

# The Windmill Parent Teacher Association New Parent's Guide

# **Welcome to Windmill Primary School!**

This guide has been organised by the Windmill Parent Teacher Association (WPTA) and has been written by parents, for parents. The idea for it came from realising that as the school grows, there are lots of the 'little' things about life at Windmill Primary School that are a bit of a mystery to parents new to the school. It can be difficult to know who to speak to when you have a question so the WPTA decided to pull together a guide of all the things we think you need to know.

The school is particularly keen to involve you in your child's learning, by letting parents know what is happening in class and supporting you to be able to help your child.

The teachers work hard to make learning interesting and relevant for the children. The school also aims to develop a really caring atmosphere, with older children being encouraged to help younger ones. All children are encouraged to take on some responsibility, appropriate for their age.

We hope your children will be very happy at Windmill Primary School.

NB 'Parent' has been used throughout the guide; but really we mean 'parent or carer'.

You are also now a part of the Windmill PTA, just by being part of the school!

#### **About this Guide**

The best way to get in touch with the WPTA is by e-mailing at WindmillPTA@gmail.com, please feel free to contact us with any questions or queries.

We hope this guide helps you and your child settle into the school and get involved with all the brilliant things going on at Windmill.

We also have a wonderful parent-to-parent sharing platform called Classlist, which you will hear more about. Everyone in the school is invited to join, and is a great way to share information between parents, ask general questions, or organize social events. Please go to <a href="https://www.classlist.com">www.classlist.com</a>, look up "windmill primary school" and join – you will be asked to input your child's name and add them to the Reception 2019/2020 group.

# The Windmill Parent Teacher Association (WPTA)

The WPTA gives a voice to all parents, carers and friends of children at the school. We organise social events and raise money to provide new facilities that benefit all the children at Windmill. Whilst some of our events are focused on fundraising, many of the things we plan are also a chance for children and/or parents to get together and have some fun!

The WPTA noticeboards at school will have information on what events we have planned and our fundraising targets. We will also regularly update Classlist, Facebook and the Windmill App with details of upcoming events.

Our events raise funds for resources and facilities that enrich the life of the school.

Examples of how we spend the money are:

- Books and furnishings for the school library
- Annual Pantomime
- Music resources
- New play apparatus
- New picnic tables
- iPads, kindles etc.

The WPTA's activities are only made possible by the enthusiasm of the volunteers involved in running them – we hope you can spare some time to help out.

The WPTA is also involved in several school community projects including; providing help and volunteer helpers for the Green Club gardening group, the 'Footsteps' road safety project and cycling proficiency training. We also arrange an appeal for local and international charities at Christmas.

If you would like to keep in touch with what's going on with the WPTA then please join our WPTA group on Classlist. This group is where we send our meeting agenda, add topic to be discussed (no matter or big or small) and also where we send the minutes of the meetings.

#### **WPTA** membership

All parents, carers and teachers whose children attend Windmill automatically become members of the WPTA.

The WPTA raise over £5,000 per year. Currently the WPTA has 5 trustees who have overall responsibility and accountability for the WPTA and must ensure the WPTA resources are used responsibly.

The 5 trustees were elected during the Assembly General Meeting (AGM), which was held in September 2018 as the first WPTA meeting of the academic year.

#### Currently the trustees are:

Tiph Bouriez-Jones WPTA Co-Chair Sara Khalid WPTA Co-Chair Sarah Floris WPTA Treasurer

Ellen Gersh WPTA Minutes secretary

Cathy Oliveira WPTA Communication secretary

The best way to get in touch is by emailing windmillpta@gmail.com.

#### **WPTA Meetings**

As everyone associated with Windmill is automatically a member of the WPTA, do come along to a meeting to have your say on what we do and how the money we raise is used.

We meet in the After School Club room near the beginning of each term (check the Classlist PTA group, the WPTA noticeboards in the school office or outside by the two side gates or in the weekly green newsletter for more details).

Minutes are sent out a couple of weeks or so after each meetings to all parents who are part of the Classlist PTA group.

