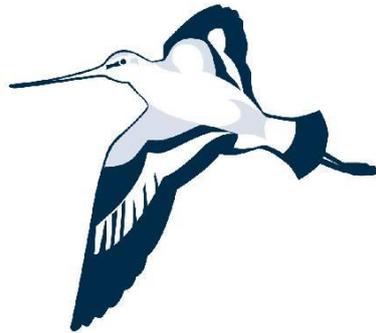


# Woodfall Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Helen Hough M.Ed

Chair of Governors: Mr D Haworth

[www.woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk)





Dear Parents / Carers

## Welcome to Woodfall

We would like to welcome you to our school, and hope that you will enjoy reading this to find out more about us. Parents of prospective pupils are very welcome to visit by appointment.

Our School aims to provide a friendly family atmosphere which will encourage learning and make it possible for each child to fulfil his/her potential.

The school exists only to serve the best interests of our children. In order that we should succeed in our task it is essential that the relationship between staff, governors, parents and pupils is a good one.

This is **YOUR** school and professional staff can be most effective with your support. I would encourage you to attend all meetings arranged to inform you about your child's progress and the work of the school, to come into school to help with trips and other activities, and whenever you have a query to come in and ask. **We aim to maintain a school with uniformly high standards, clear expectations and maximum time given to teaching and learning.** Please help your child as suggested by the school, e.g. with reading and other homework.

The staff and I look forward to meeting you and your child to ensure that these first experiences of school life are both happy and successful for you and your child.

We hope that you will be extremely proud to say, "Woodfall Primary School is our School".

Helen Hough  
Headteacher





**Woodfall Primary School is an inclusive and supportive learning community which inspires and challenges everyone, enabling all to achieve their full potential.**

**At Woodfall Primary School we aim to:**

- make our learning inspiring, challenging and fun
  - achieve our best
  - celebrate success
- treat ourselves and others with respect
- take responsibility for our learning, behaviour and our school

*"The impact of teaching over time is outstanding. Teaching is innovative and imaginative and pupils are keen to learn"*

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## The School

The school was built in 1967-1970 and is pleasantly situated. We have two separate, well maintained buildings, one housing six single age group infant classes and the other housing eight single age group junior classes. Both buildings have their own halls, separate playgrounds and share extensive playing fields. A purpose built extension links the two buildings together and provides a main entrance and reception, offices and staff room. There is a pre school and Out of School Club operating on the school site. For further information about The Village Pre School at Woodfall and Woodfall Out of School Club contact Mrs Margaret Price on 0151 353 1213.

## Resources

There are large playground and playing field areas. We are an Eco-School, and children benefit from the Wildlife area and allotments where we grow our own vegetables.

All classrooms are well resourced with supporting apparatus located in storage areas. The school is fortunate in having computers in all classrooms and a wide variety of audio/visual equipment. An Internet-linked computer network has been installed for use by all children, and classes have the use of two mobile banks of laptops. All classrooms benefit from interactive whiteboards. Currently we are piloting the benefits of ipads and their impact on learning.



We have two spacious halls which are used throughout the day for assemblies, Physical Education and dining purposes. Children are able to use an extensive range of books from our fiction and non-fiction libraries. There is also a children's kitchen which is available for children from all classes.

## School Organisation

Our School is organised as follows:

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 2 classes | Reception |
| 2 classes | Year 1    |
| 2 classes | Year 2    |
| 2 classes | Year 3    |
| 2 classes | Year 4    |
| 2 classes | Year 5    |
| 2 classes | Year 6    |





## Admission to School

All admissions to Woodfall Primary School are co-ordinated by Cheshire West and Chester Council who can be contacted on 0300 123 7039 or alternatively you can visit their website [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions) for further information.

All parents of children offered a place at the school are invited to a meeting in the term before their children start school and children also have the opportunity to participate in and experience the school day with three half-day visits to school. Prospective parents are welcome to telephone school to make an appointment to visit. Children in other year groups whose parents decide they wish to have their children attend our school, are also welcome to visit. These children may also spend a day, or part of a day, at school prior to admission if the parents wish.

## Times and Dates

Time set aside for teaching each day is as follows:

Infant 4 hours 15 minutes

Junior 4 hours 45 minutes

(this excludes assembly, registration and breaks)

### Infant Day

8.55 a.m. Registration

12-1.00 p.m. Lunch

3.15 p.m. Finish

### Junior Day

8.55 a.m. Registration

12.15-1.10 p.m. Lunch

3.20 p.m. Finish

## Home and School in Partnership

It is vitally important that parents and teachers work together to ensure a child's development in school. Parents and children, along with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors, are invited to sign a School/Home/Pupil Agreement to demonstrate shared commitment to supporting the child's education. This has been formulated by governors, parents and staff, using DfE guidelines.

