



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Induction Booklet for Reception Parents 2020



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part of the Great Heights Academy Trust

Welcome to West Vale Academy

Dear Parents/Carers

We are looking forwards to welcoming you and your child at West Vale Academy. We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for your child and a supportive partnership with yourselves.

The information in this booklet provides you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child's transition into the Reception Class as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us either by contacting the school office on 01422 372804 or by admin@westvale.calderdale.sch.uk.

Mrs Gardiner

Mrs Lawrence

Principal

EYFS Lead

Our Staff

We are delighted you have chosen West Vale Academy for your child and we would like to welcome you to our happy school.



EYFS Lead

Mrs Lawrence



**Reception
Teacher**

Miss Taylor



**Reception Teaching
Assistant**

Mrs Clarke



Principal
Mrs Gardiner



Deputy Principal
Mrs Scott



Family Support Worker
Mrs Roebuck

Support for you!

Being a parent/carer is immensely rewarding but it can also be challenging at times and we all have those moments where we feel stressed or that we can't cope. If you are struggling with any aspects of parenting, please let us know. The staff have a wealth of experience and will always try and give you tips or advice to support you or signpost you to somewhere for the support you need.

School times

The doors open at 8.50am each morning and the children enter through the Reception classroom door. They are welcomed by their teachers and brought into school. Any messages can be passed onto teachers here, including changes to collection arrangements. The classroom door closed at 9am. Any late arrivals need to come into school through the main entrance door. At home time the school gates are opened at 3.20pm and the children will be let out of class at 3.30pm. We ask that all parents wait by the gates to the reception entrance and when we see you are here, we will call them one at once and ensure they go to you safely.

Absences

Please notify school if your child is ill, either by telephone, in person or by email before 9am in the morning:

01422 372804

admin@westvale.calderdale.sch.uk

Holidays

Dates are published in the school newsletter early in the academic year and are also on the website. Principals may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. For full details of our attendance policy please visit our website

Learning in Reception

During the Reception year the children will be learning through structured adult-led activities and play. The play within the classroom and outdoor learning environment is both challenging and fun and it helps children develop a positive attitude towards learning for the rest of their school life.

The children will have daily Phonics and Maths focus sessions which build over time in length and independence as we work towards Year One. Phonics teaching is currently taught through using “Letters and Sounds” synthetic phonics programme.

The children will engage in a range of different activities related to broad topics related to their interests. Some of these activities will take place in large groups, some in smaller groups and some individually. There will be a mix of adult led and child-initiated activities.

There are seven areas of learning that shape the Early Years Curriculum. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The three prime areas are particularly crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. The three prime areas are:

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

There are four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At the end of the year we will provide you with a written report based around the Foundation Stage Profile. The Foundation Stage Profile is an assessment that is completed for all reception children at the end of their reception year.



A Typical School Day in Reception

8.50am Classroom door opens. Your child is met by their teachers. The children are encouraged to come in on their own to build independence. They will then complete a morning activity.

9.00am Register

9.05am Finger/Dough Gym

The children learn actions to different songs which helps develop fine motor control.

9.10am Phonics Input. This is a whole class carpet session.

9.30am Child Initiated (Learning Busy Job Time)

Children have the opportunity to choose what and where they wish to learn from a wide range of carefully planned indoor and outdoor provision. Adults support children to learn by interacting with them; challenging and support them in this provision.

10.10am Assembly

10.30am Playtime

Children have the opportunity to play outside in the main playground. Your child will be assigned a Year 6 child as their special buddy who will also care for them during this time. We provide each child with a piece of fruit to eat during morning playtime.



10.45am Maths Input. This is a whole class carpet session.

11.05am Child Initiated (Learning Busy Job Time)

11.55am Dinner Time

Children eat their lunch together in the school dining room and then have the opportunity to play outside on the main playground.

1.00pm Afternoon registration/Movement Time

The children learn dances to different songs which helps develop their gross motor control.

1.05pm Literacy/Understanding of the World

This is a whole class carpet session.

1.25pm Child Initiated (Learning Busy Job Time)

2.15pm Playtime

2.30pm Child Initiated (Learning Busy Job Time)

3.00pm Story time

3.20pm Show and Tell

Each child will be allocated a specific day to bring their show and tell items into school.