#### When? What? Who?

 September New Parent's Coffee Morning: Parents of children who are joining Reception. This year this will take place on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September right after drop off, parents who already have children in Windmill will be there and able to answer any questions you have about Windmill.

October Autumn Fayre: The Autumn Fayre is the biggest fundraising event run by the school. Parents, children and the school all get involved in making this a brilliant, fun event for children and parents. Each class has a stall run by parents and there is food, drink, games and entertainment all provided by people within the school community. Everyone is welcome and it's a great opportunity for other family members to come to a school event.

Book the date! This event will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of October from 1pm-4pm

Each class runs a stall and we will need your help! Typically we ask parents for a 30 minute stint on their class stall, if you are able to help out with other bits (setting up, selling food, clearing up), the more the merrier!

- December Christmas Disco: Run by parents, this hugely popular disco is run in the hall with quiet activities, a tuck shop for children and a bar for the grown ups in 2 classrooms. Because of the noisy, busy environment, we suggest that it is for children who are already at the school. Whilst younger siblings are welcome, some of them may find it all a bit overwhelming!
- February Family Quiz and Pizza: The quiz is hosted by Mrs and Mr Knapp, it is an event for all the family with pizza slices and tuck shop available on the night. The event also relies on parents to shop for the pizza and tuck, to help set up, cook the food and help tidy up. There are question for everyone!
- March Curry and Quiz: This social event is hosted by parents and specifically aimed for the parents and carers at windmill (grown up only!), during the quiz, a curry is brought out for everyone to enjoy!
- June Ceilidh Dance: This event sees a band coming to the school so children and parents can have fun and dance! Everyone bring something to share and mid way through the event, we stop dancing to enjoy food, before we go off dancing again under the calling of the Melobo group! <a href="https://melobo.co.uk/">https://melobo.co.uk/</a>
- July Summer Disco and BBQ: This event is usually held in the playground, this is for the entire family, the "DJ-ing" is usually led by older children of the school and is such great fun! A great reward for the children at the end of a fully packed academic year at Windmill!

We also hold one-off events and new ideas are always welcome.

#### **Cake Sales**

Each class has an annual cake sale shared with another class. These are always held on a Friday after school and a schedule of when each sale will be held is decided at the start of each school year. The sales are a great way to meet other parents in the class and throughout the school.

The parents of the class provide all the cakes and all the money raised is split equally to both classes involved in the cake sale, and goes directly to benefit the children in those classes. The teachers always have wonderful ideas on resources they can buy with the money that is generated.

Previous cake sale money has funded special days out, workshops and games for the class.

Your class rep and class teacher will give you lots of notice of your class sale.

#### **WPTA Class Reps**

At the beginning of every school year, one or two reps (parents of children in the class) are appointed to represent each class. The role of the class rep is to help organise the class stall at the Autumn Fayre, to co-ordinate the class cake sale and perhaps a couple of class social events for parents through the school year. Being a class rep is a great way to get to know the other children and parents in your child's class – please do volunteer if you can.

# How the school works

#### Car Parking

There is no car parking facilities for parents or carers on the school site.

Please do not drive onto the school site to drop off or collect your child/children. This is extremely dangerous to children and families walking in and out of the school gates. If you need to drive your children to school please park safely and considerately; please do not park on any double-yellow lines.

#### **School Security**

The side entrances to the school are opened every morning and afternoon but locked throughout the day. Any visitor to the school outside of these times can only enter and exit the school via the school office where they will be asked to sign in and their identity is verified.

#### **Dogs**

Dogs (with the exception of Guide Dogs) should not be brought onto the school premises.

# **Wraparound Care Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club is run by the school from 7.30am in the after school club room. It is open to children from every year.

You are required to complete a registration document which can be downloaded from the website.

Email windmillbc@windmill.oxon.sch.uk, call 07521 847978 or see the school website for more information.

#### After School Club

The Windmill After School Care Club (WASCC) was set up to provide high quality, hassle-free childcare for working Windmill parents. However, although on school premises, the club remains independent of the school and is run by a committee.

The WASCC employs highly qualified, experienced play workers who are there to join in the fun and to make sure every child is happy and well looked after. Children can choose to create, draw, paint, stick, read or simply play with their friends.

