

Integrity

Respect

Excellence

# Blackpool Gateway Academy



## Nursery Welcome Pack

Ambition

Pride

Resilience



# Meet the Early Years Foundation Stage Team



## The Teachers



Miss Millett  
Nursery Teacher  
BA Honours in Early Childhood Studies.  
PGCE General Primary.



Mrs Balshaw  
Early Years  
Foundation Stage  
Phase Leader &  
Reception Teacher



Miss Smith  
Reception  
Teacher



# Meet the Early Years Foundation Stage Team



## Our Support Staff



Miss Sim  
Reception Teaching  
Assistant Level 3



Mrs Haddow  
Reception Teaching  
Assistant Level 3



Miss Davies  
EYFS Teaching  
Assistant Level 2



Mrs Raja  
EYFS Teaching  
Assistant Level 2



Miss Statham  
EYFS Teaching  
Assistant Level 3



Miss Wellings  
Apprentice .





# The EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum covers the ages from birth to five. This is the curriculum that will be followed to track your child's development until they leave Reception.

## The four principles of the EYFS

There are four guiding principles which shape our practice.

**A unique child** - Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

**Positive relationships** - Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

**Enabling environments** - Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs, interests and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

**Learning and Development** - The educational programmes are set out in the "Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage" document (Department for Education, 2014). The areas of learning are set out below:

The three PRIME areas of learning and development are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

The four SPECIFIC areas of learning and development are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At Gateway Academy we believe these areas are all important in order to promote the development of the whole child. We aim to deliver all the areas through a planned, purposeful learning-through-play approach, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.





# Our Environment



Our environment is set up into areas that match the Development Matters. This is to ensure a rich learning environment is accessible at all times for the children to choose freely.

Our continuous provision flows in and outdoors so the children can fulfil all learning opportunities.





# Our Environment



## Our outdoor learning environment



We enhance our learning outdoors to link to the current topic. This allows the children to explore various learning situations, the learning becomes embedded and cross curricular links are made.







# Our Environment



The curriculum aims to introduce children to different forms of learning. Two of these being adult-led activities and child-initiated activities. At Blackpool Gateway Academy, meeting each child's individual needs is paramount to our daily routine. To ensure this is carried out to a high standard and to support the children's learning, development and progression, activities are carefully planned and made accessible to meet those needs. Although this is an essential aspect to the children's learning there are also plenty of opportunities for child-initiated activities. This is where the children lead their learning. This is done spontaneously and also links are made to our planning, based on the children's interest. We cover a range of topics throughout the year and our enhancement to the learning area make these learning opportunities fun, engaging and offer challenges to develop the children's learning.



We encourage the children to be creative thinkers, support them to become independent learners and kind and considerate to others around them.

