



WELCOME TO PINNER WOOD SCHOOL Foundation Stage

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Introduction

This brochure is designed to give you as much helpful information about our school as possible and we hope you will find it useful.

Pinner Wood School is set in very spacious surroundings. We are a 3 form entry school with a Nursery class on site.

We have a very successful Breakfast and After School Club, which is used by school pupils, and a range of lunchtime and after school activities.

Children have access to ICT through suites for class use, through classroom computers, iPads and interactive whiteboards.

We have a well stocked, computerised Library which is used to support Literacy and other curriculum areas.

The large halls are used for many curriculum activities, including assemblies, PE, concerts, music and drama.

We aim to encourage pupils to develop lively enquiring minds, to think imaginatively, to question and apply themselves to problem solving, and to develop physical, social and practical skills. We also wish pupils to develop moral values, knowledge of and respect for people of similar and different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs.

Many of our Nursery children move on into our Reception classes. Most pupils, leaving at eleven, move on to local high schools. All staff work together to ensure a smooth transition for all our pupils.

The School writes regular newsletters and other letters as necessary to share information. These are usually sent out using ParentMail®. The school has an open door policy and parents are invited to raise any concerns with the teachers/leadership team without the need for an appointment.

We are very proud of our school and are always delighted to show visitors around our spacious teaching areas. Why not telephone us to join our parent tours? You will see for yourself our happy, well mannered pupils and the excellent standards achieved at the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any other information you require.

Pinner Wood Foundation Stage

Both Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS). The new revised curriculum which came into force in Sept 2012 has seven areas of learning and development.

All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form friendships and thrive.

These 3 areas, the Prime areas are;

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

Children also experience 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

The four overarching principles of the EYFS remain which are;

- Every child is a **unique child**
- Children learn through **positive relationships**
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**
- Children **learn in different ways and at different rates**

Your child will experience activities and programmes of learning in all these areas during their time in the Foundation Stage.

Children make full use of the school facilities, such as the hall, the ICT suite, music room and the Library.

Our Nursery provides pre-school learning opportunities for children to enable them to confidently transfer to Reception. Once in Reception, children continue to progress and develop skills, knowledge and understanding building on their experiences in Nursery to enable successful transition into Year 1.

We believe in a close relationship between home and school, to encourage our children to learn effectively.

We all hope you and your child will enjoy your time at Pinner Wood.

Our Aims

The aim of our Foundation Stage is to provide a happy, safe, and stimulating environment in which all children feel secure and valued and where we can all enjoy ourselves and have fun!

We want your children to:

- develop through the Foundation Stage with high quality teaching, to enable each child to reach his/her full potential
- become rounded, balanced individuals with a positive outlook
- develop an eagerness for knowledge and an enthusiasm for learning, believing that if they try they can succeed and reach their potential
- be confident and independent irrespective of academic ability
- have a sense of respect for themselves, others and the environment
- encourage respect for each other and for people of similar and different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs
- ensure each child has equal opportunities, to experience success and joy in his/her learning
- value the uniqueness of each child by recognising and celebrating his/her achievements
- develop a positive, open and effective working partnership between home and school
- prepare for transitions throughout the School

As a team, our Foundation staff want to ensure that your child grows up with confidence during these early years and develops a natural desire and ability to learn.

Starting in Nursery

If your child is starting Nursery in September:

1. We will invite you to attend a new parents meeting where we will give you an induction pack and tell you about our procedures and how you can help to prepare your child for Nursery.
2. You and your child will also be invited to join us for an Open Day session to see the Nursery in action.
3. With this induction pack you will also have been given a time and date in September for a visit to the Nursery with your child. This usually lasts for about an hour.
4. If your child has a full time place at Nursery they will start immediately after their visit session. Half day Nursery sessions will start within the following week. To begin with, the session will be for 2 and half hours.
5. Once the children are settled they will be invited to join us for lunch. The session will then be extended to 3 hours for am or pm sessions and the whole day for full time children.

On your child's first day in Nursery we ask you to stay with us for as long as we all feel it is necessary for him/her to feel confident to enjoy their time here. There are occasions however, when a child is just not ready to cope with the Nursery environment and in these circumstances we will recommend a longer period of integration.

We warmly welcome parent helpers in school. Our children benefit greatly from your interest and support and by interacting with another adult. We will ask you to join in with activities - looking at books, playing games, having tea in the house etc.

Preparing your Child for Nursery

Some children can find it difficult to leave their parent/carer especially if this is their first pre-school experience. You can help your child by encouraging them to stay with familiar adults prior to starting. It is also helpful if your child is toilet trained and able to use the toilet independently. Our experience shows that if your child is confident in these areas they settle in more quickly.

