

# The ABC's of Kindergarten

Dear Parents,

We urge you to take the time to read through this handbook. (Yes, we know it is long!) It contains a lot of information about your child's classroom. We have tried to include information on everything a parent might like to know. We hope you will use it as a guide throughout the year.

## A

**Arrival-** The students will line up outside the east entrance doors by the playground, backs against the brick wall. The Welcome Bell rings at **8:29 am** and School begins at **8:35 am**. Please do not leave your child unattended at the drop off line - one of their teachers will meet you there by 8:29am.

**Attendance-** Kindergarten is a continual learning experience, with each day's learning built on the day before. So, it is imperative that your child be here when he/she can. If your child must be absent, be sure to call the office at 780-467-7751 the day of the absence, and if you know in advance please let myself and the office know.

## B

**Birthdays-** If you wish to, you are welcome to bring a special snack on the day we celebrate your child's birthday. We usually celebrate during the afternoon, so please drop off your child's birthday snack by lunch time (12:04pm). We will celebrate summer birthdays with an un-birthday in the last few months of school.

**Breakfast -** Our kindergarten day is filled with lots of moving and learning. A healthy breakfast will help your child approach each day with energy. We will have our morning snack around 10:00am.

## C

**Conferences-** Two times throughout the year, we will have our parent/teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress and accomplishments. The booking for these conferences will be done online and more information will be provided closer to the date.

**Clothes -** Please send your child to school in clothing appropriate for the weather, as they will be outside for recess three times a day. Our first recess is at 10:11am so although the

forecast may say it will be a warm day, it could still be quite cool in the morning. During winter, sending extra mitts and toques is recommended in case the first set gets wet.

## D

**Dismissal-** Each day your child will be dismissed from the east entrance doors at **3:12 pm**. Children who ride the bus will be escorted to the buses. If you are picking your child up from school, PLEASE say goodbye to your teacher before leaving so we know you have taken your child from the line. Safety is my major priority when it comes to daily dismissal. If someone else is picking up your child on any given day, please send me a note in the fish folder or email and let me know.

**Differentiated Instruction-** All children are unique and special. Students in our classes are at many different instructional levels and learn in a variety of ways. The children will be taught so that their individual needs will be met.

## E

**Early Pick Up-** If your child has to be picked up early you must sign them out at the office first. If you can let me know ahead of time, I will try my best to have their things ready to go.

**Email-** We use email as one of the primary ways to communicate with each other. We will often send out last minute updates and reminders so please check your email the night before your child comes to school. We try our best to respond to emails in a timely manner, however, if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal arrangements, please contact the office.

**Extra Clothes** - Please ALWAYS keep an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack in case of a bathroom accident or a messy spill. This way we do not have to bother you at work or home. Please wash and return any spare clothes your child brings home before you send them back.

## F

**F.I.S.H Folders (Communication pouch)-** Family Involvement Starts Here: Each morning your child should bring their F.I.S.H folder to class and he/she will bring it home at the end of each day. You can expect to find any new newsletters, letters from the school, classroom work etc. in the folder. Please empty out the folder before each class so we know you are receiving the most current information.

**Field Trips** -The Kindergarten students will be taking field trips this year. Details will be provided when the time approaches. Permission slips must be signed and returned to your child's teacher before the field trip in order for your child to participate. Field Trips are a

great volunteering opportunity and you will be given the chance to sign up for volunteering.

**Footwear** - Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, dress shoes, or flip flops are not good for school activities because they are slippery and inappropriate for the gym or the playground. **If your child has tie laces please teach the child how to tie their laces before they come to school.**

## G

**Gym**- We will have gym twice a week. During gym we will practice various sports, gross motor skills, and whole class games.

## H

**Hands-on Activities**- The best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. We are not the kind of teachers that assign seatwork for the majority of the day. We like to provide fun, meaningful, hands-on activities that help students learn important concepts.

**Home Practice**- Throughout the year it would be beneficial to practice letters and numbers with your child in their daily life. For example, when you are picking apples at the grocery store, ask your child to help you count them. When you are driving and approach a stop sign, as your child "what do you think that word says? What letters do you see? What sounds do those letters make?" More suggestions will be provided in weekly emails specific to what we are working on in class. We will also begin a simple home reading program in the fall, with really fun rewards to be earned for participating!

## I

**Independence**- Your child is in Big School now! This is a time for him/her to learn responsibility. Please allow your child to do things independently at school and at home. We expect your child to be able to walk in by himself/herself, unpack their backpacks, and be ready for the day. We ask that you say your goodbyes outside the east entrance doors, and then the students will walk down as a class.

## J

**Journals/Buzz Books**- Each morning the students will come in and write in their Buzz Book. For the first couple of months we focus on printing our names using proper letter formation. As the year goes on, we begin to print simple words.

