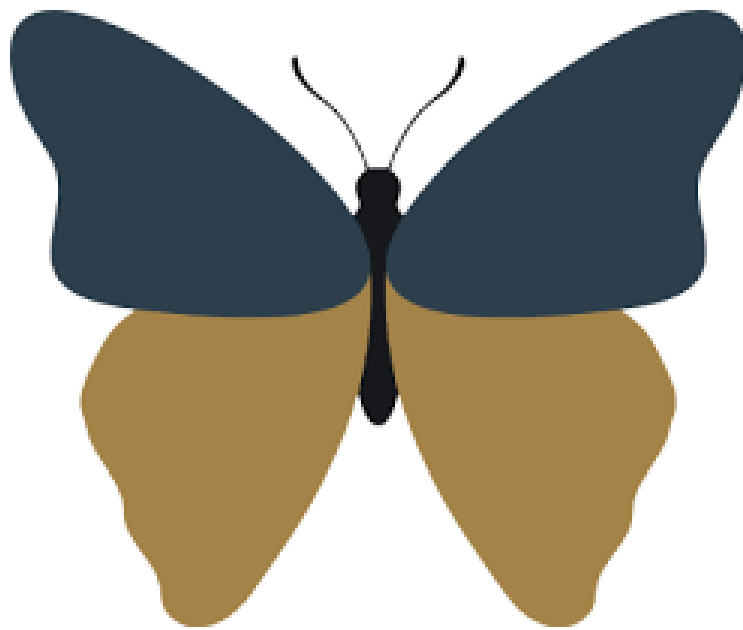


Welshampton Church of England Primary School



*A guide to beginning your
learning journey in Reception*



Important Information

Address: Welshampton CE Primary School,
Stocks Lane,
Welshampton,
Ellesmere,
Shropshire.
SY12 0NS

Telephone: 01948 710325

Email: admin@welshampton.shropshire.sch.uk

Website: www.welshamptonceprimary.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Ben Crompton

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Clare Liley

Special Educational Needs Coordinator Miss Rebecca Jones

EYFS Class Teacher: Miss Shannon Hannaby

EYFS Support Staff: Ms Suzanne Evans & Miss Lauren Edge

Chair of Governors: Mr Matthew Topple



Welcome to Welshampton

A very warm welcome to Welshampton Church of England Primary School. The information in this booklet is designed to help you prepare your child for starting their first year at school in Reception. It is an exciting time but can also lead to lots of apprehension and questions. This information pack is designed to provide you with all the relevant information, before starting at our wonderful school.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the staff work together towards a shared vision of "Growing together in love, strength and wisdom, we shine". We guide the development of children's capabilities with a view to ensuring that all children are ready to benefit fully from the opportunities ahead of them and are able to enjoy all learning opportunities along this very exciting journey.

At Welshampton, we aim for our EYFS children to be:

- ✓ Happy, secure and to feel safe
- ✓ Independent, self-assured risk takers
- ✓ Confident and resilient
- ✓ Excited and motivated to learn
- ✓ Socially strong and able to form positive relationships

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to make the transition to primary school as smooth, secure and happy as possible for you and your child.

Our very warmest wishes,

Miss Hannaby

Early Years Foundation Stage Lead



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Newhampton Federation

Welshampton Church of England Primary School is part of the Newhampton Church of England Schools Federation. The Federation comprises of Newtown Church of England Primary School and Welshampton Church of England Primary School.

The schools lie approximately 4.5 miles from each other and staff work closely for the benefit of the children in our care. There are many benefits for two small rural primary schools who work together, and the school looks to take full advantage of those. Whilst retaining the individuality and uniqueness of each school within its local area, work is done to draw on every available resource to ensure the best possible education and opportunity for the children of our local communities.

For further information on Newtown Church of England Primary School, please visit www.newtowncofeprimary.co.uk/



Our Vision

Growing together in strength, love and wisdom, we shine.

“Let Your light shine”

Matthew 5:16

‘Let your light shine’ encapsulates the school’s commitment to provide an enriching education which is deep and broad. Pupils will be equipped for life in all its fullness through our Christian values of strength, love and wisdom.

Learning will be a journey of fun and adventure, broadening the horizons of our pupils and inspiring them to be the best they can be. Within a nurturing environment, we will support our pupils to give them the strength to flourish as confident, resilient and independent members of society.

