Frequently Asked Questions

We warmly welcome you to our School – we have put together some FAQs to answer key questions and introduce you to our Woodland Wanderers family and culture. Please do get in touch should there be anything you're still unsure of!

1) Do you store buggies/scooters at the School?

We are able to store small, lightweight, easily foldable buggies at our Nature Babies site. These will be kept in a cycle clocker roadside just outside the setting. This is kept locked during the day and our team will have a key to allow you access and drop off and pick up times.
However, unfortunately at other Schools we do not have storage facilities.

2) Can we bring toys in the School?

Whilst we encourage children who are settling into our Schools to bring in a small comfort toy, other toys are best left at home. Whilst we make every endeavour to keep all items safe, they do inevitably get lost or misplaced causing distress to yourself and your child. We have created environments which support children's interests and learning at all levels and have well-resourced spaces with equipment that meets the needs of every child.

3) How do you communicate with parents?

We send out weekly newsletters on Fridays with details on what we have done during the week and information for the forthcoming week.
We also communicate with parents via our portal eylog with the daily diary (Nature Babies), observations, reports and send notices out via eyEngage (Woodland Wanderers settings).
We have an 'open door' policy where we encourage parents to approach our Managers should they have any questions or concerns.

4) How do you promote independence?

We promote independence at all times, by treating everyday life as a learning opportunity– within the classroom and when outside. For example, they are encouraged to manage their own self-care such as putting their own shoes on, fastening their own Velcro and getting their coats on themselves. We teach toddlers to cut / slice their own snacks and fruit, pour their own water and wash their hands throughout the day. Our 'prepared environments' are meticulously scaled to a child's physical size allowing children to choose, complete and tidy away activities on their own.

5) What does my child need to wear to nursery?

As we promote independence, shoes with laces or coats with difficult fastenings cause frustration. Velcro shoes are ideal, pull-on trousers, and the children will require indoor shoes. Skirts help children cope with the toilet as they get older. Boots may be kept at the nursery.

See our 'kit list' document for full details on Forest School appropriate attire!

6) How do I prevent my children's items getting lost?

We ask you to name / label all your children's belongings individually. This can be done with a marker pen or you may order stick on versions online. Many parents order from the company ***my nametags***. We are unable to take responsibility for unnamed clothing/belongings. In the event that items are still misplaced, this will help us and other parents to return them to you.

7) What do I need to bring into nursery?

At all our settings, we ask for lots of changes of clothes to be kept at nursery in their backpacks. Small children can become very engrossed in their chosen task and can forget to use the toilet and hence accidents do happen.
If your child attends Woodland Wanderers on Myddleton Road or Rickmansworth, they will need to bring in a labelled lunchbox containing a healthy, nut free meal.
See our **'Making Eating Enjoyable'** document for lunchbox ideas!

8) Do you take the children on outings?

Outings and trips are organised by our Managers and led by the teams; they are strategically planned to enhance our curriculum and are in line with our 'community' based ethos. Outings are always in line with the EYFS curriculum and serve to strengthen the holistic learning we seek to offer all our children. Prior risk assessments are always undertaken. **Some of our outing require parental involvement and support.**

9) Will my child get muddy/dirty?

Our ethos and curriculum encourages children to explore their environment through their senses. There will be times when the children get wet, muddy and full of paint. Please wear old clothes to School.

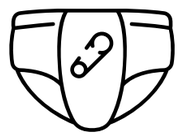
10) What happens if my child is sick on a day they are meant to attend nursery?

Please inform us on each day your child is sick by calling the School and/or sending us an email/message via eylog. If your child is registered to attend on a particular day but they have not arrived by 10am for whatever reason and we have had no contact from yourself, we will call you and then the next in line/emergency contact to find out the reason. If we are unable to make contact **with anyone by the end of day,** we may reach out to social services or the police. This is in line with our safeguarding protocol. If you are planning on being away or on holiday, do notify us at your earliest convenience so that we can update our registers.
Unwell children are best kept at home; we have policies in place to indicate the necessary period of absence from school.

11) What do I need to know about my child transitioning from Nature Babies to Woodland Wanderers, Myddleton Road?

As your child grows into a 'Woodland Wanderer', a 'transitioning guide' will be shared with you. We seek for your child to have a smooth and supportive transition, where they will have a wide variety of introductory play sessions at Woodland Wanderers with a familiar teacher from Nature Babies present. Children are very sensitive to adult emotions and energy. Your positive reassurance and support, play a key role in helping make this transition a happy and successful experience.

