

# Welcome to Woodside





# Woodside Academy

- Woodside Primary School became Woodside Academy on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
- As a successful school we were able to become an *independent* academy. We are not part of a chain and have no sponsor.
- Being an academy makes us independent of Thurrock Council and gives us more freedom, the curriculum and staffing.



# School and Nursery

- “The Nursery” offers both full time and part time nursery sessions in the school/academy.
- Children are on the roll of the academy.
- **However, they do not automatically progress to reception classes.**
- If you want a reception place at Woodside you will need to apply online to Thurrock Council before the deadline in January. Applications are open from November.



# Admission to the school

- We are *not* allowed to give priority to our own Nursery children in our admission criteria.
- We admit 90 reception children every year.
- When there are more applications than places our admission criteria is used to decide which children we will take.



# Admission Process

- We administer our own admissions for the Nursery but Thurrock Council administer Reception admissions on our behalf, using our criteria.
- You need to apply for a Reception place directly to Thurrock Council online.



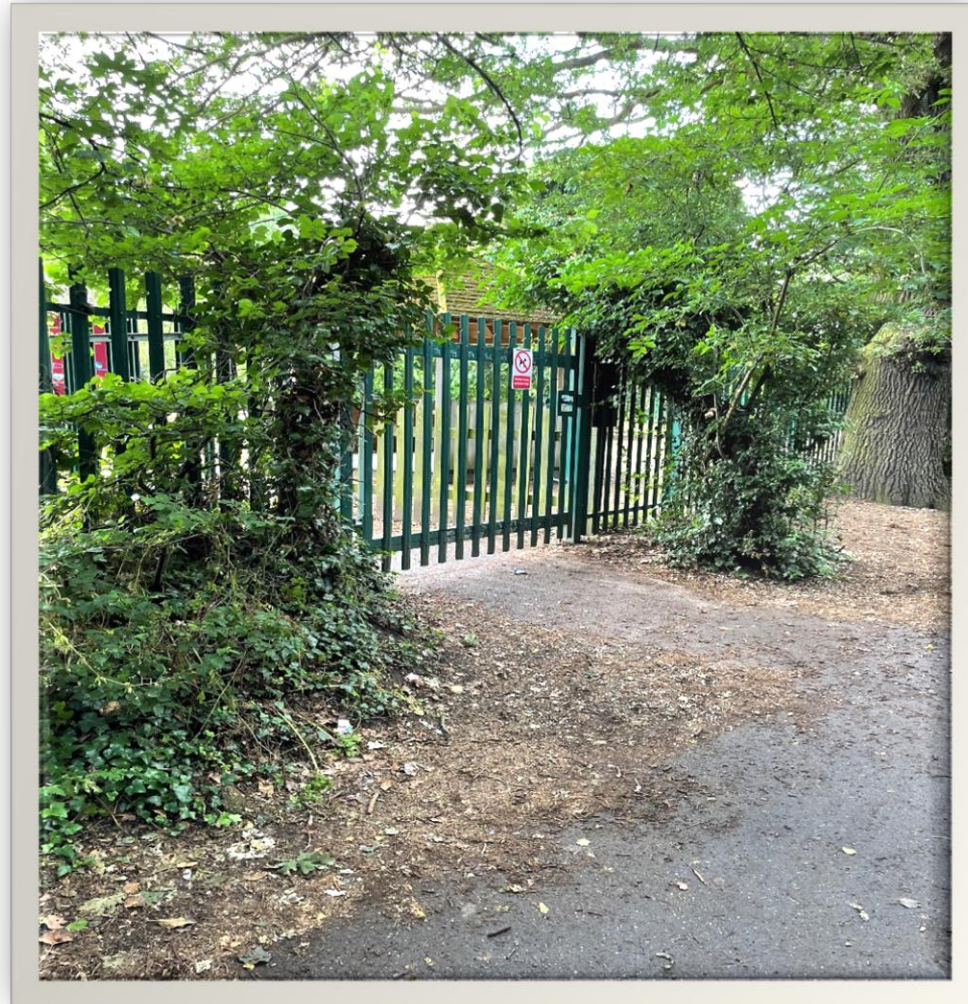
# How to Find Us

Follow the footpath round to the side gate.





# Side Gate





# Nursery Gate





## 15 or 30 hours

- Following another successful year we will have a mixture of full-time and part-time (either morning or afternoon only) children in September.
- You can also use our breakfast and after school provision for your children, however this must be pre-booked and they must be confident enough to be left.



# School Lunch (full time children)

- Full time children have their own designated mid day assistant.
- School lunch is £2.50 and this will need to be paid via Parentmail.
- We hope you will still choose school meals as these are the healthiest option and give us the chance to teach children table manners and social skills.
- If you bring a packed lunch please ensure all lunches are **nut free**. Please do not use chocolate spread of any kind.



# Settling In

- Most children settle fairly easily but if your child cries or clings to you it is better to leave and call the office after half an hour and ask for an update.
- If you stay in class it may make it worse as children will just cry until you take them home.



# The Early Years

## Foundation Stage Framework

- Children in Nursery follow the government's Development matters Framework.
- This is the same curriculum that most settings: pre-schools, reception classes and day nurseries use.
- In the framework there are three prime areas of learning and four specific areas.