Christian character illuminates all aspects of school life, where everyone is understood and valued. At the heart of our safe and inclusive school, pupils will be kind, patient and respectful - developing a love of one another, a love of learning and a love of life itself.

The aspirational curriculum will foster curious and creative thinkers, who will be encouraged to maximise every opportunity and be proud of their achievements. Pupils will find joy in seeking knowledge and learning new skills, as they grow together on their journey through childhood.

Our school is forward-thinking and outward-looking. We will continuously improve and evolve together, in order to inspire pupils who leave our school feeling excited and ready for the future.



Miss Hannaby



Miss Edge



Mrs Crone



Before Starting School

The first step is to talk to your child about starting school and encouraging them to embrace the new adventures which await them. You may wish to share elements of this booklet with your child in order to help them prepare for their first few days at school.

There are certain skills, which if mastered, can make a significant difference for new reception children. These skills can be practised and refined at home with your help.

Before coming to school for the first time, it is helpful if your child can:

- ✓ Say their full name
- ✓ Recognise their full name
- ✓ Dress and undress, down to vest and pants
- ✓ Put on and take off their coat
- ✓ Use the toilet, flush it and wash their hands independently
- ✓ Eat with a knife and fork by holding them correctly
- ✓ Cut with scissors
- ✓ Tidy up after themselves
- ✓ Say 'please' and 'thank you'
- ✓ Wipe their own nose
- ✓ Listen to and respond to simple instructions
- ✓ Share toys and books with adults and other children

Please know that all children respond differently to starting school. At Welshampton Primary School, we will treat every child as an individual. All teachers and teaching assistants endeavour to make your child's experience of school safe, happy and secure.





The EYFS Curriculum



Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum! Here at Welshampton, we are excited to share how the EYFS helps your little ones learn and grow during their foundational years. This will give you an overview of what your child will be exploring and learning in their early education journey. For more detailed information on the curriculum content, please head to our curriculum page on the school website.

As an overview, the EYFS curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning, which are essential for your child's development. These areas are split into three prime areas and four specific areas.

The Prime Areas of Learning:

- **Communication and Language:** This encompasses listening, attention, and speaking skills that are crucial for effective communication.
- **Physical Development:** This focuses on both gross motor skills, like running and jumping, and fine motor skills, such as holding a pencil or cutting with scissors.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** This area fosters skills like self-regulation, managing oneself, and building relationships with peers and adults.

The Specific Areas of Learning:

- **Literacy:** Children develop their comprehension, word reading, and writing skills.
- **Mathematics:** This area covers number recognition, counting, and understanding numerical patterns.
- **Understanding the World:** Children explore concepts related to people, cultures, communities and the natural world around them.
- **Expressive Arts and Design:** This encourages creativity through crafting materials and being imaginative and expressive in various forms of art.

The EYFS curriculum offers a rich and varied framework to support your child's learning and development. We encourage you to engage with your child about what they are learning and take part in this exciting journey together! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out. We're here to help!



Learning to Read - Phonics



We use a systematic synthetic phonics teaching programme called **Ready Steady Phonics: Letters and Sounds**, developed by Literacy Counts, which introduces children to the 46 main sounds (phonemes) of English.

For each letter of the alphabet there is a specific phoneme (sound) which is accompanied by an action intended to help the children to remember what they have learnt.

Phonemes are not introduced in alphabetical order; the first group includes: 's,a,t,p,i,n'. These letters have been chosen because they make more combinations of simple three letter words than any other six letters. As your child is introduced to each new phoneme, they will be provided with phoneme mats and cards to practise with at home. There are different phases of the programme and children gradually work through each phase.

Blending is a process of saying the sounds contained within a word and then running them together to make the word. It is a technique that your child will need to learn and it improves over time with practise. Some children may take longer to perfect this skill than others.

To start with, you should sound out the word carefully to see if your child can hear the individual phonemes that make up the word. The phonemes must then be said quickly to form the whole word. It is easier if the first sound is said slightly louder. Segmenting is the opposite of blending and supports children with their spellings of new words. Once again, the individual phonemes are spoken out loud so that the child may then record each phoneme to form the word.

When your child first starts school, they will bring home a reading book initially without words. As they begin to gain more confidence with their phonemes and are starting to blend small words, they will then move onto reading books with words. It is important that your child understands what they are reading and so talking about the story and using picture cues to help will support your child in developing their comprehension skills.