Starting in Reception

If your child is starting Reception in September:

1. We will invite you to attend a new parents meeting where we will give you an induction pack and tell you about our procedures and how you can help to prepare your child for Reception.
2. You and your child will also be invited to join us for an Open Day session to see the Reception class in action.
3. In the induction pack you will also have been given a time and date in the first week of term to visit the new Reception class with your child. This usually lasts for about an hour.
4. Your child will then start with us the day following your visit with them. For the first two days, classes are split into two groups and children attend for 2 hours. At the beginning of the second week, the whole class attend for 4 hours. By the end of the week it is expected that most children will attend full time.

During your child's first settling week, we encourage parents to help their child enter the classroom and settle into their day. Once children are happy and playing, we ask parents to leave children to be independent. By the time children attend full time, we ask parents to say goodbye at the door and encourage their child to come into class independently.

There are occasions however, when a child is just not ready to cope with the Reception environment and in these circumstances we will recommend a longer settling period.

Collection Arrangements

Please bring and collect your child promptly. It can be very worrying for a child who is not collected on time. Children who arrive late to school miss valuable learning time. Our staff need to be informed if someone else, other than your named contacts, is collecting your child. If this is to be a regular arrangement we will need this in writing.

Uniform

We expect children to take pride in their appearance, be smartly dressed at all times and have sensible hairstyles. Long hair should be neatly tied back with green or white ribbons/bands. Jewellery may not be worn. Children may wear watches (sensible) but we cannot accept responsibility for loss.

The school colours are green and white. Sweatshirts, cardigans, PE tops, PE bags, and book carriers with the School logo are for sale from the Office.

Boys wear a green 'PWS' sweatshirt, white polo T shirt and charcoal grey school trousers and girls wear a green 'PWS' cardigan, white polo T shirt and charcoal grey trousers/skirt/pinafore. During the summer term boys may wear shorts and girls a green/white check dress.

Shoes

Please note that high heels, sling backs and open toe sandals are not suitable for school at all. Trainers are **NOT** part of the school uniform. For children in the Foundation Stage we advise that shoes are fastened with Velcro rather than laces.

PE

A PE kit (green T shirt with 'PWS' logo and black shorts). T shirts can be purchased from the school office. Black plimsolls, preferably with elastic front, should be worn. PE kit should be kept in a suitable shoe bag (not a plastic bag). Jewellery should not be worn. House colours are allocated in Year 1.

Aprons are provided for painting and water play. All children require a Pinner Wood book bag to carry books to and from school.

Outdoor Learning

We play and learn outside everyday. In hot weather, please apply sun cream to your child in the morning and send in a hat. In cold weather, please send in a warm coat, a hat and gloves.

Please mark ALL clothes and shoes clearly with your child's name so that they do not get lost or mixed up with other children's clothes. Please help your child learn to dress and undress as independently as possible.

At the end of each school term we dispose of all unclaimed lost property.

Lunch Arrangements

Packed lunches

Please provide your child with a sensible packed lunch each day. Please do not send sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks or food that may be difficult for your child to eat. For the safety of the children, please do not pack sandwiches in 'cling film' or use glass bottles or cans. An example of an appropriate packed lunch could be a sandwich, yoghurt and some fruit. Please do not send in any food containing nuts. This includes peanut butter or chocolate spread.

Hot meals

We have a kitchen on site and cook fresh, delicious meals every day. There are halal meat, non halal meat and vegetarian dishes available daily. Those children wishing to have a hot meal may use this service as and when required. Alternatively they may bring a packed lunch. A team of Lunchtime Supervisors under the direction of the Senior Supervisor look after the children during the lunch hour.

There is currently no charge for school meals in Reception up to Year 2 but if you are entitled to free school meals under the following criteria we will be able to offer the school uniform items we sell free of charge.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit

To see if you qualify for free school meals please go to <https://pps.lgfl.org.uk>. The result is instant. If you do qualify please bring your confirmation into the school office and we will provide you with the following uniform free of charge: 2 Sweatshirts or Cardigans, Book Bag, PE T-Shirt and PE bag. This is a 'one-off' offer and applies to new nursery or reception children only.

Healthy Eating

At Pinner Wood we encourage our children to eat healthily. We recommend that they bring in water each day in a named sports bottle so they can drink whenever they need to during lessons. This is an additional drink to what your child will bring if they have packed lunches. We participate in the National Fruit Scheme which provides a piece of fruit each day; this may include oranges, apples, tomatoes, bananas, apples, pears. Milk is also provided daily, free of charge to all Nursery and Reception children under the age of 5 years old.

The Structure of a Foundation Stage Day

In Nursery children attend either a morning session from 8.40-11.40am or an afternoon session from 12.00-3.00pm, or a full day session from 8.40am - 3.00pm.

