

**General information
group 5
school year 2025-2026**

Personnel

group 5		
Mon, Tues and Fri	Mick Mesman	mick.mesman@wijwijzer.nu
Wed, Thurs and Fri	Esmee van der Linden	esmee.vanderlinden@wijwijzer.nu

organisation		
Special needs co-ordinator Mon, Wed, Fri	Petra Voorderhaak	petra.voorderhaak@wijwijzer.nu
Teamleader Mon to Wed	Annick van der Voort	annick.vandervoort@wijwijzer.nu
Head Mon to Thurs	Lisa ter Veen	lisa.terveen@wijwijzer.nu

Start of the day

The classroom opens at 8:05am and lessons start at 8:15am. We expect group 5 children to come into the classroom on their own whenever possible. You can say goodbye to your child at the outside door.

Physical Education P.E.

We have P.E. lessons every Monday and Friday. Natascha is the P.E. teacher. Please provide your children with sports clothes and training shoes for the lessons. Children with long hair will need hairbands to tie their hair up, it might be a good idea to put extra hairbands in your child's gym bag. Please can you sort this out with your child.

Food and drink

The children keep their snack in their bag. The bags are kept in a specific place in the corridor. We think it's important to give your child a snack that is as healthy as possible. Wednesday is 'gruitdag', so all the children must only bring fruit or vegetables, for their snack, on this day.

Birthdays

We celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom. Your child can give a treat to their classmates. Sometimes children offer more than one treat to their classmates and extra gifts. We would appreciate it if you could provide your child with only one treat per child so that it can be eaten during the 10 o'clock snack break.

A children's birthday party is, of course, very pleasant for your child and the children who are invited, but to avoid the other children's disappointment, we request that you hand out the invitations outside the school and not in the classroom.

Parental involvement

An important part of your child's growth is the golden triangle between children, parents and the school. Your child's well-being is paramount and this triangle is essential to ensuring that your child develops according to their abilities. The chart below shows you how you can support your child.

How can I support my child's education?		
I am involved For example: I Show interest in school, I ask: what did you learn today? Talk about how things like Dutch, English and maths are going. Talk about their behaviour too Help my child to do the best they can at school Do educational things together Stand by the school rules Say something nice or kind about the teacher or to the teacher	I help my child For example by: Eating healthy food Going to bed at bedtime and sleeping well Getting enough exercise Coming to school on time Knowing what my child is doing and who they are with Making sure that my child doesn't spend too much time on their Ipad or mobile phone or watching television And....	I know what my child can and cannot do For example: Learning, behaviour and attitude to work at school What my child understands or doesn't understand. Things I can ask or tell my child and things I cannot What my child can achieve, not only this school year, but in the future and after primary school And....

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Think along the same lines as the school		
And....		

Marleen Buwalda & Maaike Monsees (2024), inspired by Debora van der Heuvel & Myrthe Drexhage (2024). Source: Met plezier naar school: de onmisbare rol van ouders in het succes van kinderen (Pameijer, 2021)

Subjects and course books

You can see which other subjects and courses we follow in the school guide on the website. Please see below for extra information about the subjects that are particularly relevant for the children in group 5.

Arithmetic and numeracy

We use the following maths course in the maths lessons; De Wereld In Getallen 5 (WIG 5) (The World in Numbers). This course offers plenty of repetition of the material. The children are given two blocks to master new strategies. After the two blocks have been completed the children will be tested to check whether or not the goals have been achieved. This course provides a great deal of differentiation as well as repetition and has been designed to enable the children to practise at different levels according to their abilities. From group 7 there will be an opportunity for children who find maths difficult to work on a separate learning path (Fs). We will, of course, consult parents to discuss whether this is acceptable or necessary.

In group 5 the children will receive their times-tables certificate. This is essential because knowing the times-tables is very important when calculating large times-tables and sums. After the autumn half-term holiday the children will receive handouts to practise the times-tables at home. The children will be given a test to see how well they have learned them. If all the times-tables (1 – 10) have been learned effectively your child will receive a certificate.

Study skills

In group 5 the children start learning about study skills using the 'Blits' method. Children will learn how to make the best use of the resources and opportunities they have available to them at school. They will learn how to get information from all kinds of sources such as tables, maps and charts as well website texts. They will also discover how to study and plan more effectively using smart

strategies. These skills will help the children to get the most out of school and their life beyond!

Reading

For the last few years we have been working with the 'Blink Lezen' course. Why do we like reading? The answer is simple: because we want to know what happens next in the story. This inquisitiveness is the basis of 'Blink Lezen'. It is a complete reading method for groups 4 to 8. The course is a combination of technical and fluent reading, reading comprehension (and watching/listening), in-depth reading, free reading and reading aloud. 'Blink Lezen' increases the children's inquisitiveness and interest in reading with compelling stories. The various different assignments are never boring. Reading opens up the world to the children, a world full of exciting events, special experiences and surprising people. The children discover more about the world around them and themselves. At the start of each theme parents will receive a message on Parro. Alongside this we work with extra materials from 'Bijlesmeester' in order to practise answering questions about a text.