Email <u>jlon1700@windmill.oxon.sch.uk</u> or see the school website for more information. Please be aware that places are limited and not all children can be accommodated.

Although we cannot endorse external clubs, another local afterschool club used by many children in Windmill is KidActive, which is run in Margaret Park Pavilion. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.kidactiveclubs.co.uk/">https://www.kidactiveclubs.co.uk/</a>.

#### **Policies:**

The school has a comprehensive list of policies, many of which can be viewed on the website or please ask at the office. Including a comprehensive first aid policy which covers the administering of prescription drugs to pupils is available online.

#### Lost property

The schools lost property is kept in the corridor between the Middle Playground and the school office. As there is very limited storage, unnamed lost property is only kept for a few weeks before it is donated to charity. Please name your child's clothing to avoid losing it.

Each class tends to also have a local small lost property box, this is emptied every term into the general lost property area.

Teachers will try to return labelled items if left in the class, but this can only be achieved if the clothes are labelled! Please remember that another 90 children have the same jumper/cardigan in the year!

#### School Library an the 100 Club

The school has a wonderful library, which is open some lunch times for the children to enjoy. Thanks to support from parents, volunteers, PTA and local community funding the library has continued to be an excellent resource for all the children.

The WPTA 100 club, is a form of private lottery. Subscribers buy numbered tickets which are entered into a regular draw, e.g. 100 tickets for a 100 Club. Parents, teachers and friends of the school pay a fixed subscription for their number (£1each). When the tickets are drawn, the  $1^{st}$  number drawn wins £25, the  $2^{nd}$  £15 and the third £10, with the remainder going to PTA funds, specifically to support the school library.

Please contact windmillpta@gmail.com for more information.

#### **Photographs**

A professional photographer visits the school twice a year. There will always be a variety of photography packages available and no obligation to buy any photos. You will be informed of the details closer to the day.

#### **School Staff**

A full staff list is available on the school website under School Info - Windmill Staff. If you wish to contact a member of staff that you do not see on a daily basis please drop in to the school office to make an appointment.

#### **Governors**

The School Governors are responsible for working with the school to help raise standards in three core functions:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- To hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Governors come from all sections of the community, and all walks of life. They can be parents, staff at the school, and residents in the locality or representatives of local churches or businesses.

More information on the Windmill governors can be found on the website under School Info - Governors at Windmill.

#### **School Houses**

There are 4 houses in the school, each named after an Oxford author and represented by a particular colour. Each child is allocated a house when they join the school and siblings are always in the same house.

Children can earn house points during the school year and will be awarded certificates in assembly when they reach 100, 150 and 200 house points.

#### Children's Councils

There are a number of different school councils that the children can be involved with.

- School Council: it comprises of 1 child per class from Year 1 to Year
   6, children meet weekly (typically at lunchtime) and discuss topics and activities that the children are currently working on.
- Eco Council: Every class from Year 1 to Year 6 is represented by 2 children. In the past, the group have been making posters about saving electricity, children wrote to the school dinner staff to ask about the quality of the food that they cook and whether the meat was free range and how healthy the chips were?
- Values Council
- LAW Group (Learning at Windmill): Each class from Year 3 to Year 6 is represented by 2 children and met weekly with Mrs Knapp, their aim being to make the school a better place for staff, children, and visitors and to see how learning can be improved.

There are representatives from each year on every council.

# **Communications**

#### **School Office**

Phone number: 01865 762509 - please leave a message if there is no

answer.

E-mail address: office.2527@windmill.oxon.sch.uk

The best way to contact the school for a child being off school for illness is to ring, the email may not get checked until later in the morning after the school has had to make enquiries.

#### The school website:

#### www.windmill.oxon.sch.uk

There are sections for parents, pupils and staff. Covering many topics including; school policies, Special Education information, school newsletters and class weekly newsletters, governor information and key dates through the year. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the website and the information it can give you.

#### Social Media - Facebook, Twitter and the App

• In order to keep parents informed and updated with school events we have a facebook page;

https://www.facebook.com/WindmillPrimarySchoolOxford?fref=ts

- a twitter id: @windmilloxford
- and an app (which is available for Apple and android devices)

#### Android:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.appscentral.windmill&hl=en\_GB

#### iTunes:

https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/windmill-primary-headington/id910881178?mt=8

The app login is Windmill and the password is 2527

Please sign up to these to keep up to date.