12) Does my child need to be potty trained before they transition to Woodland Wanderers, Myddleton Road from Nature Babies?



Your child does not need to be potty trained when they move to the Preschool. However, we will start to get them accustomed to the potty before they transition and then this will continue when they are at WW. We will support a gentle training method once they are fully settled at their new setting and have formed a bond with their key worker who will be responsible for their potty training journey. We ask parents to also encourage the children to use a potty at home simultaneously.

13) Are parents able to come into the Schools for 'sharing skills?'

We have included asking parents their profession on our enrolment form; this is with the intention to share our knowledge. If you feel you have a skill that the children could benefit from or would like to come into School to read a story, play in the garden or perform an instrument please let us know.

14) How can I support Montessori style learning in my home environment?

There are everyday activities you can do at home to promote independence, hand-eye co-ordination and hand and pincer control as well as those which build your child's concentration. Children will need adult supervision to use tools for:

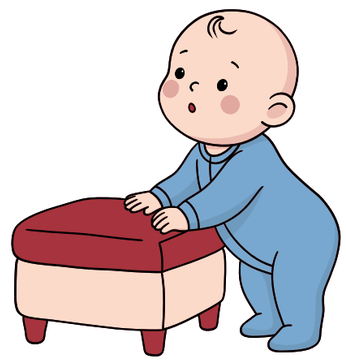
- Carrot peeling – children as young as 2 years old love to peel their own carrot for a snack
- Juicing oranges – perfect for strengthening hand muscles
- Grating nutmeg – collected in a jar to add to warm milk
- Using tweezers to transfer beans
- Strips of paper and scissors –to cut lines or shapes

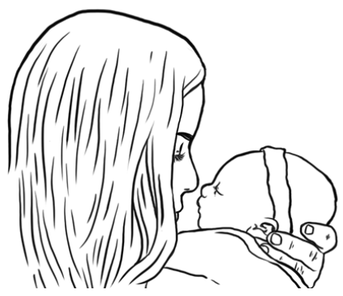
Small children love nothing more than to help out with household chores so you can provide them with a child sized broom, dustpan and brush, and small feather duster. They will enjoy cleaning alongside you!

15) How can I help my child to transition from home to Nursery?

There are a number of things which you can do to aid your child's transition to Nature Babies and Woodland Wanderers. Before starting at nursery with us, you can encourage your child to:

- Self soothe and fall asleep as independently as possible
- Play on their own and next to you rather than on your lap
- Start feeding themselves and using finger foods (if they are weaning or beyond)
- Start walking to the park, shops etc as much as possible
- Reducing usage of the dummy during the day (if they use one)
- Take a bottle (if they havent yet or are breastfed)





16) What funding do you accept?

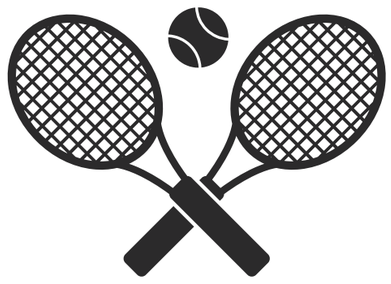
The government continues to support parents through funded childcare hours, subject to eligibility criteria.
Eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to school age may access up to 30 hours per week of funded childcare. For further details, please click here.
We accept payments via Tax-Free Childcare, allowing you to pay through your online childcare account.
We welcome parents to pay through various work payment schemes such as Enjoy Benefits.
Some corporates also offer employees back up care through Bright Horizons (Work + Family Solutions) for emergency childcare provision and we are happy to accept this and other similar schemes. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our finance team on finance@woodlandwanderers.info.

17)What extra curricular classes do you offer?

We offer a broad and varied range of extra curricular activites at all our sites.
Spanish language classes and Yoga are offered at all our Schools. This is done through a combination of external providers (e.g. Bilingual Beats at Nature Babies) and in-house run sessions with specialist trained teachers.

Additionally, we provide the below:-

Nature Babies, Myddleton Road - Music & Movement and Sign language
Woodland Wanderers, Myddleton Road - Tennis and Mandarin
Woodland Wanderers, Rickmansworth - French (in addition to Spanish)



We cant wait to welcome you!!!