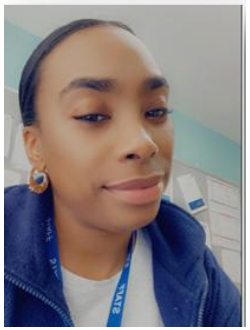
Welcome to Whitefriars School Nursery 2025/26

Welcome to our school

We cannot wait to welcome you and your amazing child to our unique school in September. We are a strong family where expectations are high, values are positive and children are treasured. Our goal is to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills and character to lead successful lives. The growth mind-set underpins everything we do. We do not believe that some pupils are bright and that others are not. We believe in the limitless capacity for everyone to achieve great things. We believe that what we become and what we achieve comes from great teaching, hard work and fantastic support. We pride ourselves on excellent communication with our families so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. We look forward to working closely with each and every one of you to find friendship, fun and success as we build a bright future together

Mr Pritam Vekaria
Headteacher

Mrs Rachael Williams
Deputy Headteacher



Miss Charlotte Webb
Assistant Head of Learning and Behaviour

Mrs Rakhee Pindoria
Phase Leader for EYFS

Our Vision

At Whitefriars School we focus on a set of shared values which help us to work with one another co-operatively and with respect. We learn the importance of friendship and unity and how to approach life with positivity and hope. These values make our school community happy and harmonious, a fun place, where children feel secure. Our values are important to all pupils, staff and parents.

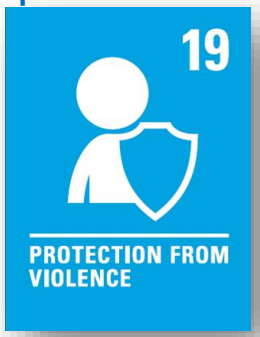
The whole staff team and all pupils are involved in promoting values and recognising their positive effects around school. The values have been selected by pupils and staff as values which are important within the school community and which will be important throughout life.

We are a Rights Respecting School

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS
unicef UNITED KINGDOM
GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING

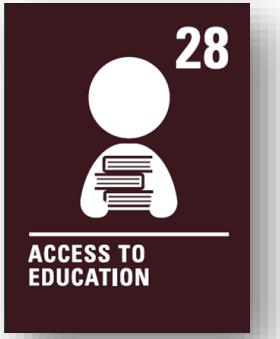
We are a rights respecting school and this starts from Nursery. The children learn about their rights through their learning and the activities that we do. Our class puppets can sometimes support us with this as we learn about

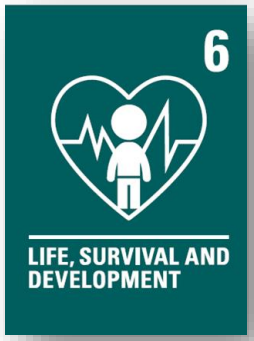
keeping safe



relaxing and playing

going to school





being healthy

being the best that we can be

Transition

As well as our meeting today, you and your child will also be invited to a stay and play session between the dates of **3rd September and 5th September**, ahead of your child starting the Nursery the following week. If your child currently attends a Nursery or Pre-School, we will be contacting them and possibly arrange a visit. We will continue to keep you updated via emails, so please look out for further communication regarding stay and play sessions, newsletter containing useful links, uniform and start dates and times.

As a lot of our communication is by email, **please ensure we have an up to date email address.** We will in due course, send you an invitation to our SIMS parent App so you can check the details we have on our database are correct.

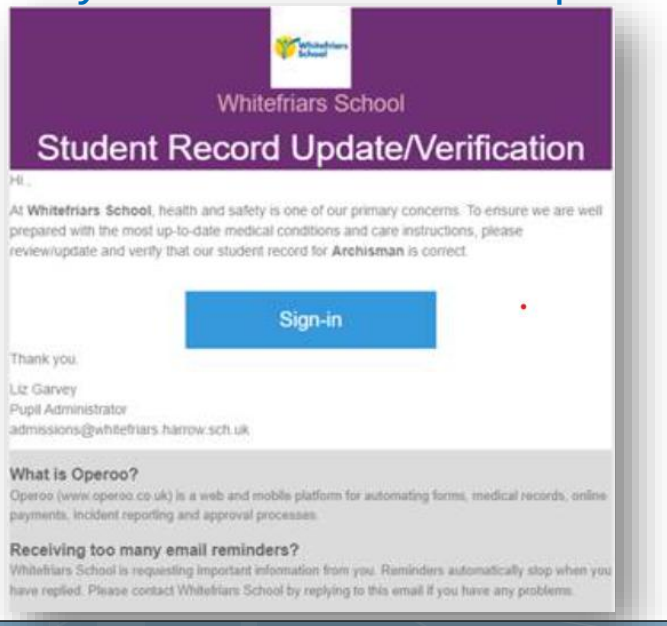
You can also find further information on our website

