



# AM Nursery Handbook

## 2021-2022



# MORE THAN A SCHOOL



# Welcome

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Smith's Wood Primary Academy.

The early years are some of the most important and formative for a child. They should be happy, exciting and fulfilling. Together, we aim to provide an environment in which all children will develop independent, caring and confident personalities, aware of their own abilities and talents. We will provide an education of the highest quality, by providing children with inspirational and memorable learning experiences. We have a track record in ensuring all children make rapid progress. As parents and carers, you are a vital part of that, and we hope that you too, will enjoy and benefit from your years as a member of our school community.

We are really pleased that you have chosen to send your child to our Nursery setting and we hope that this will be the start of getting to know your child throughout their primary school life. However, I do need to make clear that attending our Nursery does not automatically guarantee a Reception school place in the following year, nor does attending our Nursery give any advantage when applying for a Reception place. You will need to apply for a Reception place through the local authority of where you live; you will receive a letter about this directly to your home address and as a school we do not make the decisions as to who is offered a school place.

We hope you find this pack helpful and informative, within this pack you will find key forms that will need to be returned to the school office by July 12th 2021 (data checking sheet/early years pupil premium form). We will also need to see a copy of your child's birth certificate. Unfortunately, failure to return these forms by July 12th will mean that your child cannot start with us in September, until they have been returned.

As well as developing your child's academic ability in Nursery, we also place high importance of developing their sense of self and character. Our core school values are now embedded into all that we do at Smith's Wood Academy so that we can nurture pupils to be prepared and ready to flourish in tomorrow's society.

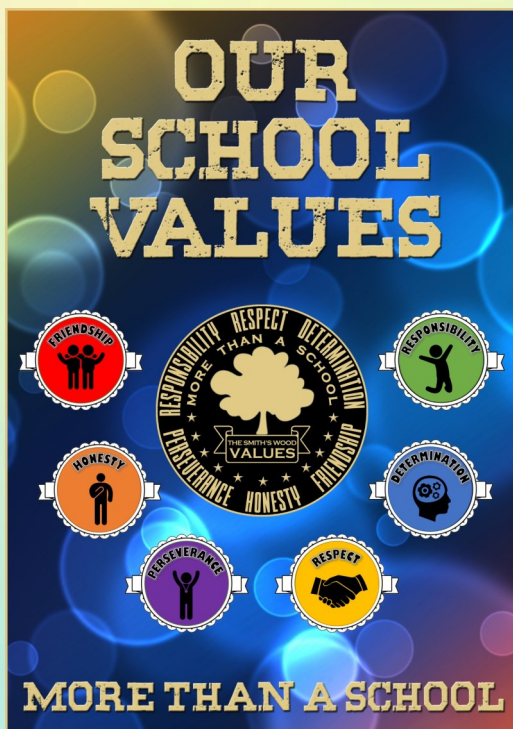
In order to support your child to transition into Nursery, we offer a short stay and play session, as well as settling in sessions, where your child will be able to meet the Nursery team and some of the children in their class in smaller groups. This information will be shared with you, when you attend the short induction meeting in May (details have been emailed to you with a specific date to attend). I can confirm that transition for all Nursery pupils will begin on Friday 3rd September. Please also check our school website (<https://www.smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk/>) to see a video of our Nursery area and/or join our private facebook group (Smith's Wood Primary Academy) for further updates and information.

If you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

We look forward to working with you.

Miss Amy Price

**EYFS Lead**



# Curriculum

Your child will be working within the Early Years Foundation Stage. The curriculum is broken into two key areas :

## **Prime areas**

- ◇ Communications and language
- ◇ Physical development
- ◇ Personal, social and emotional development

## **Specific areas of learning**

- ◇ Literacy
- ◇ Mathematics
- ◇ Understanding the World
- ◇ Expressive art and design



Underpinning the EYFS curriculum is the principle that each child is unique and has the opportunity to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments. This also contributes to the Characteristics of Effective learning, where we will develop these fundamental principles:

## **Playing and Exploring**

Children learn through being inquisitive and willing 'to have a go', they will play with what they know as well as exploring and finding out new ways to learn. They are encouraged to work with others as well as independently.

## **Active Learning**

Children develop resilience to keep on trying and to enjoy achieving what they have set out to do. They will be involved in their learning and develop their concentration to achieve.

## **Creating and Thinking Critically**

Children are encouraged to develop their own ideas and to choose ways to do things, as well as making links between their ideas and observations. This will in turn build their self esteem and confidence.

We plan activities to meet the needs of the children based around weekly themes that take into account their interests. They will learn through a mixture of adult led learning focuses as well as through child initiated play that is carefully planned to meet all areas of the EYFS curriculum. As part of the daily structure, they will also begin to explore phonic sounds and begin to develop early reading skills.



