



Werrington Primary School





Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Werrington Primary School

On behalf of the staff and Governors I am very pleased to be able to welcome you to our Werrington family.

For your child, this is a new and exciting experience. It is important to us that all the children become comfortable and confident in their new environment. By the time they start school they will have had the opportunity to join us in school for “Move up day”, as well as a home visit or a visit to their nursery or childcare provider.

Your child starting school is a special experience for you all, it is a new chapter of your child's life and the beginning of an important learning journey. Your partnership with us is valued and I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you and your child.

As you prepare for September, we know that you will have lots of questions. We hope that this information pack will answer some of your initial questions, in September you will have additional opportunities to meet with staff and learn more about school and how to help your children.

If you find that there is still information you need to help you prepare for September, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Caroline Prince
Headteacher

‘Together we succeed.’
To inspire confident learners who will
thrive in a changing world.

Our vision is to instil in pupils a passionate commitment to learning, preparing them to be happy, productive, responsible, ethical, creative and compassionate members of society.

Together, we will equip pupils with the mindset and skills to thrive. We will create a culture of mutual respect and acceptance where children are ready to move onto their next stage of learning having mastered the knowledge, skills and values to achieve their dreams.

Our school strives to be the heartbeat of the local community, fostering positive and effective links with all stakeholders and partners.





To all our pupils,

Every day at Werrington Primary School we are working hard to make sure that you will:

- have every opportunity to become successful learners who enjoy being challenged in your thinking and are willing to take risks in your learning.
- know what it feels like to be good at something and have achieved your very best.
- understand just how incredible you are, believe in yourself and have confidence and resilience to follow your dreams.
- have known friendship and learned how to get along well with other people.
- work and play in an environment where everyone is valued and respected.
- know how to keep a healthy body and a healthy mind.
- feel part of your community, proud of your school and inspired to make a difference.

Engaging Lessons, Exceptional learning

"Our teachers expect us to work hard and challenge ourselves. We believe in ourselves and have fun"

Year 6 child.

Our staff are committed to raising standards and providing the best possible education for our pupils. We ensure relevant and challenging learning experiences for all pupils. The staff are united in this common approach and work hard to establish an ethos of ongoing rigorous development for all learners

At Werrington we strive to create an environment where children can develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and morally. An environment where children are immersed in high quality texts and speech so that they learn to communicate well. Our 'Werrington Way' sets out the highest of expectations for our children. Children are expected to work hard as well as have fun.



The Werrington Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to suit the age, interests and abilities of every child. Continuity from year-to-year ensures that children meet new challenges as they progress through our school.

Our Werrington curriculum is designed to meet the needs of our school community. We have six unique 'golden threads' that run through our curriculum – Equality, Innovation, Conflict, Sustainability, Community and Migration. These threads connect our curriculum to the needs of our children.

*"I want to be a scientist or an archaeologist.
I'm learning about science and exploring ancient
Greece."*

Year 4 child



Reading and Oracy

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum.

Visits from authors are looked forward to by children and class stories and 'reading out loud' are an essential part of everyday life at Werrington.

Children are immersed in high quality vocabulary and are supported in developing oracy skills so that they can hold authentic conversations with a range of different audiences.

"I really like it when my teacher reads to us and I love reading at home to my Mummy and Daddy."

Year 1 child





The Great Outdoors

Our school provides an outstanding environment for our pupils to learn and prosper. Within our extensive grounds, we have our own environmental area, sensory garden, wildlife area, forest school area and pond.

Our Forest School provision ensures that all children experience the joys of learning about nature and the natural world.

In addition to the sustainable and environmental aspects in our outdoors, we also benefit from a range of other areas. Our children have access to football pitches, netball courts, MUGA, outdoor gym, climbing wall, 'trim trails' and large climbing frames.

"I love this school, I think it is phenomenal, exciting and spectacular."

Year 3 child

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We believe that pupils' wellbeing is core to our work. A happy child achieves more. We endeavour to promote good communication skills to enhance wellbeing and support good Mental Health.

We have a Wellbeing and Inclusion team who work with children and families across the school. Pupils may work with the team individually, in pairs or groups.

We have regular meetings about welfare and parents should inform the school at the earliest opportunity if their child needs support at home or school.

"I feel safe and happy at school. I've got lots of friends and grown-ups that I can talk to if I'm sad"
Year 2 child.



Experiences Beyond the Classroom

Memories of school educational trips are among the most prominent of the formative years, largely because it is a time when pupils and teachers are able to explore the curriculum in a way that is not always possible on the school site. While their purpose is essentially to educate, they can also be a fun bonding experience for everyone involved.

In addition to day trips, we also offer pupils the opportunity to experience at least one residential visit. These visits provide many opportunities to try new things, develop teamwork skills and to enhance independence.

“The school is great because of the trips, the friends, the teachers and the learning.”
Year 5 child.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Our Early Years department offers high quality provision, staffed by qualified teachers and early years practitioners.

Well-planned play ensures children learn with enjoyment and challenge, both within our vibrant indoor and outdoor learning environments.

“Werrington doesn’t just help our children learn, they also teach them how to be resilient, strong and happy.”