www.whitefriarsschool.net

Operoo

You will be contacted separately via Operoo, where you will be invited to complete the various forms and consents needed for your child to start Nursery. Please complete the forms as soon as you get the invite. You will get a new notification from Operoo every time there is a new document to complete.

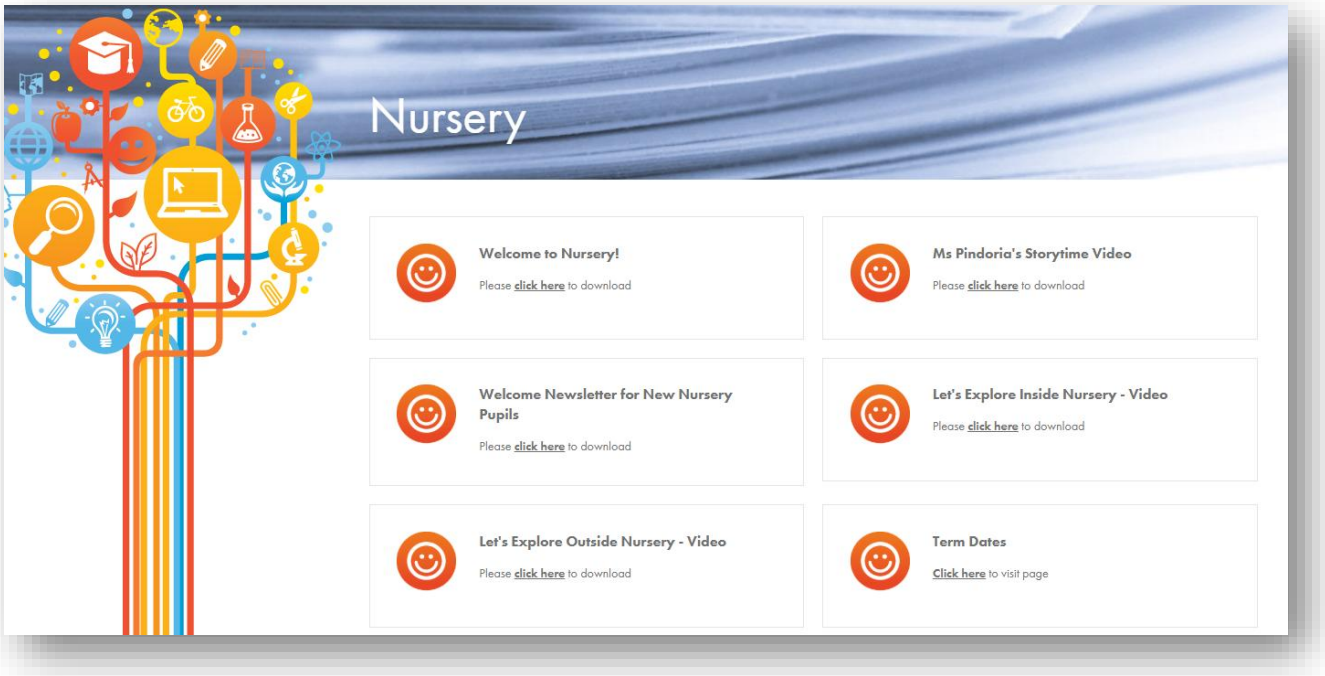
There is also a very useful facility on Operoo, which enables you to choose the language of your choice when completing the forms.



Welcome Pack

Our welcome pack is now available on our school website. You will find it at www.whitefriarsschool.net

There you will find lots of useful information for you and videos to share with your child, before they start with us.



