

**General information
group 8
school year 2025-2026**

Personnel

group 8		
Mon, Thurs and Fri	Berend van Dijk	berend.vandijk@wijwijzer.nu
Tues and Wed	Annick van der Voort	annick.vandervoort@wijwijzer.nu
Tues, Wed & Thurs	Zoë Duivenvoorden	zoe.duivenvoorden@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 8 children to come into the classroom on their own whenever possible.

Physical Education P.E.

We have P.E. lessons every Monday and Friday. Juf 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. It might also be a good idea to give your child some deodorant for after the lesson. Please make sure the deodorant is a roll on and not an aerosol.

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.

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.

Subjects and course books

You can see which others 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 8.

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.

Reading

Since last year we have been working with a new '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.

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.

There are also tests for this subject and we call these tests 'Test jezelf' (test yourself). The children can prepare for these tests using the 'leerwerk' (revision work) on Google Classroom. The test dates will be communicated via Parro.

TopoMaster

We use the online programme 'TopoMaster' for topography (physical geography). 'TopoMaster' is an exciting online game where the children learn about physical geography. The app was developed by National Geographic Junior and contains beautiful images and fascinating information. Through topography the children learn special facts about animals, buildings and the landscape, which helps them to remember the toponyms (names of places) better. 'TopoMaster' consists of three parts: the Netherlands, Europe and the world, each part contains several levels.

Last school year the children learned about Europe. In group 8 the focus will be on the world.

The children can prepare for these tests using the 'leerwerk' (revision work) on Google Classroom. The test dates will be communicated via Parro.

Engels

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.

The skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking) are practised extensively during each lesson. Children who need more challenging English lessons can

study on their own using the 'Blink Engels' Grammar app.

There are also English tests. The children can prepare for these tests using the 'leerwerk' (revision work) on Google Classroom. The test dates will be communicated via Parro.

Creative education lessons

We spend two hours per 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 which focuses on visual and cultural education. We have music lessons once every two weeks. Music lessons are given by our own music teacher Miss Anna. We also pay attention to ICT skills and media literacy during these lessons.

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	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	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....

Say something nice or kind about the teacher or to the teacher	And....	
Think along the same lines as the school		
And....		

Marleen Buwalda & Maaïke 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)

Social and emotional development

In group 8 the children take further important steps in their social and emotional development. They prepare for secondary school and learn to take increasing responsibility for their own actions. We encourage this at school by asking the children to think about problems and solutions themselves rather than asking for help. This helps them to be more independent and learn to trust their own abilities rather than relying on others.

We believe it's invaluable for you, as parents or guardians, to support this at home, by allowing the children to plan and complete their homework, pack their own school bags and prepare their own P.E. kit. Inevitably mistakes can occur but the lessons learned through these mistakes encourage independence in the future thus helping the children, step-by-step, to begin the next part of their education confidently and independently.

Homework

In group 8 the children get revision homework for Blink, Topomaster and English. In principle homework is structured during the term leading up to the Christmas holidays. This means that fixed tasks must be completed on fixed days. Occasionally there might be some extra homework in between. Between the Christmas holiday and spring break we follow less structure and assign homework at random. This enables the children to get used to the way homework is given at secondary school.

We expect the children to use a diary. This can be a paper diary or a digital diary, whichever your child prefers. Secondary schools also use paper and digital diaries so your child can decide which they prefer. The homework assignments can be found on the Google Classroom and Parro agendas.

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Important dates and events in group 8

Progress meeting:	4 & 5 November 2025
IEP-tests:	end of November 2025
Definitive secondary school level given:	16 January 2026
Report 1 to be taken home:	16 January 2026
Definitive level meeting:	19 January 2026
IEP Final test:	February 2026
Deadline for secondary school application:	Date to be confirmed
School camp:	20, 21 and 22 May 2026
Introductory afternoon VO Haarlemmermeer:	Date to be confirmed
Report 2 to be taken home:	19 June 2026
Musical/farewell evening:	25 June 2026
Last day of school:	1 July 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.

Berend van Dijk and Annick van der Voort

Our school guide is on the homepage of our website.