Parent

“I love school. My teachers are lovely and happy”

Reception child.

Our EYFS curriculum is planned and resourced to take children’s learning forward and to provide opportunities for all children to succeed in an atmosphere of care and of feeling valued.

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage is designed to ignite children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and to build their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.



Preparing to start school

Uniform

What a child wears to school reflects their learning. It also portrays the school's ethos and shared positive values. We have a smart but simple uniform that we encourage all pupils to wear. Items of uniform with the school logo can be purchased from 'Just For Kids' on Washerwall Lane. Alternatively, plain items in the correct colours may also be worn.

Uniform requirements:

Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, a white polo shirt or white shirt and grey trousers or skirt, at warmer times, grey shorts or a blue and white checked school dress may be worn.

PE – navy blue shorts or jogging bottoms, white T shirt, navy blue hoody or jumper and trainers.

On PE days your child can come into school wearing their PE kit – your child's teacher will inform you of when this is.

All items of uniform must be clearly named.

Children are asked to wear sensible black shoes. Jewellery, other than watches, is not permitted and only one ear piercing with either a stud or sleeper style earring is allowed. No earrings are allowed on PE days, children should take them out for the day or be able to remove them independently before the lesson.



Routines

It is important to establish a routine for school days. Please encourage your child to be as independent as possible.

Arriving at school on time is key as this helps your child start their day with confidence. Our doors open at 8:45 a.m. and staff are on hand to welcome the children at the door.

Making time after school to listen to your child tell you about the events of the day helps to develop their speaking and listening skills.

Your child will be tired so plenty of sleep will help them prepare for the next day.



A group of five young children, three boys and two girls, are standing on a wooden play structure. They are all wearing dark blue school uniforms with white collars. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The play structure is made of light-colored wood and has green ropes attached to it.

Things you can do at home

Our experienced staff are on hand at all times to help your child, here are a few things that you can do at home to support your child to develop their independence as they prepare to start school.

- ✓ Recognise their own name in print
- ✓ Listen when being spoken to
- ✓ Know when and how to use a tissue
- ✓ Wash and dry their hands
- ✓ Know when to ask to go to the toilet and be able to use it properly and flush afterwards
- ✓ Put on their coat and zip it up
- ✓ Change out of shoes and in to wellies
- ✓ Carry out simple instructions, e.g. put this book back please
- ✓ Open their own water bottle and lunchbox
- ✓ Use a knife and fork
- ✓ Draw freely with pencils and crayons
- ✓ Play amicably, share toys and show consideration towards others

The Importance of Early Reading

Early reading is of vital importance in promoting progress in all other areas of learning.

Your child will start their reading journey by learning the phonetic sounds that letters make or 'phonics'. We use a scheme called 'Phonics Bug Club' and your child's first books will be wordless picture books to help encourage a love of reading and develop the language needed for storytelling.

These books form an important part of the reading process; wordless books promote more discussion than books with words, which leads to children having a better understanding or 'comprehension' of what they read.

A child who reads at home for 5 minutes per day will read 282,000 words per school year, but a child who reads at home for 20 minutes per day will read 1,800,000 words per school year. The more you read with your child, the better vocabulary they will have.

How you can help:

- ✓ Share a story with your child every day
- ✓ Encourage your child to read their reading book every day
- ✓ Bring your child's book bag to school every day
- ✓ Play lots of listening and early reading games with your child



The school day and staying in touch

Our doors open at 8:45 a.m. and our day finishes at 3:20 p.m. All children will have breaks during the morning and over lunchtime.

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with fruit to eat at morning break as part of the National Fruit Scheme. Children in years 3 and above can bring a healthy snack to eat at break time.

Lunches are eaten in the dining hall; these can be a healthy packed lunch from home (no nuts), or a meal prepared by our on-site catering team. All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to 'Universal Free School Meals' which means there is no charge for having a school meal.

We use an app called 'Class Dojo' to communicate with parents, we also regularly share information via our website and via our social media channels on Twitter and Facebook.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office to inform them, there is an option to leave a message on our absence line when you call 01782 980010.



What to bring to school every day

- ✓ Bookbag
- ✓ Coat
- ✓ Clearly named water bottle containing only water



Behaviour and relationships

Werrington Primary School is committed to creating an environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. At Werrington, we define 'behaviour' as the 'habits that help you to flourish in life'. We believe that good habits and behaviour must be taught and modelled. Our Werrington Way curriculum supports pupils to grow into adults who are polite, respectful, grateful and who put others before themselves. As pupils practise these behaviours over time, they become habits that positively shape how they feel about themselves and how other people perceive them.

The Werrington Way

Be respectful

Try our best

Keep ourselves and others safe



Potteries Educational Trust

The Potteries Educational Trust is a vibrant Learning Community working hard in the areas that we serve to maintain and develop excellent and innovative teaching and learning.

Our focus is to provide the very best education for every child and young person within the Trust, offering a high quality, broad, academic education for the children and young people of Stoke-on-Trent, North Staffordshire and beyond

We will deliver high-quality parental engagement, pastoral support and the pooling of resources and expertise to achieve an outstanding learning experience and outcomes for all our children and young people



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