

# Prospective Reception Class for September 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are you oversubscribed?**

We have had more than 30 applicants for the 30 spaces for the last two years. The number of applicants has continued to grow for the last 4-5 years.

### **What is the catchment area?**

Last year it was just over half a mile. However, the exact distance can change each year as it is dependent on how many spaces are left after siblings and other admissions criteria (see Haringey's admissions criteria on the Haringey website). If there are 25 spaces left, they will be offered to the closest 25 applicants who have put West Green as their preferred choice.



### **How many siblings are you expecting next year?**

It is a little early to know exactly just yet, but we average around 4-8 siblings each year.

### **How are the new Reception children settled into school when they first start?**

We believe that starting Reception class is a really important time in a child's education, it is the first step of the next 14 years of their life and we do our best to make it a happy and comfortable time. We admit our new Reception children into school shortly after the rest of the school and in small groups, usually 10 at a time, each new group starting over three consecutive weeks. (This year, due to CV-19 we have had to reduce the group size to 5 admitting a new group twice in a week). For the first three days the children stay until 12 noon, then they stay for lunch until 12:40pm for 2 days. Lastly, if they are settling well, they stay full time from day 6 onwards.

We have found that even children who have been in full time childcare previously can sometimes find the transition to school daunting. As such, we are committed to the gradual start outlined above and we make sure that we liaise with you to get it right for your child.



### **Do the children learn through play?**

Yes! We follow the Early Years' Curriculum which is largely a play-based curriculum. As your child moves through the Reception year, we slowly introduce elements of more formal education as your child is ready developmentally. However, all of our children will continue to learn through play, both indoors and outside across the Reception year.

### How do the Reception team liaise with parents/carers?

During their Reception year, you will usually drop off and collect your children directly from the Reception class. This means that you get to see and speak with the Reception team and your child's key worker on a regular basis. In addition, the developmental progress of our Reception children is shared with you via an online programme called Tapestry. This is like an online journal recording photos, observations and achievements of your child to which both home and school can contribute across the year. As well as these, there are the usual parent/carer evenings, parent/carer workshops, newsletters, texts and emails, the website, paper letters and yearly reports that will occur throughout your child's time with us at West Green.

Please note, drop-off and collection are operating differently this year due to the safety measures we have in place around CV-19 – as such, school staff are utilising phone calls, emails and zoom meetings more.

### Do you offer breakfast club and after school club? Do these include Reception?

We have our own in-house breakfast club which runs in the school hall each morning from 8am open to all year groups, including Reception (once they are settled at school).

We operate two types of after school club;

We offer a care-based club which runs from the end of the school day until 6pm which is also open to all year groups. This provision is run by EnergyKidz and all bookings are made through them (you can check

out their website at <https://www.energy-kidz.co.uk/breakfast-and-after-school-clubs/west-green-primary-school/>)

Currently both of these clubs can meet demand and have room to grow.

Finally, we also offer in-house activity based after school clubs for one hour until 4:30pm.

These are open to Y1-Y6 and are booked on a first come first served basis each term.

These clubs are usually run by our staff and cover areas such as sports clubs, drumming club, keyboards, art club, drama club, book club, maths club, coding club, film club, cooking club, craft club, sewing club etc... (Currently these are on hold due to CV-19 until we work out how to run these safely)



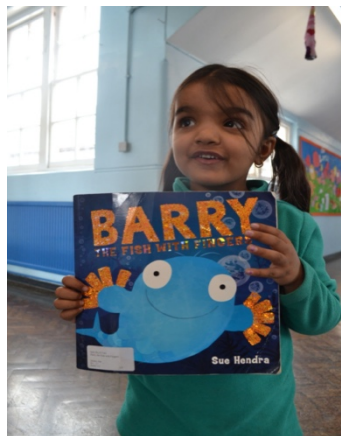
### What is your behaviour policy? How do you deal with bullying?

We have only two school rules – Work Hard and Be Kind. We believe this covers everything! Staff and children work together each year to understand what this looks like.

