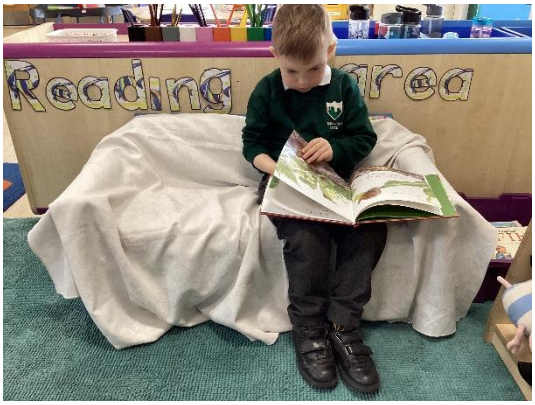
make a best fit, holistic judgement to inform you as parents, and your child's next teacher, about their current attainment and readiness for Year 1.

Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding Speaking
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self-Regulation Managing Self Building Relationships
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills Fine Motor Skills
Literacy	Comprehension Word Reading Writing
Mathematics	Number Numerical patterns
Understanding the World	Past and Present People, Culture and Communities The Natural World
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials Being imaginative and expressive

Reading and Writing

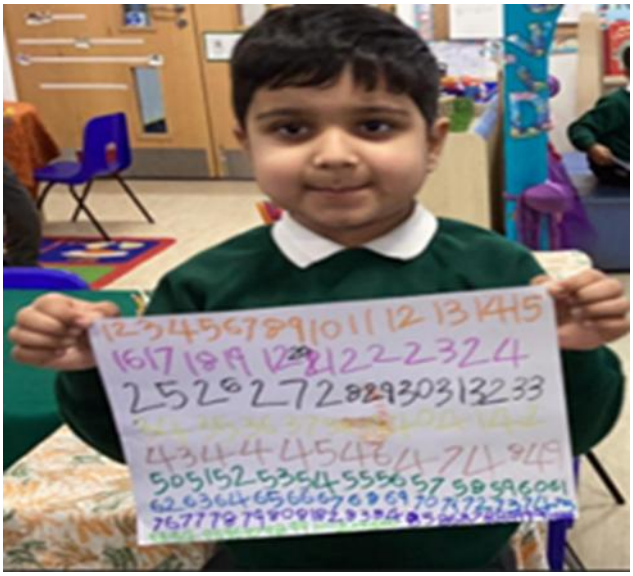
From September, your child will participate in a daily phonics session with the rest of their class. We use Read, Write, Inc, a systematic synthetic phonics programme, to establish the foundations of reading and writing.

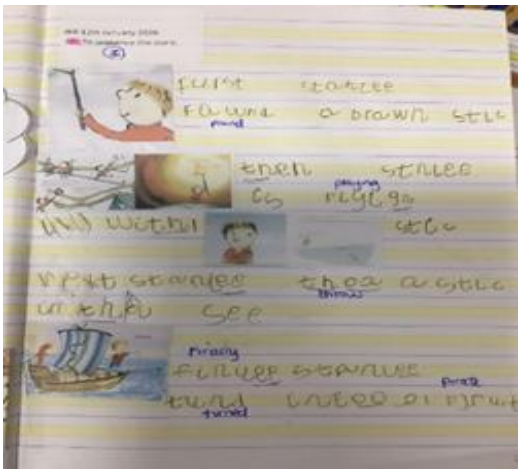
We want all our children to develop a real love for reading, and this starts with you sharing books with your child. Please try to make this a regular, enjoyable part of your routine. We will send home a library book each week for you to read to your child.



When your child begins phonics lessons at school, they will bring home their first Read, Write Inc. sounds book. Please let them read this to you each day. As their ability to recognise and blend sounds develops, they will then start to bring home other reading books. These will be at a level which they can read accurately to you independently, thus building on their sense of themselves as a successful reader.

Please encourage and value all your child's attempts at drawing and writing. Involve children in writing at home, e.g., by helping to write shopping lists, or writing inside birthday cards and provide your child with paper, pencils and crayons. We would love the children to share their pictures and writing from home with us.





Providing opportunities for your child to develop their gross and fine motor skills will help them get ready for writing by ensuring they develop strong core muscles and are ready to sit on a chair at a table, and manipulate tools for writing.

Things like climbing; swinging on monkey bars at the park; jumping on a space hopper; threading buttons; using play dough and construction toys like Lego are all really helpful.

Supporting your child to hold a pencil correctly, and to start to form letters correctly (especially the letters in their name) will help develop their confidence with writing. As they learn to recognise letter sounds, they will be able to use this knowledge to write words.

Please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any queries at any time about your child's learning.

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's development. As primary care providers you are your child's first educators and we greatly value any input and information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

We provide many opportunities for parents and carers to take an active part in their child's education. These include:

- An initial meeting with your child's class teacher in the afternoon of the September 'stay and play' day
- Parent and carer consultation meetings in the Spring and Summer Terms
- Read Write Inc. phonics workshops
- Mathematics workshop
- Daily home reading
- A weekly bulletin with whole school and EYFS news and homework links
- The school website
- Accompanying class trips

We operate an 'open-door' policy and parents are actively encouraged to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Katie Richards (Family Worker)can be contacted Monday to Wednesday on familyworker@wardenhillinfant.co.uk

Alternatively, phone calls to the School Office are most welcome, where the office staff will offer their assistance, or will arrange an appointment with a member of staff. You are also able to contact your child's class teacher via the class email address.

If you have any feedback that you feel would be useful to us, please feel free to contact us on: parents@wardenhillinfant.co.uk

Home Learning

Your child will receive:

- A green phonic sounds book
- A library book (for you to read to them)

We will send home links to RWI phonics practice films in the weekly bulletin via ParentMail which you can complete with your child at home.

Please ensure you verify the ParentMail account when you receive the email as this is the way we send all correspondence home. The initial verification email may go to your junk mail so please check. Once you have verified your account the easiest way to use ParentMail is to download the app where will send letters, forms for completion etc.

Useful Information

Things to Bring to School

- Named water bottle (with water, no juice)
- Book bag (**no backpacks please**) – they do not fit on the pegs

Marmalade Club

Marmalade club runs from 7.45am to 8.45am, when the children are then escorted to their class.
Marmalade Club is available from the end of the school day to 6.00pm.
To register your interest in a place at Marmalade Club please complete the Wraparound care form and return it to the school office. You will then receive a booking form at a later date.

Help and Advice

If you are experiencing difficulties or want some advice on supporting your child, please contact:

Mrs Richards – Family Worker - 01582 595150
Mrs S Hussain- SendCo – 01582 595150

Pupil Premium Funding

If you are in receipt of any benefits, you may be able to apply for Pupil Premium for your child.

Pupil Premium funding is paid to your child's school within their annual budget.
This funding enables the school to further enhance the educational and life experiences for your child.
Please contact admin@wardenhillinfant.co.uk for further information.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community.