#### **School lunches**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children get free school diners. The company providing food at Windmill works together with Mrs Knapp to ensure a healthy and varied diet. Vegetarian options are available. Children can only choose school diner or pack lunch for an entire term, due to the size of the school it isn't possible for children to drop in and out of school diners.

School uses the app "school gateway" to process payment of school diners. The platform is recent and will slowly be expanded to other costs such as trips. https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login

#### **Parents Evenings and Reports**

These are held twice per year. An electronic sign-up sheet is generated by the School Office for you to sign up for a time that is suitable. School reports are sent home with the children 3 times a year – note that children in reception only get one report at the end of the year.

#### **Newsletters**

The school sends out two school-wide newsletters.

- Weekly School Newsletter it used to be printed on green paper and is often referred to as the "green newsletter". This is a school-wide newsletter updating you on general school news, events, new staff appointments and school clubs. These are sent home with the children on a Friday.
- WPTA Newsletter (3 times a year) it used to be printed on yellow paper and is sometimes referred to as the "yellow newsletter". This

is a school-wide newsletter updating you on social aspects of the school.

Both newsletter are now sent electronically, to get your newsletter electronically you need to copy this link into your browser and register your details. <a href="http://eepurl.com/b5qPBf">http://eepurl.com/b5qPBf</a>.

#### **Open Mornings**

Open mornings are held several times a year to give parents the opportunity to see their children's work. The classrooms are open from 8:30am onwards. As Reception parents, you are welcome to join your child in the classroom every day from 8:45am.

### Collecting your child from school

If someone other than a parent will be collecting your Reception or Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) child from school then your class teacher needs to know – there will be a facility in each class for you to write down collection arrangements.

In an emergency, please call the school office who will pass on the information to your child's class teacher.

#### **Late Arrivals**

The school day starts at 8.45am, if your child arrives after this time he/she must report to a member of the office staff so that the attendance register can be amended and an entry made in the "late book".

#### Bad weather plan

The decision to close or partially close the school can only be made by the Head teacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors wherever possible. The health and safety of pupils, staff and volunteers will always be paramount.

The decision will be based on access to essential services, staffing levels, transport safety and site safety.

You can find out whether the school is closed from the Windmill School App (available for Apple & android), the school's Facebook page, the County Council website <a href="www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures">www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures</a> and local radio stations; BBC Radio Oxford, Heart FM and Jack FM.

#### **Accidents and Illness**

Any minor injuries will be dealt with at school. If the injury or illness is of a more serious nature, you will be asked to collect your child. It is therefore really important that you keep the school office updated of any changes in your circumstances e.g. place of work, telephone number, emergency contacts. Should your child suffer an injury, which is of concern to the school, they will send a note home with your child.

It is recommended that children suffering from sickness or diarrhoea should refrain from attending school for 24 hours to prevent infecting others.

Notes are requested if children need to be excused from a physical activity owing to illness or injury.

# **School Uniform**

#### Clothing

- Bottle green sweatshirt with Windmill logo
- White polo shirt
- Navy or black trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafore dress (NO tracksuit bottoms)
- Green checked summer dress
- Plain bottle green, navy or black tights.

The Uniform Embroidery Service from Tesco supplies branded uniform for Windmill. You can order school uniform online, and have it delivered free to your home. The school earns 5% commission on every uniform item bought online. You can purchase non-embroidered items of uniform (i.e. polo shirts, trousers, shorts, dresses, skirts) from Tesco or any other supplier.

http://www.clothingattesco.com/oxfordshire/windmill-primaryschool/invt/123047

#### **Footwear**

• Black, navy or brown shoes, with heels no higher than 3cm.

Preferably without laces until the children can tie their own.