The Reception day is from 8.50am to 3.05pm.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and use all the school facilities, such as the hall, the ICT suite and the Library. Nursery children attend some assemblies with the rest of the school. We offer learning opportunities both inside and outside in all seasons.

Activities vary from day to day and season to season, giving the children as wide a variety of experiences as possible. Everything we do helps a child to learn in all areas of the EYFS curriculum.

Child Initiated/Adult Led Activities

The Foundation classrooms and outdoor area are set up daily with a range of learning activities in all areas of learning. Children are taught the skills needed to access a wide range of learning activities, both independently and with their peers. In all areas the children are encouraged to make choices and decisions. The adult's role is to support and extend the children's play, while giving the children independence.

Throughout the school day, children are also invited to join adult-led activities. These also cover all areas of learning and are play based activities. These adult-led activities become longer and more frequent towards the end of Reception.



Outdoor Play

Our spacious outdoor area has provision for many different activities. During this time the adults participate in activities and games alongside the children



PE/ICT/Music

Each week all children have a computer session in our ICT suite, a PE session in our hall which is used for large and small equipment or music and movement and a music session in our class room.

Story Time/Reading

A Nursery and Reception day usually concludes with a quieter time to reflect on the day and enjoy sharing books. It includes not only telling stories, but using props, listening to poems, singing songs and rhymes, having big books and book bags.

All children bring home a library book and a home reading book once a week for you to read together at home and to return the following week. Reception children also bring home a reading book which they have read and discussed in school, to read with an adult. Reception parents are asked to read to their children and hear their children read to them every day. A 'reading record' is sent home for parents to record their child's progress. It is helpful to write one comment about how well your child understands their book and one comment about how easy they found the words to read.

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

We aim to develop a working partnership with parents, to provide the best opportunities for the children. As parents, you will be the people who best know your child, and sharing your thoughts and feelings about your child with the Foundation Staff will allow for us to provide a smooth integration into the school environment.

Parents are welcome to talk to staff on a daily basis if they have any questions to ask or information to share. We also send home a 'communication' book where brief notes and information can be shared between staff and parents. These are checked and responded to by Foundation Staff every day. Each child also has an online 'Learning Journey'. Staff regularly makes observations of your child's learning and plan next steps from these. Parents will be invited to access Learning Journeys by email. There are Parent's Evenings during the year and an Annual Report is sent home at the end of the school year.

Parent Workshops

We run parent workshops throughout the year. You will be invited to a variety of workshops focussed on aspects of the EYFS, these will help us work in partnership to support your child. Dates of these will be sent in advance.

Special Educational Needs

At Pinner Wood we are proud of our emphasis on the success of every individual child. In the Foundation Stage our children are in an environment which enables them to work to their individual ability level. Where additional needs are identified, in certain circumstances, additional support may be given.

In line with our SEN Policy, there are special curricular arrangements for children who are above average in ability or who experience learning difficulties. These children are identified through class teacher assessment, formal testing and existing records from other sources. They receive appropriate teaching to enable them to work to their individual ability level.

The following strategies may be used:

- additional support in the classroom
- withdrawal individually or in a group
- the implementation of support services from the LEA

Parents are consulted and kept fully informed at all times.

Charging for Outings/Visits

Under the Education Act, if we are to offer educational outings/visits during school hours we are unable to make a compulsory charge. However, the school budget is not always able to cover such expenditure, so we ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost. No child will be excluded because of inability to pay, but if funds are lacking such outings/visits may have to be cancelled.

Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn for health and safety reasons. If your child has pierced ears they may only wear stud earrings. However, they have to be able to remove these themselves for P.E. lessons. If they are unable to do so, they should not wear any earrings at all on P.E. days.

Breakfast and After School Club

Pinner Wood Club provides out of school care for pupils from the School from Reception upwards. It is set in its own self contained unit and provides care and activities under the supervision of fully trained staff. For further details, please contact the school office. There is usually a waiting list for places.

Road Safety and Parking

If you come by car, please note that there is a one-way system along Latimer Gardens in which traffic enters from Pinner Hill Road and exit by Albury Drive. Please be considerate when parking along Latimer Gardens and do not block the right of way for residents or other through traffic. Please do not park in the staff car park without prior arrangement. Please do not walk through the staff car park with your child.

Friends of Pinner Wood

This Association is a very active group within Pinner Wood School. It organises a selection of activities throughout the year including Christmas and Summer Fairs, social evenings and children's discos. Please come to our events and offer to help when you can.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The school holds all information about your child securely and appropriate safeguards are in place to make the school GDPR compliant. The schools privacy notice and data protection policy can be accessed via the Pinner Wood website.

Keeping in touch

Further information and policies can be found on our website:

<https://pinnerwood.harrow.sch.uk/>

or follow us on twitter @Pinnerwoods