Emergency Forms and Holidays

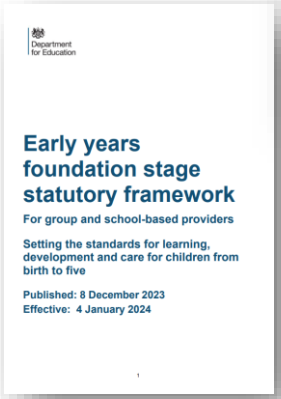
Please remember if you ever move house or change telephone numbers, it is extremely important to let the school office know straight away. It could cause a delay if we need to contact you if your child is sick or if there is an emergency.

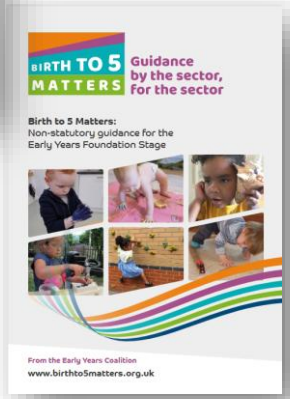
Please contact the school on your child's first day of sickness to inform us that they will be absent.

Holidays - Please do not take your child out of school for holidays. The absence will **not** be authorised and you may run the risk of your child being taken off school roll.

What is the E.Y.F.S?

- E.Y.F.S covers Nursery and Reception
- The curriculum emphasises learning based on play and experiences.
- Activities are planned around the children interests and needs as they develop skills and become independent learners





The EYFS

- There are 7 areas of learning.
- All areas of learning and development are interconnected.
- Three areas are particularly important and crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.
- These are the prime areas.

The Three Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language

Development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

Physical Development

Involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive, to develop their co-ordination, control and movement as they learn to move around in a range of different ways.

To use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
Involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others,
To develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings and behaviour and have confidence in their own abilities.

To learn to make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.

The Specific Areas

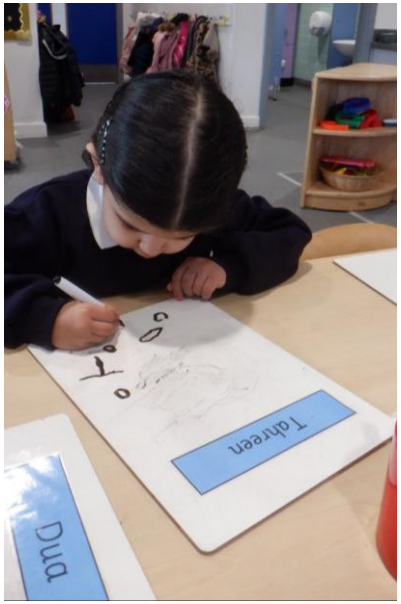
The other areas are known as specific areas and it is believed that they are dependent on the children making good progress in the prime areas.

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

Literacy

Literacy

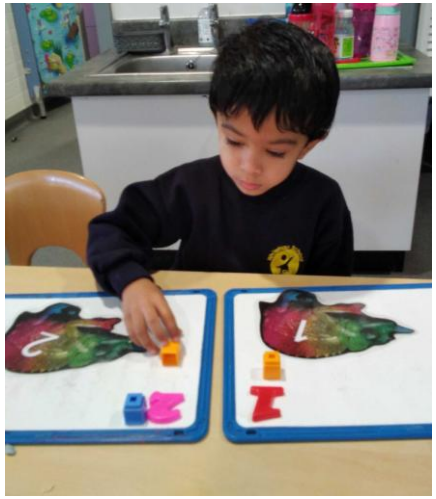
Involves fostering a love of books and reading. The children begin to link sounds to letters. As this develops further, the children begin to get ready to write. But there are many stages to go through before reaching this stage, such as transcription and composition, where the children articulate ideas and structure them in speech.



Mathematics

Mathematics

Involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating, describing shapes, spaces and measures, making patterns and problem solving.



Understanding the World

Understanding the world
Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the environment.
To develop positive attitudes about the differences between people and to begin to learn that there are different countries in the world.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. To develop ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, design and technology.

Adult focused learning

Adult focused learning takes place inside and outside of the classroom. It involves learning with the teacher as a whole class, small groups or individually.