# The Nursery Day

## **AM Nursery session times are 8.30am—11.30am**

You will need to access the school site via the gates on the school playground or the carpark. From there you will walk down the 'yellow brick road', past the KS2 MU-GA, towards the Nursery building. We politely ask that you form a queue along the yellow brick road in front of the Nursery outdoor area. The teacher will then greet the children at the Nursery door one by one, and to promote their independence, the children will walk into the Nursery classroom by themselves, no parents are permitted to enter the Nursery building.



At the end of the session (11:30am) your child will need to be picked up via the Eagle grove entrance. We ask that you form a queue by this gate and the children will then be released one by one. We will not be able to send your child home with anyone we do not know, or have not been told about previously (*please be aware that anyone collecting your child must be aged 16 or over*). Please be patient at this time as we learn to match parents/ carers to children. It is important we release the children safely.

**Please be prompt in collecting your child. We are only permitted to have the gate open for a limited time. After 11:35am your child will be considered a 'late pick up' and you will need to collect your child from the main school office.**

Please see our school website (<https://www.smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk/> - under 'parents' tab) to watch a video of how to access the school site and the Nursery building.

## **During the Day**

All children learn in a free flow environment where they access the outside area throughout the day. Please ensure that your child attends school with suitable clothing (hat, gloves, water-proof coat, sun hat etc) to suit the weather so that they are prepared for outside learning.

Clothes and shoes need to be:

- Practical and sensible
- Easy to remove when going to the toilet
- Have fastenings that encourage independence (no braces, belts, buckles or laces)
- Be suitable for messy and vigorous activities



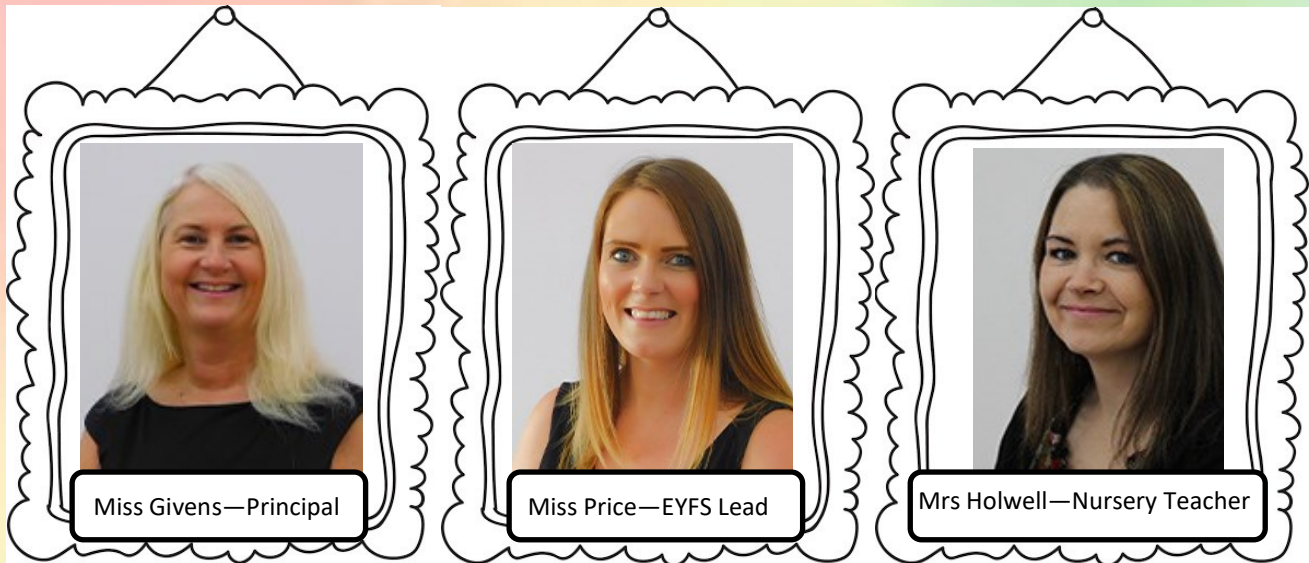
We expect all children in Nursery to wear full school uniform as we are a uniform school, included within this pack are our uniform expectations. We provide aprons to protect clothing when children are painting or playing in water.

Children will be given milk and a piece of fruit to have as a healthy snack each day. Water will also be available throughout the session and we ask that all children attend school with their own named water bottle; this can also be refilled throughout the session, if needed.

Children will also visit the main school building throughout the week to access the school library and to have PE in the main hall.



## Meet the adults your child will get to know in school



At Smith's Wood Primary Academy we believe that early education is important in a child's development and for fostering a life long love of learning. In Nursery, we ensure your child is taught all the key skills throughout the year, that is needed to begin their Reception year as well as nurturing their character and independence. As well your child's nursery teacher there will be additional adults that work alongside your child and who your child will become familiar with. Within this pack, there is additional information about our inclusion team, should you have any concerns regarding your child.