During the school year we organise open evenings for parent-teacher interviews. These provide an opportunity for you to see your child's work, work displayed in the class and to discuss progress. They are held once in each term. Class teachers are always available by appointment.

Parents are encouraged to assist in school with various activities and educational visits. There are several special occasions throughout the year which you are welcome to attend.

Regular newsletters are sent to keep you informed about school activities, we keep an updated website on [www.woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.woodfall.cheshire.sch.uk) and up to date messages are left on our telephone system. There is a thriving Parents' Association which not only adds to the social life of the school but also organises a number of fund raising activities that benefit all children. All parents and teachers are members and are actively encouraged to take part.

*"Teamwork at all levels, including teachers supporting each other and the contributions of teaching assistants and volunteers, has helped to build and maintain an exceptionally effective climate for learning"*



## Pastoral Care and Discipline

We insist on orderly, reasonable behaviour and we expect courtesy from everyone. We encourage children to think about their actions and grow towards self-discipline. In all aspects of school life the importance of good relationships, mutual respect, attitudes and standards will be stressed. Bullying, racial and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

We have developed a positive approach to behaviour management which involves a clearly defined set of rewards and sanctions which are applied consistently and are understood by all members of the school community.

If at any time a child's progress or behaviour causes concern, the school will contact the parents to arrange a meeting. Parents are also encouraged to contact the school immediately if there is some aspect of school life which is causing a problem. Please telephone or write to make an appointment.

If a problem should arise which cannot be resolved directly with the school, parents may contact the Governing Body for details of the complaints procedure under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act. Likewise, the school may call upon the Governors to preside over matters of discipline.

## The Curriculum

In school we aim:

- To ensure that all learners benefit from a rich, broad, balanced curriculum presented in an interesting, exciting and imaginative manner with opportunities for first-hand experience, practical work, investigation and learning through play.



## Foundation Stage Curriculum

Children in our Reception classes experience the Foundation Stage Curriculum which provides a solid platform for the National Curriculum.

*"Outstanding early years provision means that children settle in quickly and make rapid progress when they first start school"*

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## National Curriculum

The National Curriculum is followed by all children from Year 1 onwards.

It consists of:

English, Mathematics, Science, Information and Communications Technology, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Physical Education, Art, Music, Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Religious Education is also taught.

The school curriculum serves both the requirements of the National Curriculum and the needs of its pupils. Curriculum development is an on-going process and it is constantly reviewed and altered if necessary after consultation with staff and governors.

The time children spend in school is limited and we must plan so that children use it in the best possible way. The school provides a balanced curriculum that helps all pupils to realise their individuality and thus fulfil their potential in skills across the curriculum.

The mastery of reading, literacy, numeracy and scientific skills is of paramount importance and the school provides a variety of resources which facilitate the acquisition of these skills. The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies are fully implemented in accordance with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE), and children spend at least one hour per day on each of these activities.

Children are confronted with relevant experiences both inside and outside the classroom which provide opportunities to observe, investigate, experiment and predict. A variety of technological, creative and aesthetic skills are also developed. All children from Year 2 to Year 6 benefit from French lessons.

We have full International School Status and maintain regular and productive links with our partner school in South Africa.

The school has extensive playing fields and two halls for Physical Education. Physical activity of many kinds is promoted - gymnastics, dance, drama, athletics, swimming, outdoor activities and team games. Professional coaching in tennis, basketball and athletics is provided throughout the year for all children from Year 2 to Year 6. All children benefit from the Healthy Schools Award.

## Special Educational Needs

At the heart of the education process lies the child. At all times we consider each child as an individual in his/her own right with his/her own strengths and weaknesses. The school has assessment procedures for the identification of children with special educational needs. Individual programmes of work are planned for such children. When necessary parents are consulted and the Authority's special education services are called upon for guidance and help.

The school has an excellent reputation for working with children with learning difficulties both with and without statements of special educational needs and disabilities. Specialised teaching and equipment is available to the whole school. The school's policy for inclusion ensures that children benefiting from special provision have maximum access to mainstream education. We are a Dyslexia Friendly School and have achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark.

