

# Frequently asked questions for new parents

## **What are the benefits of coming to Winford Church of England Primary School?**

We are a village school with all of the advantages that come with it, we are small enough to know every child and care for them, there is a wonderful sense of community and as a Church of England school, we are underpinned by 12 Christian values which will shape children for life, whether they adopt a religious view or not. Our school vision is **Winford School- where children flourish**. This means that everything we do, we hope that it will enable all children to flourish, whether that is academically, socially, personally or spiritually. We are genuinely interested in developing the whole child.

## **Will I get a place if I don't live in Winford?**

We take 30 children per year, predominantly from Winford, Felton and Regil. We are never able to guarantee a place, as North Somerset, our admissions provider uses a set of criteria to determine each place allocated. However, each year numbers can fluctuate so some cohorts do accommodate children from other areas such as Backwell, Redhill and Dundry.

## **How many classes are in the school?**

We have 7 classes, which is one class per year group. Infant classes have a maximum of 30 children per class and in the juniors, this can increase although we prefer to keep as near to 30 as possible.

## **What are the timings of the day?**

During normal times, school operates from 8:40-3:00. Some year groups currently have staggered timings owing to COVID-19

## **Is there breakfast / after school provision?**

Yes! We run a popular breakfast club from 7:30 in the morning which runs until school time. We then start after school club at 3:00 – 6:00. Both clubs offer food, drink and a variety of activities. The club is operated by the school and so the staff that run it are very familiar to the children. We do encourage pre-booking to guarantee places.

## **What extra curricular activity do you do?**

Throughout the school there are a number of clubs that run. These change throughout the year but as an example, we have cricket club, football club, netball club, tennis club, fencing club, Spanish club plus canine education and training. Some of these clubs are payable and some are offered free of charge. Some are only available to specific year groups only.

To complement our very popular football club, we take part in many tournaments. We have seen much success, becoming county champions twice, reaching regional finals a number of times plus one year we reached the national finals at a premier team pitch!

In addition to this, as an extra curricular offer, we take our Year 5 children on a short camp annually and our Year 6s on a week-long camp. This is always the highlight of their year as so many skills are learnt and fun had!

## **What about food and drink?**

For infants up to the age of 5, a drink of milk is offered daily. After this age, you are able to continue buying it should you wish. All infants are able to have a piece of fruit provided by the government 5-a-day scheme and after this age, we encourage a healthy snack to be brought in to school. Again, all infants are able to have a hot lunch provided for free and these can be ordered for your child online. After this, lunches are able to be bought, or if you prefer you can provide a packed lunch for your child in any year group.

We always encourage water to be drunk during the day so most children bring in filled water bottle, which can be refilled if necessary.

## **I have heard that you have a school dog?**

We have an educational assistance dog named Fernie who comes to school with the Headteacher on selected days. He has embarked on a three year training journey to certify him with the help of the charity Dogs Helping Kids. Other days, we are joined instead by Tango who is a much younger dog who is following the same journey. Both dogs are Labradors (One chocolate coloured and one Red-fox), are fully risk assessed, independently verified and are often seen with around the school on a lead with the Headteacher. Apart from children gaining lots of knowledge about how to respect dogs and how to be with them, some children have sessions with the dogs as a reading aid, therapy or to learn about positive reward based training methods. Apart from that, we just love having a dog in school!



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## **Can I access school transport?**

A number of children come to school on a school bus. This service is provided by North Somerset School Transport and generally it serves those children living in more remote areas. The transport team have a set of criteria that must be met in order to use the service, so if you require more information, please contact North Somerset Council and ask for school transport.

## **What is the uniform?**

Our school uniform is grey or black trousers / shorts / dress / skirt on the bottom half, along with a polo shirt in white or red on the top. Red sweaters are also worn in the colder months. Logo-embroidered polo shirts and jumpers can be purchased online, but we do not insist on this. We also request sensible school shoes to be worn.

For PE, children wear shorts / joggers plus a t-shirt in the colour of their house team. Again, a logo-embroidered version is available but not compulsory.

## **How do you care pastorally?**

Our school is based around care, mutual respect and the building of fair and solid relationships between adults and children. This means that there is a great pastoral ethos as we are all 'looking out' for each other. Each class has daily support from a teaching assistant so in the first instance, if a child needs some emotional or pastoral support, then the teaching assistant can fulfil this role while the teacher is teaching. If further intervention is necessary, we have a pastoral support with a qualification in therapeutic mentoring in school who offers sessions in either our nurture space called the rainbow room or our dedicated outdoor building called The Pod (peaceful outdoor den!). This of course can be further enhanced with the presence of a dog!

## **What do I need to do with my child before they start school in Reception?**

The best things that a child can start school with us is to be able to talk with some confidence, and have listened to lots and lots of stories! We love it when they can be independent and enjoy play with others. In terms of practical areas, being able to do up a zip, blow their nose and toilet independently is a bonus! Really, what we love is when children come to us who have had lots of experiences like muddy walks, using their imagination, drawing and seeing nature. There is no rush to do lots of formal learning before they start with us.

When children do start at Winford, you will receive a login for Tapestry which is where we record all of their learning in school online so that you can be part of their learning journey.

## **Are you part of an Academy Trust? What does that mean?**

In 2019 we opted to join the Lighthouse Schools Partnership. This is an Academy Trust with over 20 schools, in the areas of Portishead, Backwell and The Chew Valley. We work collaboratively with all of the other primaries to share best practice whilst maintaining the individual characters of our own schools.

## **What is your provision like?**

The original school was built in 1847 and this is now the village preschool. Behind this, we have a beautiful building which was built in 2010 along with an extension which was built in 2016. Within the school we enjoy wonderful spaces to teach PE, library, plus excellent IT provision and a number of both communal and group work spaces. Outside, we have a full size playground, a Multi-Use-Games-Area for outdoor sports, a large field plus a sizeable forest and pond area, which is used for forest school activity. It is a wonderful setting for children and staff alike!

**We are sure that there will be lots more questions you have while you look at options for your child's school. If there are any questions that you would like to ask or discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01275 472730 or email the school on [office@winford.n-somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@winford.n-somerset.sch.uk)**

***Winford School- where children flourish***

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

cooperation — happiness — forgiveness — hope — wisdom — peace — respect - determination — curiosity — honesty — trust — patience