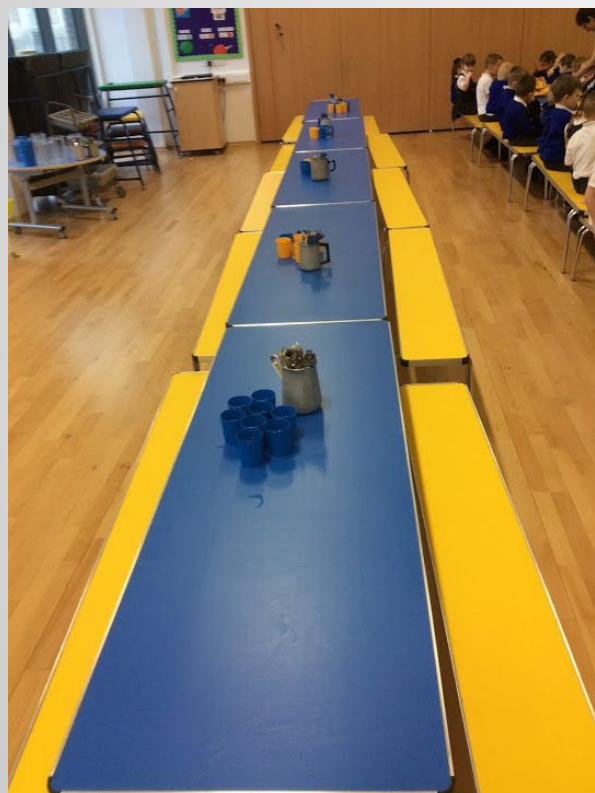




# Our Environment



At lunch time all the children will go to the hall where tables are set and food is freshly prepared. The children who have a school dinner will get the choice of three things each day. Menus are provided in advance, for you to see first, but the children also choose their lunch daily to encourage independence. The children have access to the salad bar, too. The lunch hall can be quite busy and noisy at times and this is something we consider. We introduce the children slowly to this experience and wait until they are ready before we settle them into eating in the hall. The Nursery Team stay with the children throughout lunchtime to ensure the children feel safe and secure and have a familiar adult at all times.



Children who have packed lunches also eat in the lunch hall. We learn how to use our knife and fork, practise pouring our own drink and socialise with our friends.



# Our Environment

We are very lucky that we have access to a large hall in our school. Every Tuesday afternoon Nursery go in there to do P.E. Our P.E session is with Steven from Blackpool Football Club. He comes every week to deliver a session that incorporates the skills stated in the curriculum that we follow (The Early Years Foundation Stage).



If your child attends Nursery on a Tuesday afternoon please send them into Nursery in clothing suitable for P.E. I advise they come in their school polo t-shirt and then some tracksuit pants or leggings with trainers or pumps.







# Getting started at Blackpool Gateway Academy

By now you will have filled in all of your paperwork, met Miss Millett, had a look around Nursery and be very much looking forward to your child starting at Blackpool Gateway Academy.

Your child will be invited to a taster session before their start date. You will bring your child to Nursery and leave them with the Nursery Team for 1 hour. This will give them chance to settle and familiarise themselves with the environment. Additional taster sessions can be arranged if needed.

We wear a uniform in Nursery like the rest of the school. Please speak to the school office for information about a school jumper or cardigan. Trousers, T-shirts pinafores and skirts can be bought from Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Matalan.



Look how  
smart and  
grown up  
we look in  
our school  
uniforms!







# What we offer!



## Our mission -

All at Blackpool Gateway Academy are in pursuit of educational excellence.

We endeavour to work together with parents, governors and the local community to provide high quality care and education through continuous improvement.

Encouraging all children to enjoy learning, develop their best potential and show mutual respect for one another.

We promote independence and hope that all our pupils become 'lifelong learners'.

## Our Core Values:

- Pride
- Ambition
- Respect
- Integrity
- Resilience
- Excellence

We have a large staff base at Blackpool Gateway Academy and a strong Senior Leadership Team who work closely with all staff daily to continually drive the school expectations forward. We have a Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) who is based in school five days a week and we work very closely with the Communicate Speech and Language team who are also in school on a weekly basis. This is all undertaken in school ensuring the best possible provision for all of our children.



# What we offer!



We offer Nursery places from 3 years old. Places are available for both 3 and 4 year olds.

We are open alongside the school and our opening hours are 8:45am until 3:15pm Monday to Friday during term time.

We also offer a Breakfast Club and an After School Club service should you need longer hours.

Every child who is 3 years old is entitled to 15 free hours of childcare a week. These 15 hours can be used by doing five morning sessions, five afternoon sessions or two and a half days.

Morning session : 8:45am - 11:45am

Afternoon session: 12:15pm - 3:15pm

Full day: 8:45am - 3:15pm

If you would like more sessions, the fee is £4.00 per hour to top up your sessions, to suit your needs. You may be entitled to 30 free hours, this you can check on <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

To clarify any queries you may have, please ask Miss Millett or the school office.