Tricky (common exception) words are those which cannot be sounded out by identifying the individual phonemes, so children need to learn these words by sight. Children are exposed to these during each phonics session and we will also send lists home in your child's reading diary which they need to practise in order to develop their reading skills.



Finding the best time to read and to practise tricky words is different for each family. We recommend that reading does not become a chore. You know your child best and if they are tired it may be appropriate to revisit on another occasion. Quality experiences and your involvement at this early stage will be particularly beneficial to your child's development.





Reading



Learning to read is the most important skill your child will learn and we understand that children are more receptive when they are happy and having fun. Therefore, learning to read should be both fun and engaging for all those involved.

Children benefit hugely from early exposure to a range of books. Try and read or share a picture book with your child every day. Ensure the experience is relaxed so that your child associates reading with pleasure.

Encourage your child to discuss their ideas about the story by using both the pictures and the words that they hear and see. If the story is familiar, then practise retelling together, highlighting any repeated phrases or sentences as you go along. Young children particularly enjoy stories with familiarity and repetition. Sharing nursery rhymes will also stimulate your child's interest and enable them to recognise rhyming sounds. We recommend joining a local library, as exposure to a wide range of books will encourage a love of reading.

Writing

It is important to recognise that scribbling and doodling is the beginning of early writing. Young children should always be encouraged to understand the importance of holding a pencil correctly. They should understand that we start in the top left-hand corner of a page and move towards the right. You should always allow your child the choice of which hand they prefer to write with.

If you feel that your child is ready to write their name it is important that your child attempts to form the letters correctly as it can be very difficult for a child to relearn letter formation later on. Apart from the initial letter of their name, your child should use lower case letters and refer to them by sound rather than by alphabetical name.





School Uniform

We have a school uniform which the children are required to wear. The items marked with a * can be purchased from School Shop Direct either online or by visiting the store directly.

www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk/welshampton-primary-school

School Shop Direct, Unit 17-18 Sundorne Trade Park, Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury. SY1 4NS.



Items you may require:

- Green sweatshirt/cardigan with school logo*
- White/navy polo shirt plain or with school logo*
- Grey/black trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Black shoes
- Green and white checked dress for summer
- Grey/black shorts for summer

Please label ALL items of clothing and equipment!

Willow Class children will take part in P.E during the week and your child will require a PE Kit*. Our sessions will usually take place outdoors and so children should wear a pair of pumps or trainers.

Outdoor clothing is required for Forest School sessions: waterproof jacket/coat, wellington boots/outdoor footwear, waterproof trousers or a waterproof all-in-one suit, gloves, hat and scarf when appropriate.



What Your Child Will Need

We ask that all children have a navy blue Welshampton book bag for reading books, pictures and home school journals. These can be purchased from www.schoolshopdirect.co.uk

They will also need:

- A labelled water bottle
- Lunchbox (if required)
- Coat
- Sunhat (when required)
- A spare change of clothes to keep in their locker (Just in case!)
- A forest school kit (waterproofs and wellies) that can be kept in school for outdoor learning.

Your child does not need:

- *Pencils, pencil cases or any other stationery*
- *Toys or books from home unless requested*

Items from home can be easily lost in a busy classroom!





Our School Day

- 8.35am** Children are welcomed into school via the playground door. A member of staff will be on the door to greet children and pass on messages.
- 8.45am** Morning meeting and focus tasks commence
- 9.00am** Registration*. Morning sessions commence, including phonics and maths
- 10.00am** Collective Whole School Worship
- 10.20am** Morning break
- 10.45am** Morning sessions continue, including literacy and reading
- 12.00pm** Lunch time
- The children are supervised by a team of lunch time assistants/staff members. Willow Class eat their lunch in their classroom, whilst the rest of the children go out to play at 12.00pm. After they have finished their lunch, the children go out to play with the rest of the school.
- 1.00pm** Afternoon teaching time and independent learning/choosing time
- 3.15pm** End of school day
- At the end of the school day, children who are being collected will be dismissed via the rear exit situated on the playground. Children who are staying for Afterschool / Sunset Club will be taken to the staff members running the club.



If for any reason you are running late, then children are kept safe in school and we ask that you use the front door for collection. It is vital that you inform us if you are late or if your child is being collected by someone other than a parent or carer as without permission, children will not be able to leave.