## K

**Kindness-** Students in our classrooms are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others in our school, with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name-calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

## L

**Label/Lost and Found-** Please label anything you are sending to school with your child's name, including coats, toques, hats, mitts, snowpants, shoes, etc. We have Lost and Found boxes throughout the school should you need to find something that didn't come back home.

**Late Pick Up-** If you are 10-15 minutes late picking up your child, they will be waiting in the office. We may have meetings or conferences scheduled after school, so we cannot always wait with your child until you arrive.

**Library-** We will go to the library once a week on **Thursdays**. The students will get to check out 2 books to take home. Please help your child take good care of these books and return them so they can check out new ones. This is in addition to the home reading books that they will take home, beginning in late fall.

**Lunch-** The students will eat lunch first (12:04 - 12:34) and then go out for recess afterwards (12:34 - 12:54). We teach the students from the very beginning to eat their healthy food before their special treats in their lunches. For the first week of school, we will go out as a class for recess to learn the routines and expectations. Then, our class will be going for recess with the rest of the school for the year.

**We are a nut aware school.**

## M

**Medication -** If your child needs to take medication during the school day, you must drop the medicine off at the office and fill out a form. The office staff are the only employees allowed to administer medication.

**Music-** Music is a very important part of our classroom. We firmly believe that children can use music as one form of expression. We will learn a variety of fun, educational songs that we are sure you will hear at home throughout the school year!

## N

**Numeracy-** Your child will have a daily math lesson. These lessons are always hands-on activities that are fun and meaningful. We will be covering the following units: Sorting,

Patterning, Numeracy for 1-10, Shapes, and Informal Measurement.

**Newsletter** - I will be sending weekly emails to let you know about the happenings in our classroom, along with a classroom calendar every month which will highlight important events.

## O

**Online Website**- On our school website (<https://www.westboroelementary.ca/>) you will find our school calendar, as well as information about our school wide events. Please refer to our school calendar regularly to keep updated on events happening school wide.

## P

**Parties**- We will have several holiday parties throughout the school year. You will receive an e-mail with information on how you can volunteer to sign up and send in materials or food. This ensures everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to the class parties.

## Q

**Questions**- Please feel free to contact us anytime you have questions. You can do this in a variety of ways. You can send us a note in your child's FISH folder, call us at school 780-467-7751 or you can e-mail me at [cindy.wheeler@eips.ca](mailto:cindy.wheeler@eips.ca). We want to be there to help you in any way we can.

## R

**Report Cards**- Students will receive two progress reports throughout the school year and one report card in June.

**Restrooms** - The children are encouraged to go to the bathroom before they come into school in the morning. At all other times they are free to use the restroom in our classroom as the need arises.

## S

**Snack**- We encourage you to send a healthy snack with your child's lunch each day, that would take only 10-15 minutes to eat. There will be a morning snack time in addition to our lunch period.

**Special Person/Star Student**- Each child will be assigned a special person day multiple times during the year. Each school day there will be a special person that is responsible for bringing an item to show and share with the class. They will also get special privileges like sitting in our fancy red chair at the carpet and being our line leader.

**Sunscreen/Bug spray** - If there's a day you feel your child may need these products, we

ask that you apply it on them in the morning before sending them to Kindergarten. Please do not send bottles of sunscreen or bug spray in their backpack for them to apply at school.

## T

**Technology-** Our classroom is equipped with lots of great technology! Your child will explore iPads, a SMART board and Chromebooks.

**Toys -** Bringing a toy to school is discouraged. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings may be hurt. Books are okay to bring in, but please make sure they are clearly marked with your child's name

**Transportation-** During orientation in the fall we will confirm with you how your child will be going home for the remainder of the school year. **If you plan to pick up a child that normally rides the bus, you must communicate this with a written note, phone call or email.** If no communication is received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation

## U

**Understanding-** If you have any concerns or questions, please ask me.

## V

**Volunteering-** Around Halloween, we will send home more information about volunteer opportunities in the classroom. Help will be needed with field trips as already mentioned, but also for things like learning centers and classroom parties. We encourage you to find alternate arrangements for younger siblings while you volunteer. Your help makes the difference between a good program and a great one! WE LOVE HAVING VOLUNTEERS! 😊

## W

**Word Wall Words-** Also known as Sight Words. We will learn new words throughout the year. It is great practice to review these words during your home reading time. We will include any new words in our weekly email.

**Water bottles -** It is recommended that students come to school each day with a *labelled* water bottle to use in class. We will do our best to send these home every day so they can be washed regularly.

## X

We are so **EXCITED** to be teaching your child this year!

## Y

**Year-Long Learning and Fun-** We are looking forward to working with and getting to know each one of you. Your child will learn a lot this year and is going to have lots of fun in the process.

## **Z**

**ZZZZZZ's** - Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wheeler

Mrs. M