Like most schools, we run a positive behaviour policy – this means we try to praise children for their good choices in order to encourage them away from making poor choices. This works well in most

cases. However, occasionally more is needed – we work with all children each year to set and make clear behaviour expectations and the consequences of poor behaviour. These are followed through consistently and parents/carers are quickly engaged with to work together with the school if patterns of poor behaviour are beginning to emerge.

Really occasionally bullying can occur, but this is exceedingly rare. Where it does happen, staff work with all involved and their families to get to the root of the issue. We support all children (both bullied and the bully) to repair any damage and to move forward appropriately and happily. On the extremely few occasions I have encountered bullying, we have found a way to successfully resolve the situation.



### **What is your homework policy?**

Once your child has settled at school, they will begin to receive work they can complete at home. It is very informal in their younger years but becomes more formal as they move through the school with greater expectation on being completed as they move into KS2 (Year 3 upwards). Homework will always reflect and support what your child is learning at school. It is not expected to add stress nor strain to your time with your child. If your child is unable to understand and so complete their work, please do not worry or overly help them to do it. Just let the staff know, it is helpful for us to be aware of when a child has been able to do something in class but cannot recall it when they

get home. If you ever have any concerns regarding homework, please talk to your child's class teacher about it as a starting point. In addition, **reading** at home every day is ALWAYS expected as part of every child's homework.

### **What are the expectations for school uniform?**

We want our children to feel proud of their school and being a part of our West Green family. We believe our school uniform helps us to all feel that we belong together. We know that sometimes school uniforms can be expensive, or they can be uncomfortable for children to wear. As such we allow for a range of options to make the uniform affordable and so that your child can feel comfortable. For example children are expected to wear the appropriate West Green colours (the West Green jade green jumper/cardigan (ideally with the school badge), a white polo shirt and black or grey bottom half/pinafore or a green and white dress/shorts set in warmer weather), however they may choose to wear trousers, shorts, skirts, leggings or track suit bottoms etc in line with whichever they feel most comfortable in. There are a range of items displaying the school badge available such as PE T-shirts, fleeces, polo shirts, but most of these items are optional – please see the school website for more details.

### **Do you offer flexible schooling?**

No, this is not something we offer at West Green. The school week runs across 5 days and we strongly feel that attendance is very important for every school day.

### **Do you offer deferral of place offers for summer born children?**

Yes, we do offer this. It can happen in one of two ways;

You can delay your child's start up to, but not later than the start of the summer term during their usual Reception year – this means your child would not start Reception in September but would join their Reception class later in the year and no later than April when the summer term starts. This also means that your child would have a reduced number of terms in their Reception class. Ideally, they would still be receiving their early years' education in a nursery setting until they join us at school.

OR

You can defer your child's start at school to the following academic year – this means they would start Reception class a year later than usual and work through their schooling a year behind their chronological age.

If your child is summer born and you are interested in deferring their place, please let us know BEFORE you make your application and we will let you know what you need to include in your application to let the Haringey Admissions team know that this is your intention.



### Is the staff body fairly consistent?

Yes, generally it is. However, like any workplace, some staff members move on each year for career development or as their life circumstances change. Where new staff are welcomed, they are quickly inducted into the ethos and systems at West Green, supported by the rest of the staff body and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). The SLT has remained consistent for the last 3 years and there are no current plans for this to change.

### What is the school's vision/ethos?

We are a small, friendly school with a family feel. We welcome children and families from across the world and we feel this is a real strength of West Green – it gives us the opportunity to learn and grow together with true understanding, respect and celebration of how our different cultures, backgrounds, languages, experiences enrich all of our lives and make our world a better place. Of course, we are here to provide the best education we can offer and to ensure that our children have all they need to fulfil their potential as they journey into the secondary stage of their education and beyond. However, we believe it is also very important to not only prepare for the future, but to also be really happy in the present. We want all of our children to enjoy their childhood here and now!

### Still have more questions?

If you still have more questions, please get in touch and we will do our best to arrange a time to answer them. Tour dates can be found on the website and can be booked by calling or emailing the school office.

Alternatively, if you are unable to join us on a tour but wonder what Reception looks like please have a look at this video tour we recorded for our Reception children who joined us in September.

<https://youtu.be/DPQa54v32aY>



"Children Come First"  
West Green Primary School