Language and spelling

In groups 3 to 7 we are working with a new language and spelling course known as Staal 2 this year (group 8 will start next school year). Group 3 will start on the spelling part of the course after the Christmas holidays.

Spelling

Staal is based on the proven and preventive spelling approach developed by José Schraven. The fixed rhythm, repetition every lesson and daily dictations (spelling tests) ensure optimal results in spelling. Staal also combines spelling and grammar and is the first method to do so. The children learn the names of new categories and the corresponding new rules alongside previously learned categories and rules which are repeated every day. As a result, the children's knowledge expands and builds on previous information to ensure they learn more effectively. The children learn more effectively when the category and spelling rules are explained in the same way and this is continued and built on throughout the school years.

Language

Staal works with rich and meaningful texts that suit the childrens' world of experience. The theme always starts with 'the grej' of Staal in which the children are introduced to the new theme. The new theme is discussed in detail in the

accompanying magazine and workbook. The following areas are covered in a fixed order:

- Vocabulary
- Understanding the language
- Reading comprehension
- Speaking and listening
- Writing

The children work towards producing a final piece of work through a variety of texts and assignments.

Writing

Pennenstreken is a writing method that teaches every pupil to write quickly and legibly. The children are taught to write letters separately and not joined up. In our experience the children in the upper school start writing independently themselves, so to ensure that they develop legible handwriting we teach the children to write without joining up the letters. The lessons complement the spelling rules that we teach the children well so they are able to practise the different spelling categories whilst learning to write.

English

We use the "Blink Engels" course to teach English. Each lesson focuses on a well-known song. Music has a positive impact on children and encourages them to move, which also helps them to remember the things they have learned. The children learn English through contemporary pop songs. Sometimes the lessons focus on the artist (for example the children need to describe Justin Bieber's clothes and style) and sometimes they focus on clips (e.g. put the pictures of the accidents from Noah Kahan's videoclip in the correct order) or they may even focus on song lyrics (using the Sheppard song *Coming home* to talk about the things you miss when you're away from home). The children learn English words and sentences during the lessons.

World orientation (working in themes and learning by discovery)

We use the 'Blink Wereld' coursebook for world orientation lessons. Blink is an integrated course which teaches geography, history, the natural world and technology. The teaching materials are in themes and at the start of each theme you will receive some information about the theme on Parro.

Creative education lessons

We spend a minimum of an hour a week on creative education lessons. During these lessons we focus on the creative development of the children in various different ways. Every week we give the children a lesson from the 'Laat Maar Zien' course. These lessons focus on visual and cultural education. We have our own music teacher Juf Anna who gives music lessons in the class. We also pay attention to ICT skills and media literacy during these lessons.

Homework

The children will start having to do homework after the autumn holidays. The goal is to prepare them in advance for secondary school. The homework will be online assignments, which can be found on 'taaloefenen.nl', 'spellingoefenen.nl', and 'redactiesommen.nl'. The children will also be expected to study at home for English, Blink and Topomaster tests. You can find all the work on Google Classroom. The tests are listed on the Parro planner so the children know when they need to study beforehand. Towards the end of the year the children will also be required to prepare a presentation at home using Google Slides. Parents are welcome to help their children with their homework if necessary.

Social and emotional development

The key aspects of social and emotional development in group 5 are as follows:

- Self-awareness: Students become more aware of their own qualities and feelings.
- Self-management: they develop skills such as concentration, how to plan and how to control their own behaviour.
- Awareness of others: the ability to empathise improves and this enables children to use perspective, understand body language and respond correctly to others' intentions.
- Relationship skills: maintaining relationships and working together becomes more important.
- Making responsible choices: learning to make choices and facing the consequences.

At school we encourage independence by encouraging children to come up with their own solutions when they encounter a problem instead of immediately asking for help. This helps them to learn to trust their own abilities and encourages independent thinking.

We believe it's essential that this behaviour is also encouraged at home. If possible, allow the children to plan and do their own homework, pack their own schoolbag or remember their own P.E. kit. Mistakes are, of course, inevitable but the children can learn a lot from them. Working as a team we

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can help children, step-by-step, to build their own confidence and independence.

Important dates and events in group 5

Introductory meeting:	9 September 2025
Progress meeting:	18 November 2025
First round IEP-tests:	January 2026
Report 1 to be taken home:	20 February 2026
Progress meeting:	16 April 2026
Second round IEP-tests:	May 2026
Report 2 to be taken home:	26 June 2026

A number of other trips and activities will be planned during the school year. We will let you know about these extra activities and will also request your help on these special days via Parro. If you have the time and would like to come along to help us on these days – please check Parro!

We are looking forward to a great school year and would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Esmee van der Linden en Mick Mesman

Our school guide is on the homepage of our website.