• Black, navy, white or brown sandals, with ankle straps and no heels. **NO trainers.** 

#### P.E.

- Black or navy shorts
- White or house colour t-shirt (amazon sells those at a reasonable price: <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fruit-Loom-White-Kids-T-Shirt/dp/B0094RXIKE">https://www.amazon.co.uk/Fruit-Loom-White-Kids-T-Shirt/dp/B0094RXIKE</a>)
- Trainers or plimsolls.

# The School Day

#### **Mornings**

The gates to the playgrounds open at 8.30am, when the whistle blows at 8:45 children should line up with the rest of their class and wait for the teacher to collect them - check with the class teacher if you're unsure about where you need to be.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1, parents are invited to join their child and share a book in the classroom. Children in all the other years go in by themselves.

#### **Bikes and Scooters**

Bikes and Scooters should be put in the green shed at the front of the school and should be locked up. This is at the owner's risk, the school cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen bikes and scooters.

#### Mid morning snack

In reception and Key Stage 1, all children are provided with a piece of fruit by School (typically apples, tomatoes, bananas,...), do feel free to send a piece of fruit with your child to school in case he/she does not like the mid morning snack – it has to be a fruit though.

#### Afternoons

School finishes at 3.05pm. Pick up is usually in the same place as you drop off unless your class teacher has told you otherwise.

Following pick up the fire alarm will briefly chime at 3.20pm. This is a signal that the gates at both sides of the school will be locked very soon, so parents and all children not attending a school club should leave the site.

Once the gates are locked at 3.25pm the school will be closed to parents and any equipment left in classrooms (lunch boxes, PE kit etc.) will not be available for collection until the following day. This includes children returning to their classrooms after a club has finished.

On days when a cake sale or other whole school event is taking place, the bell will be rung at 3.40pm to allow extra time to participate in the event and still clear the school site.

If you child is attending an after-school activity, they will usually make their own way there from their classroom or be collected in the case of the younger years.

All after school clubs will be dismissed outside the building in the front of school office except for the Windmill After School Club (WASC), when parents should go directly to the WASC doors to collect their children.

#### **Water Bottles and Snacks**

All children are asked to bring in a named water bottle to keep in the classroom. The children are free to go and have a drink from their bottle when they need one. There are water fountains in the playgrounds which children are encouraged to use.

Reception and KS1 children are supplied with fruit and vegetable snacks (such as carrots and tomatoes) to enjoy during break times.

All children are allowed to bring a snack for playtime, but these must be healthy snacks (i.e. no chocolate, crisps, fizzy drinks etc).

#### **Playgrounds**

Reception Play Areas:
 Reception children have their own fenced-off play areas, which are used for activities through their school day.

#### - Back Playground:

The back playground is used during break times, PE lessons and for after-school activities.

A recent addition to the back playground – our MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is used during break times for football. There is a rota system so each year group has the chance to use it throughout the week.

The WPTA also raised a large amount of money over the last few years which has been put towards paying for the brand new play apparatus. This has further increased the play space available to children throughout the year. The play apparatus can be used during all staff-supervised times (although please make sure children do not play on this outside of school hours).

- Green Club Garden: Behind the gym, there is our brand new space for Green Club (the schools gardening club which is run by parents volunteers with the support of the WPTA).
- Playtimes

All classes have time to play during their lunch break. The playgrounds are always supervised during break times. Key Stage 1 has a morning break at 10:35 and an afternoon break. Key Stage 2 has one break time at 11:00.

#### Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes are between 11.40am and 1.20pm. Lunch is served in sittings, with the youngest children eating first. All the children eat in the hall.

Children have the choice of bringing a healthy packed lunch from home or eating a hot meal, cooked on site. So that the cook can plan the ordering and preparation of food, children must have either school or packed lunches for the whole term.

- **School Lunches**: The school lunch menu changes regularly. Children collect their plates, bowls and cutlery and choose their lunch. Copies of the menu are sent home at the beginning of each school year or
- You can collect one from the carousels in the school office.

There is always a vegetarian option, a salad bar and a dessert. Friday is fish and chips day! The school cook is very keen to accommodate those children with special dietary requirements, please discuss this with your class teacher.

How are lunchtimes organised?