Education is a partnership between children, parents and staff. The Nursery team are always available to talk to parents after the session for a quick informal chat if information needs to be shared. However, we ask that you do not ask to speak to your child's nursery teacher at the start of the session, unless you need to share important information about your child, as the teacher will need to be in the classroom settling the children to start the day promptly. Alternatively you can email or ring the school office ([48office@smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:48office@smithswoodpri.solihull.sch.uk) / 0121 779 8050) and the information will be passed to your child's nursery teacher. We ask that you let us know when something important or exciting is happening in your child's life so that we can celebrate it and discuss it in Nursery.

In the unfortunate event you have a concern or a complaint, please make an appointment to speak to the EYFS Lead (Miss Price) in line with our complaint policy.

We really appreciate how important parental involvement is in a child's educational journey and over the year we will invite you to take part in workshops and watch your child in performances. We understand that you know your child best, and we feel that good communication between Nursery and home is very important. It is our aim that your child feels understood and cared for at Nursery and we ask that you fill in the 'getting to know you' sheet that your child will bring home with them when they start Nursery.



# Key Information

## Nursery Fund

Each week we ask parents to contribute 50p to the Nursery Fund. This enables us to provide a broader curriculum and supplement the financial support we receive from the Government. We would be extremely grateful if you could please let us have your contribution every Monday; it would be appreciated if you could please send it in an envelope, with your child's name written on it. Alternatively you may prefer to contribute half termly. We hope that everyone will support the Nursery Fund but no child will be excluded from any activity because of a parent's inability to pay. *All money received directly benefits your child.*

These contributions will support:

- Food tasting
- Cookery ingredients
- Extra resources, such as books, equipment and craft materials
- Playdough ingredients
- Outdoor equipment
- Malleable resources



## Absence

Please let us know if your child is ill, or unable to attend school by phoning the school office in the morning. Failure to inform the school, will result in a phone call and/or home visit.

## Medicine

Please make sure that staff are aware of any medical problems/ allergies. We administer prescription medicine when a consent form has been signed by parent/ carer. In sunny weather we ask that you apply sun cream before they come to school.

## Trips

We hope to take your child out on a farm trip during the Summer term, to celebrate them finishing their Nursery year, we will ask you to sign a permission slip, in order to allow us to take your child out.

## Photographs

Photographs/ video images of the children boost self- esteem and are a really good way to show what we have been learning. We will ask for your consent to display them on the school website and our private Facebook page.

## Safety

Jewellery can be dangerous and should not be worn. If your child has pierced ears then studs only are acceptable. Long hair should be tied back please.

***Please also name all your child's clothing and footwear.***

Whilst we will do our best to take care of your child's belongings, staff cannot be responsible for any lost items. Children often have the same brands of clothing and without them being named it can be very confusing what belongs to which child.

# Preparing your child for school

Before your child starts Nursery, it would be beneficial that they have learnt some key skills that will enable them to become confident and independent learners. The use of dummies for Nursery school aged children is strongly discouraged and they will not be allowed to use them in Nursery. We would encourage that if your child still has use of a dummy, that you begin to take this away as it impairs their speech and language development.

We would also ask that your child is toilet trained when they attend Nursery, we understand that children develop at different times and some may still be learning to use the toilet when they attend with us. Please do not worry about this, our Nursery team is highly skilled in supporting your child to feel comfortable in using the toilet and will work with you if your child is still transitioning from being in nappies. We know that toileting accidents can happen, so please send your child in with a spare change of clothes.

Here are a few things you can begin to work on with your child to get ready for Nursery. Remember all children are different and will learn different skills at different times.

Be able to get dressed, put shoes and socks on and do up coat.



Look at books together

Encourage their social skills by being able to share and take turns. To be confident to ask for help when needed and be able to listen and respond to others.



Be able to go to the toilet independently and wash hands correctly.



Count objects around the home.

# MORE THAN A SCHOOL

## A WARM WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD PRIMARY ACADEMY

On behalf of Smith's Wood Primary Academy, I would like to welcome you to our school- we are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to our Nursery in September.

Our school is a large, 2 form entry school, which was graded Outstanding in 2017. We take a lot of pride in our school, setting high standards in everything we deliver.

Teaching and Learning at Smith's Wood Primary Academy is outstanding; we have a team of extremely dedicated staff, who will work with your child to ensure they make rapid progress and achieve high standards in their learning. Whether it be work, uniform, or behaviour, the standards at Smith's Wood are outstanding and we ask that all parents share this belief in high standards with us.

Smith's Wood Primary Academy has achieved standards in excess of the National expectation for many years and academic achievement has a high level of importance at this school. We will work tirelessly with your child to ensure that they reach their academic potential. Coupled with academic standards, we also ensure that pupils at Smith's Wood primary have opportunities which set us apart from other schools. The motto 'More than a School' is one which we believe in and we will ensure that your child is consistently offered opportunities which reflect this motto.