# Family Engagement



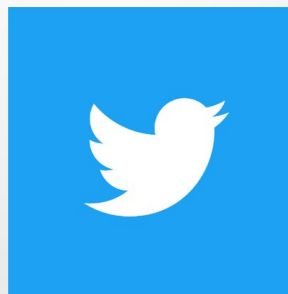
Each half term we invite you in for a Family Fun Session.



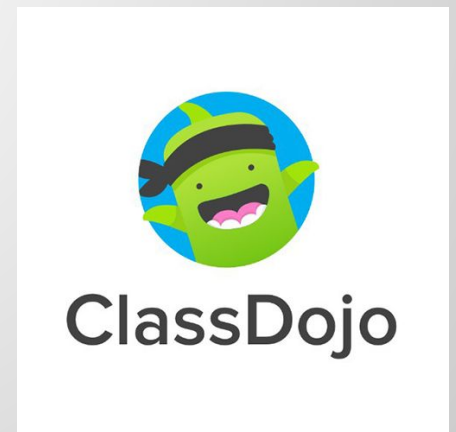
This gives you the chance to get involved with what your child gets up to in Nursery, have a look through their learning journey and meet the teachers and friends of your child :).



There is a display board in Nursery where you can send in work and achievements from home. This work is then displayed and celebrated in class :)



You can also find us on Twitter @Gateway T&L



Class Dojo is an app that you download. Your child's teacher will give you a code to input and then you can keep updated with events and photos.





# Preparing for Reception



We all know that after Nursery your little one starts school. We are in a lovely position that our Nursery and Reception work closely together so your child will be very familiar with the setting and their upcoming teachers!

Your child starts school the September following their 4th birthday. You can apply for their place before this from November through to January. This gives you lots of time to consider your school of choice.

School will support you in whatever you need to make this process run as smoothly as possible for you. You will find out in April if your child gets their first choice of school, this is via email or a letter in the post.

In July careful consideration is made to the transition of going from Nursery to Reception. We offer 'meet the teacher' sessions and transition to school sessions, where your child comes in for a variety of sessions. When the children start school in August they will attend half days for the first week to ensure you and your child feel happy.

The transition from Nursery to school can be an anxious time for the children and for you as a parent, we are here to make it as enjoyable as we possibly can!



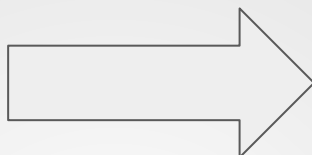


# Preparing for Nursery



Although your child will grow and learn during their time at Nursery there are a few things that you can do as a parent to prepare your child. Preparing your children for Nursery and exposing them to these skills will enable them to gain a positive learning experience right from the very start.

Health professionals recommend that by the age of 3, children should no longer be using a dummy, sucking a thumb, or drinking from a bottle.



Let your child drink from a cup without a lid, only pour small amounts in at a time to avoid spills.

Most children should be toilet trained by the age of 3 and are showing lots of independence towards their health and self care. Therefore, we ask that children are toilet trained before they start Nursery.

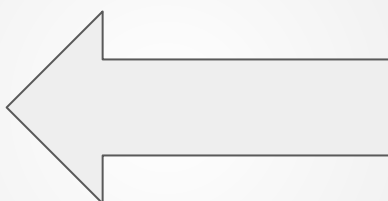




# Preparing for Nursery



Encourage your child to wash and dry their hands independently.



Fastening up a zip on a coat can be quite difficult for a 3 year old, however, we ask that you encourage your child to put on and take off their coat.

Could we please ask that you label all your child's belongings with their name or initials. This decreases the chances of things getting mixed up or lost. It would also be helpful if you could send your child with a spare change of clothes.

Although we ask they are fully trained we appreciate the nursery day is a long day and accidents and spillages may occur.

Thank you for your support with these areas of development for your child. If you have any question, queries or concerns the Nursery Team are always here to help and advise.