3.30pm Home Time





PE

The children will have at least one P.E. session per week. This may occur at different points during the week, so it is VITAL that your child has their full P.E. kit in school each day. It will be stored securely on your child peg during the term and we will make sure it returns home at the end of each half term for a good wash! P.E. Kit includes:

- Black/Blue shorts
- A t-shirt in your child's allocated team colour.
- Trainers
- Black/blue logging bottoms and a plain warm jumper for outdoor PE.



Please ensure that all items are named – it helps enormously.

Please be aware that jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school and cannot be worn during P.E. lessons under any circumstances.

Library time

Is there anything better than sharing a favourite book with your child? We believe that reading a wide range of books to your child on a regular basis is so important, helping to develop language and imagination, understand the purpose for reading and most of all, develop a lifelong love of books. To support you in this, we hold a weekly library session in Reception on Friday afternoons where your child will spend time choosing a book to bring home. Please ensure this is kept in your child's book bag so it can be exchanged each week for a new one.

Parent Participation

At West Vale Academy, we view your child's education as a partnership between home and school. In order for your child to reach their full potential it is important that we work as a team. We hold regular whole school events which the children really enjoy and we encourage families to be involved; highlights include the Halloween disco and Christmas Fayre.

Seesaw

At West Vale we use an app called Seesaw throughout school as an interactive learning platform. It is a simple way for teachers and pupils to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Seesaw gives pupils a place to document their learning, be creative and learn how to use technology. Each child gets their own online journal which follows them up through school. When there are new Seesaw posts, families can be notified via app notification, email or SMS. Parents are only notified about their own child's work, and all data is safe and secure.

Preparation

Many parents ask what we want children to do before they come to school. Here are the things which help to make the school day and routines simpler:

- I can use the toilet all by myself
- I can zip up and fasten my coat
- I can dress myself and change for PE
- I can wash and dry my hands & face
- I can use a knife & fork
- I can put on my own shoes and fasten them

Texts and Parent Pay

In order to keep our parents updated with school life and any last minute changes such as closure due to snow we use a text/email service called 'Parent Hub' which will send a text to mobile phones or an email depending on the urgency of the message. We also use an electronic payment system 'Parent Pay' - where parents can pay for trips online. Once your child has started school you will receive information on registration.

General Information

School Uniform

- Plain grey trousers or skirt.
- White polo shirt with school logo or plain.
- Navy Sweatshirt with school logo or plain.
- Plain socks or tights
- Black school-type shoes
- In warm weather blue and white check dresses and grey shorts can be worn.



Children should not come to school wearing fashion trainers, jeans, tracksuits, sportswear or beachwear. Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

School Dinners

Dinners are freshly cooked in our own kitchens. We offer choices each day, including a vegetarian option and the menus rotate over a three week cycle. Fresh fruit and bread are always available, along with water to drink. Menus are changed seasonally and information is sent home for you and your child to choose their lunch and place their order on-line via our website. If your child has any specific dietary requirements please let us know so that we can tailor a menu to suit your needs. All pupils in reception, year one and year two in state-funded schools in England are eligible for free school meals (FSMs), this includes academies. More information regarding school meals payments will be sent to you when your child moves onto our Key Stage 2 site and into Year 3.

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school to keep well hydrated during the school day. To promote a healthy lifestyle this must be water and not juice.

Milk

Milk is available to all children at our Key Stage 1. For all our under 5's this is free. West Vale will automatically register your child to receive school milk each day. When children reach their fifth birthday they can continue to receive milk as part of the CoolMilk scheme for approximately £15 per term. Please visit the following site for more information:

<https://www.coolmilk.com>

Snacks

At West Vale Academy, we strive to promote a healthy lifestyle. Children are offered fresh or dried fruit and vegetables, provided by a government scheme to encourage children to eat five a day. This includes a different choice each day e.g banana, carrot, pear, apple or orange. There is also the option of bringing your own fruit, please ensure it is fresh or dried fruit ONLY and NOT sweets made of fruit Also that your child can peel any fruit you send with them, if not, it would be helpful to supply readily prepared choices

Family circumstances

If there is any change in family circumstance, please let us know. Changes can affect a child's behaviour and well-being in many ways and we need to ensure we can support your child at all times-but to do this we need to know if anything has changed in the home, This may be news of a pet that is ill, grandparents who are away on holiday, a parent/carer who is working away, an argument that has happened, a family illness, a separation etc.

The more we know the better we can support your child.

Please visit our website to find out about what goes on in other areas of school life. All school newsletters along with other class information are also posted on the website. We hope that you have found this booklet informative. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us in school.