Normal Daily Timetable Example

Times

8:30 – 11:30 am

12:30 – 3:30 pm

Daily Routine

8:30am/12.30pm –	Welcome and soft start
8.45am/12.45pm –	Register/days of the week/weather etc
9:00am/1.00pm –	Maths – key worker groups
9.25am/1.25pm –	Learning time – free flow and a focus activity
10:30am/2.30pm –	Tidy up
10.45/2.45pm -	Brushing teeth
10:50am/2.50pm –	Communication and Language – key worker groups and fruit
11:10am/3.10pm –	Carpet time – singing/story/IWB activity
11.20am/3.20pm –	Prepare to go home
11.30am/3.30pm –	Home time

Tapestry Online Journal

The Whitefriars EYFS now use an online learning journal called Tapestry. Your child will have an online journal set up for them which you will also be able to access from home or on your mobile phone. We will upload photographs and videos and a little bit of information of your child doing their learning. You can like the observations or add comments.

TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING
JOURNAL

You can even share what your child has been doing at home with us, by uploading your own photographs and videos. This will all be added to their journal. We will also use the Tapestry App to communicate with you via the memo facility and even set home learning using the activity facility.

The parents this year have provided really positive feedback, as they find out what their child has been learning about at Nursery that week.

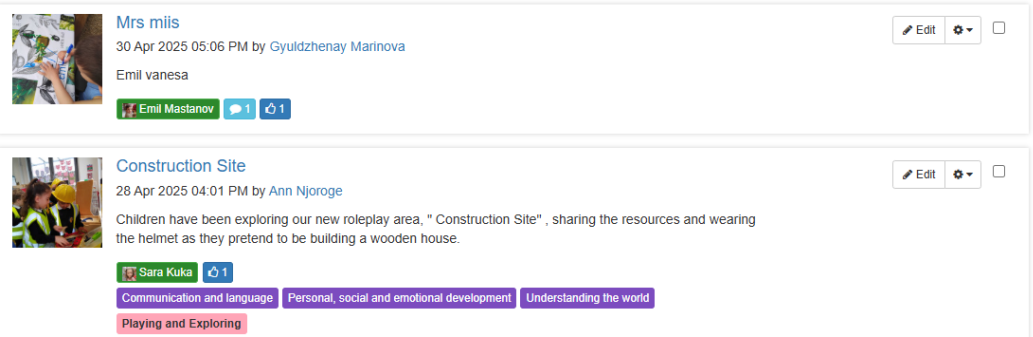
How will my child be assessed?

We will assess your child as we work with them daily and join in with their play. We listen to the children as they share their thoughts and views. We welcome input from parents too.

TAPESTRY
ONLINE LEARNING
JOURNAL

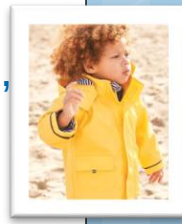
You can help us by:

- Keeping us informed of your child's interests
- Telling us about learning at home by sending in photos and information about what they have been doing via the Tapestry App.



How can I help?

- Provide your child with an appropriate coat for the weather conditions. Warm for cold days, waterproof for rainy days. We like to go outside whatever the weather!
- Please name all clothing: jumpers, tops, trousers, skirts, dresses, coats, hats, gloves and scarves.
- Help your child to learn how to put their coat on.
- Prepare them by ensuring that they can go to the toilet and wash their hands independently before starting Nursery.
- Make sure your child arrives at Nursery on time.
- Bring in wellington boots for outdoor learning.
- Read with your child every day.
- Encourage your child to have a go at the ‘Home Learning’ that is set during the week and over the school holidays.
- Bring a named water bottle to school every day.
- Ensure that your child does not wear jewellery, including earrings, to school on P.E days.
- Give your child lots of opportunities to mark make at home using pencils, pens and paints.
- Talk to your child, prepare them for coming to Nursery.



Curriculum Enrichment

We have lots of other exciting and fun things which happen in Nursery throughout the school year, such as Book Week, STEM Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, activity days, visitors into the Nursery and the Summer Bug Ball.

Sometimes we ask for payment contribution for special activities etc. We are a cashless school so please make as many payments are sent through our online payment service called ParentPay. The activation emails will be sent out at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Sure Start Children's Centre Services

If your child has not attended a playgroup or nursery, Children's Centres offer play sessions, workshops, advice and many other services around the borough. You can access these services now and throughout the summer, to help to prepare you and your child for school life.

These are free services available for everyone to use.

Cedars Children's Centre
Cedars Manor School,
Whittlesea Rd,
Harrow
HA3 6LS
0208 861 3036

Gange Children's Centre
68 Canning Rd,
Harrow
HA3 7SN
020 8863 8151

Let’s go and explore our Nursery!