Regular attendance is extremely important and we make no apologies for the high expectations we place on pupils attending regularly. We will guarantee parents, that if they commit to their child attending regularly, then their child will make rapid progress in this school. National attendance is 96% and this is the standard which we strive to exceed every year. For your child to achieve 96% attendance, or above, then they must have no more than 7 days off per year.

Behaviour expectations in our school are high and this applies to all pupils. There are clear routines, rewards and consequences and all pupils are expected to work within these boundaries. For any pupils, who may experience some challenging behaviour, there are support mechanisms in place and our extensive inclusion team will offer support where required, however all pupils are still expected to follow the school rules.

We also ask that parents are respectful of the school and other adults on the school site. If there are any concerns, or issues, there are clear procedures for dealing with these. A senior member of staff is available on the playground each morning for any questions, or queries. Whilst we understand that social media is a popular way of communicating, we would request that parents discuss any issues they have with the school and avoid sharing their concerns on a social media platform.

If any parent or carer has any questions about the school, at any point, then please feel free to ring or email the school office and a senior member of staff will be more than happy to discuss any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming your child to our school in September.

*Miss Danielle Givens*

*Principal*





# SCHOOL UNIFORM

Smith's Wood Primary Academy is a "uniform" school and we expect that all children, from Nursery to Year 6, wear uniform in school.

Uniform ensures that all of the children are dressed smartly and sets a good standard for the pupil and the school. We also believe that uniform wears well, costs less than fashion wear and contributes to a feeling of belonging to the school community.

The school and the governing body are committed to high standards of uniform throughout the school and for children joining our school, we expect that they wear full school uniform each day.

## Uniform at Smith's Wood Primary Academy consists of:

**Red sweatshirt / cardigan (plain red or with school logo)**

**White polo shirt**

**Black / dark grey trousers**

**Black / dark grey skirt / pinafore dress**

**Red /white checked dress**

**Tights may be worn (red, white, black or grey)**

**Black shoes (trainers will not be permitted)**

**Please note that trainers should not be worn in the school, except for during PE activities.** If a child turns up to school wearing trainers, then the school will issue them with a pair of safe and sturdy plimsolls.

## PE kit

**Red T shirt, black shorts, black jogging bottoms in the winter**

A school badge, for your child's uniform is available from the school office at a cost of £2. It can also be purchased from PBS Sports (B37 6QQ tel.0121 770 8000). Please be aware that the school does not sell uniform directly. PBS has an online shop, where the Smith's Wood uniform can be purchased. The online shop can be found at <https://www.pbsonline.co.uk/>

It is not necessary to wear uniform with the badge; a plain red jumper or sweatshirt is fine, but we encourage pupils to wear the badge wherever they can.

No jewellery except for watches and stud earrings are permitted to be worn.

All jewellery must be removed by children prior to PE lessons for safety reasons.



# CHALLENGE, SUPPORT, PROGRESS

# SEND & INCLUSION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Smith's Wood Primary Academy!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself - I am the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in school, and I work alongside Miss. Owen who is the Deputy SENCO.



**Mrs. Taylor**



**Miss. Owen**



We have an established inclusion support team at Smith's Wood Primary Academy to look after the social, emotional and mental health needs of our students, as well as the academic needs. We will work with you to ensure that your child can reach their potential here at school through a graduated approach in accordance with the SEND Code of Practice:

## **Mr. Hobbis – Head of Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes**



Mr. Hobbis supports children in a positive way to make good behavioural choices and engage with a whole host of extended opportunities in school.

Our inclusion team are here to support you and your child, so please get in contact with one of us if you have any concerns, or if you already know that your child has additional needs. The earlier we know, the earlier we can support you.

## **Our Inclusion Team:**

### **Child and Family Support Workers**

Paula and Laverne can help with any concerns you have or support you may need as a whole family.



### **Therapists**

Chris is trained in play therapy and works on a one to one basis with children to help with a wide range of social, emotional and mental health needs. Miss. Wilson is a trained school counsellor and mental health first aider.



### **Speech and Language Therapists**

Adrienne works part time in school to help ensure children with Speech and Language needs are identified early and receive appropriate support. Mrs Thornton further supports with one to one speech and language sessions.



# SEND & INCLUSION

## What you can do now to help?

- Please contact me, or one of the Child and Family Support Workers if you know already that you or your child may have additional needs.
- Please sign the consent form for the Speech and Language Therapist, so that if appropriate, she can work with your child.
- Please sign the consent form for your child to be assessed on a one to one basis by the SENCO, if it is appropriate.



I look forward to welcoming your child into our school and to working with you to support him or her.

Best Wishes,

Mia Taylor (SENCO)