On Fridays, we celebrate the children's achievements during our celebration assembly at 10.00am. Children are welcome to bring in any certificates or awards that they have earned from clubs or activities which they participate in outside school.

**If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please phone the office phone and leave a message or speak to a member of staff by 9am. Thank you. If your child has an appointment, please inform staff prior to this.*



Additional Curriculum Information

PE Days

PE days will be confirmed closer to the time. Children must come to school wearing their PE kit and trainers.

Forest School

Please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for when your child's class will take part in their Forest School sessions/day. We do recommend keeping a forest school kit in their locker so we can make the most of our outdoor learning areas.

School Trips

Children will go on a trip each term. They are linked with your child's current learning and greatly contribute towards your child's learning journey. We appreciate parent's support and contributions towards additional activities.





Eating in School

Fruit

A piece of fruit will be available for each key stage one child at the beginning of morning break. There is often a choice and whilst we encourage children to enjoy a healthy snack, the decision whether to collect a piece of fruit or not is theirs.

Water and Milk

Children are asked to bring in a water bottle with their name on which we keep in class for them to drink from when required. In addition, milk is provided and offered each day for all Reception age children.

School Meals

Meals are freshly cooked at Newtown Primary School and then delivered to school each day. The current menus are available on the school website. There is currently no charge for a hot school meal during Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Packed Lunches

You may prefer to provide your child with a packed lunch which needs to be bought into school in a named lunch box.

Fabulous Friday Tuck Shop

Parents have the option to provide children with a small amount of money, to purchase a snack from the Tuck Shop. There are drinks, snacks and home-baked items available that range from 20p to £1.





Keeping Safe and Healthy in School



Medication in School

If children are prescribed a course of medication which needs to be given during school hours, please complete a 'Permission to Administer Medication' form in school. A form should be completed for children who are diagnosed with asthma and children are required to keep a named inhaler in school. Please ask a member of staff for one of these.

Allergies

Please let the office staff and teachers aware of any allergies in the school registration form provided. If any allergies arise, please contact the admin team immediately.

Blanket Consent Form

Our school administrator will send out a permissions form for you to complete. This provides permission for your child to participate in various school activities including photographs, internet access, sporting events and trips to the Church and the Parish Hall. Please complete this at your earliest convenience. There may be occasions when we need to seek additional permission from you for particular trips.

Fire Practice

We have regular fire drills in school so that the children feel safe and secure about what to do in the event of a fire. The routine is always explained to the children and they are given the opportunity to discuss any issues that may arise.



How Parents Can Get Involved

We are proud to offer parents an open-door policy in our school. We encourage parents to talk with their teachers and to share any concerns or issues they may have about their child.

Your support as parents and carers is invaluable and we welcome your input and involvement in school. There are various ways that parents can be involved in our school. These include:

The Governing Body
Friends of Welshampton School





Class Dojo



Class Dojo is an online platform that we use to communicate with parents. It allows for private communication messaging between teachers and parents as well as showcasing learning through posts and serving messenger reminders from class teachers. Parents will be added to Class Dojo via an email invitation, it is up to parents to accept this and create a log in to ensure they can use and keep track of key information that is posted on this. The app is available to download and is simple and free to use.

Children can also earn 'Dojo' points in reward for showing love, strength and wisdom values within their learning. We award certificates at the end of each half term for 'Dojo Champions'.

And finally...

Thank you for choosing Welshampton as the school for your child. We are 'a small school where big things happen', and we are sure that you and your child will be very happy here.

If you have any questions or queries about any information in this booklet or any aspect of school life, please telephone the school office and both the office staff and the EYFS staff will be happy to help in any way that they can.

We look forward to working together to ensure your child has the very best education possible.



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SY12 0NS

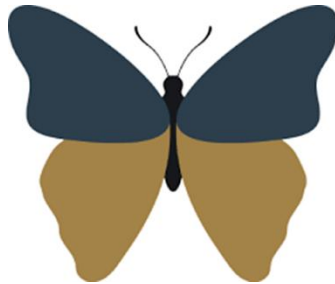
Telephone: 01948 710325

Website: www.welshamptonceprimary.co.uk

Facebook: Welshampton C of E Primary School

Instagram: [welshampton.primary.school](https://www.instagram.com/welshampton.primary.school)

X: WelshamptonSch



“Let Your Light Shine!”