# Prime Areas of Learning

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development



# Specific Areas of Learning

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



# Learning Activities

Children learn through a mixture of:

Adult led activities

and

Child led activities



# Outdoor Learning Area

- Learning outside – rain or shine, is an important part of Woodside.
- The Nursery outdoor learning area is separate to the reception classes but nursery use the reception space during their lunch hour.
- Children have free access to the outdoors for much of the day and need the right clothes for any weather.



# Assessment

- Children are continually assessed in the Early Years. We assess the children by watching and playing with them and while we are doing this we will be taking photos and writing down any important conversations we have.
- We assess their progress towards the nursery end of year goals in all the areas of learning more formally once a term.



# Independence

- Children need to be able to put their own coat on, encourage to do it up as well as take it off and hang it up.
- Children also need to be able to use the toilet independently (we know accidents do happen).
- But staff will help them if needed but children need to learn to be independent.



# Uniform

All Woodside children wear uniform:

- Maroon sweatshirt/cardigan or Zoodie
- White shirt/blouse
- Grey trousers/skirt / Black joggers or yoga pants (no logo)
- Black shoes



# Labelling

- Please label **ALL** your children's clothes with a permanent marker/stamps/stickers.
- Check regularly to make sure the label is still readable and that your child has the right clothes.
- Please can you supply your children with named wellington boots, and a bag with a few complete change of clothes which can stay in school, in case of getting wet or dirty.
- Due to the physical nature of the EYFS children are not wear any jewellery to school.





# Learning can be Messy!

Learning can be messy!

When children get messy they have been showing curiosity, determination, persistence, imagination and confidence.

The children are playing and exploring and as Albert Einstein famously quoted “Play is the highest form of research” therefore the most important work a child can do.





# Healthy Eating

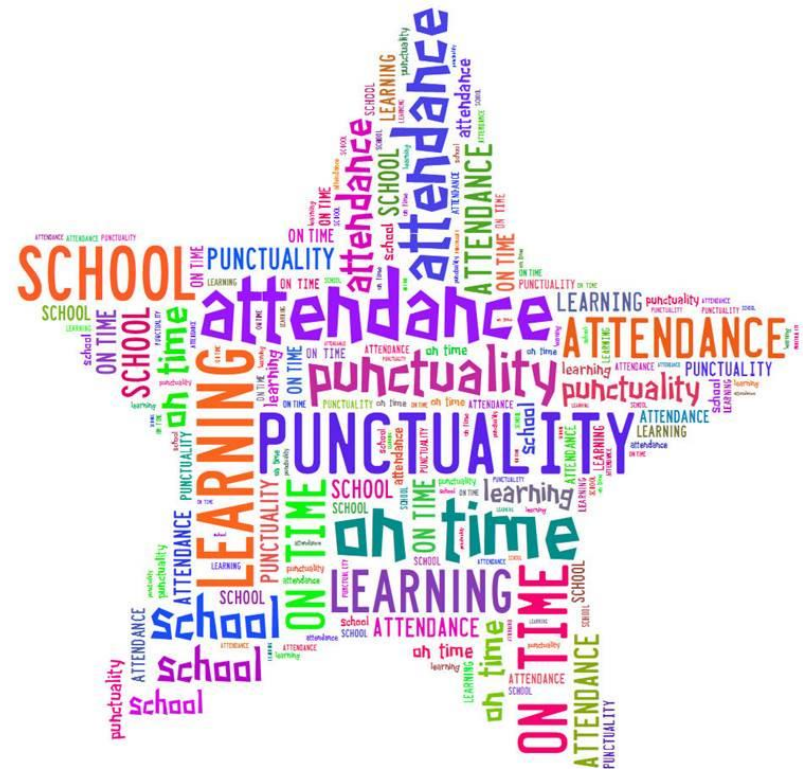


- Fruit, milk and water are provided every day for free and you can also send a clear bottle of water.
- We also give other foods at different times and you need to tell us if children have allergies or cannot eat certain foods for religious reasons.
- Children bake twice a term and we collect £10 to cover the costs of the ingredients for the year which can be paid through parentmail.
- Parents should cut small, round fruits such as blueberries, grapes and cherry tomatoes into quarters to help reduce the risk of choking.
- We are a nut free school so please do not allow your child to bring in any nut based products, including Nutella and peanut butter.



# Attendance

- Regular and punctual attendance is vital to children's progress.
- We keep a waiting list for places and children who do not attend can have their places withdrawn.





# Toys

- Please discourage children from bringing their own toys to school, unless teachers have specifically asked them to.
- They get very upset if they get broken or lost.





# Communications

We communicate with you face to face or via:

- Our website [www.woodsideacademy.org](http://www.woodsideacademy.org)
- Monthly newsletters
- ParentMail & Facebook
- Class letters
- Nursery window “notice board”
- Tapestry



# Parking

- Please walk to school with your child if you possibly can – or cycle.
- If not drive and park thoughtfully. Not across drives or on corners.
- **We have no parking for parents in school.**





# Helping at school

You could offer to help with practical activities in class or on visits (you need to have a DBS check first).



# Questions

If you have any further questions about our child starting in the Nursery then please use the following emails to get in touch.

[admissions@woodsideacademy.org](mailto:admissions@woodsideacademy.org)

[EYFS@woodsideacademy.org](mailto:EYFS@woodsideacademy.org)