*"The specialist support given to pupils with particular learning needs is second to none"*



## Extra Curricular Activities

We have achieved Active Mark Gold status for excellence in physical activity, including extra-curricular clubs. We add this to our Charter Mark Status for quality in football provision awarded to us by the Football Association and a recognition award from Cheshire Local Authority for outstanding performance in sport.

Staff offer a wide range of out-of-school activities which at the present time include netball, dance, tag rugby, choir, orchestra, maths challenge, chess club, eco club, gymnastics, judo, fencing, cookery, book club, basketball, drama, science club, summer games, cricket, running, athletics and rounders.

A large number of pupils enjoy instruction in the playing of string, woodwind and brass instruments, for which the Governors request a termly contribution from parents in order to finance the expenses of visiting tutors.

Groups of children have been involved in dance and choral performances both in and out of school. The orchestra take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth and have played at the Royal Festival Hall in London in the National Final. The orchestra and singers also regularly perform at the Cheshire Show and the choir have sung at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Neston Village Fete. We have the 'Sing-Up' Silver Award which recognises excellence in singing throughout the school.



## Able Pupils

It is recognised that within the school community there are pupils of very high ability or talent and that they have special requirements which need to be addressed by the school. We acknowledge that such pupils are entitled to an education that is appropriate to their particular needs. It is our aim to provide a wide range of educational experiences tailored to the needs of able pupils, enabling them to work at high cognitive levels and to develop specific skills and talents. Enrichment materials are provided for gifted and talented children. Opportunities from various outside organisations are offered.



## Religious Education and Collective Worship

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Cheshire agreed syllabus 'Encounter and Response', which was last reviewed by the Local Authority in 2014. Our Scheme of Work reflects the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian while taking into account teachings and practises of other principle religions. Pupils actively participate in assemblies, with Family services being held regularly for parents to attend. Contact with local churches is also maintained and visits to places of worship form part of our curriculum, along with visitors within the community, who enrich children's learning.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons and daily assemblies but are asked to discuss their decisions with the Headteacher.

## Educational Visits

We consider activities such as educational visits to places of interest to be a vital extension to each child's education in school. Section 110 of the Education Reform Act 1988 requires us not to charge for such activities which take place mainly or wholly during the school day. When visits of this nature are planned we invite parents to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost, and where possible we subsidise from school funds. We hope parents will support us in this important aspect of school life. We retain the right to charge for residential visits and activities which take place wholly or mainly outside the school day. These currently include residential visits to Delamere in Year 2, Colomendy in Year 4 and Winmarleigh, Lancashire in Year 6.





## School Uniform

Uniform items which carry the school logo and ties are available from Tobe Uniform in Neston or alternatively online from [www.myschoolstyle.com](http://www.myschoolstyle.com) and all other items of clothing are readily available from most clothes stores.

- Red v-necked sweatshirts or cardigans with embroidered logo
- There is a choice of white shirt & tie or a plain white polo shirt without a tie. Tie details are as follows:
  - red & grey striped tie (Infants)
  - red, grey & your child's team colour striped tie (Juniors)
- Grey trousers/shorts/pinafore/skirt
- Summer dresses in red gingham or stripes.

Fleeces with the school logo are also available.

## PE Kits

Infants – White tee shirt with school logo

Red shorts

Elasticated front black pumps

Juniors - Team coloured tee shirt with school logo

Black shorts

Trainers or black pumps

*"From when they first start school to when they leave at the end of Year 6, pupils' academic progress is excellent"*

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### Absence from School

In the interests of safeguarding, we would ask that parents ring school on the first day of absence for any illness so that we are aware of the whereabouts of all the children. In cases of extended absence we would expect you to contact school as often as possible to keep us informed of your child's progress.

Holidays outside the normal school holidays should be avoided if at all possible as it disrupts your child's education.

A brief note of explanation is required if your child is unable to participate in Physical Education, games or swimming.

We are required by law to complete an Absence Return each term which contains information about authorised and unauthorised absence from school. An unauthorised absence is any absence for which the school has not received a satisfactory explanation from the parents (preferably in writing). Unexplained lateness is recorded as unauthorised absence.

### Secondary Transfer

Children transfer to Secondary School in the September after they are 11. We have close links with all local Secondary Schools and children are given opportunities to visit beforehand. The majority of children transfer to Neston High School.

All information is accurate and up to date at the time of printing but the school may change its policies or procedures at anytime in response to local or national requirements.