As each class enters the hall, those having packed lunches sit at tables and those having dinners queue up, cafeteria-style. Eating is monitored by the lunch staff some of whom also work in the classroom. Children are encouraged to eat a balanced lunch and to try a range of foods. They are allowed to eat at their own pace and are always given time to finish their food.

If there are concerns about what your child is eating then speak to your class teacher.

- How much do school meals cost and how do I pay? Every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school lunches. For older children school meals need to be paid for in advance every term. Please put cash or cheques (made payable to the OCC) in an envelope named with your child's name and class written on it. This can be put in the letterbox outside the school office. The costs are detailed in the Green Newsletter at the beginning of each term.
- What about Free School Meals for older children? If you are receiving certain benefits, you are might to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). If you need more information, please talk to the school office.
  - Other lunchtime activities

There are a number of lunchtime clubs run by staff, and sometimes children, throughout the school. Information on all the school clubs is on the timetable available from the school office.

# **School Events and Activities**

#### **Plays and Performances**

Each child will have the chance to be part of a year group or key stage production every year. The class teachers will let you know when this will be and will give details of costumes and performance times.

In the summer term there is also a dance event, each year choreographs and performs a dance in the back playground for parents.

#### **School Trips and Residential Trips**

School trips and visits are also an important way of enhancing your child's learning. These may take the form of short walks to places of interest, day trips or a residential experience. A permission slip and possibly a financial contribution will be sought prior to the trip going ahead. It is essential that you return permission slips before your child will be allowed to go on the trip.

School trips start in Reception and every child will have the chance to go on at least one trip per school year. Usually, the trips are related to the topics they are studying. Parent volunteers are often needed to help out on trips – the class teacher will let you know if they need help.

Year 4 go on a four-day residential trip in May/June. Details will be given at the start of their school year.

Year 6 go on a week long outward bound focused residential in the Summer term.

#### **School Calendar:**

At the start of each year, the school produces a comprehensive calendar of events that happen within school. Some of these events are just for the children, whilst others are for the whole school community. As a new parent, the list can be daunting and it can be difficult to know which events are relevant to you so we've compiled the table below to help you plan your year!

Time of year	Event	Who's it for?
September	Non-Uniform day to collect tombola	Children
Harvest	Prizes or the Autumn Fayre.  Festival KS1 And KS2 The children are asked to bring in a donation of non-perishable food for the harvest festival.	Children
Mid-October and March	Parent Interviews	Parents usually after school.
December	Pantomime – paid for by the WPTA. A theatre company comes into school to perform for all the children in the school.	Children
March	Story Telling and Art Week	Children

March	World Book Day – come to school dressed as your favourite storybook character.	Children
May	Great Windmill Bake Off – a baking competition for the children and grown ups!	Everyone
May	SATS week	Year 2 and Year 6 Children only
June	Summer Dancing – each year choreographs and performs a dance in the back playground.	Parents are invited to watch
July	Summer Concert – a chance for the school orchestra and choir to perform to the parents.	Parents
July	Sports Day. Reception and KS1 in the morning, KS2 in the afternoon.	Parents are invited to watch.
July	Leaver's Service	Children and Parents in Year 6.
Throughout the year	Book Fairs –a chance to buy children's books and raise money for the school.	Children and Parents
	Open Mornings These occur throughout the year and are a chance to come in at the beginning of the school day and see what your children have been learning.	Parents.

In addition to these events, individual years and sometimes the whole school will have Dress Up days and events to support charities outside of the school.

#### **Music Lessons**

Instrument lessons start in Year 2 and are run by the Oxfordshire Music Service who organise both the lessons and instrument hire.

All the children will have the opportunity to learn Recorder in Year 2.

All children are taught Clarinet in Year 4 - lessons and instrument hire is free for all children.

#### **Extra-curricular Clubs**

There are lot of after-school and lunchtime clubs on offer throughout the week. A full list is produced a couple of times a year and is sent home with the children.

School staff and volunteers run some clubs, whilst external providers run others.

#### **Wednesday Morning coffee morning**

There is a weekly coffee morning straight after drop off in the After School Club Room, everyone is welcome to come along.

We hope this guide has answered some of your questions about Windmill. Please ask the new parent reps, the WPTA committee or the school if you have any other questions, queries, or concerns.