

Welcome to our nursery. We hope you and your child will be very happy to begin their educational journey with us. Our nursery has undergone major changes in recent years, and is now a stimulating, fun filled learning zone with children at the heart of everything we do.

Starting nursery is a new and exciting experience for all involved. However, both parents and children can sometimes feel apprehensive about the changes ahead. We aim to make this transition as smooth and as positive as possible.

## Starting Nursery

We want to know lots about you prior to your child starting. Normally, staff from the nursery visit your house to begin the transition process. Due to the ongoing health crisis, this year we will be running our home visits virtually using Skype Business.

Information on how this will run will follow in an email. Information shared during the home visits helps nursery staff plan for when the children start in the nursery.

If your child has not been apart from you before, try to arrange for him/her to spend some time with relatives/friends so they can get used to being with others

It is also good to share books about starting school and nursery with your child and talk about how the characters are feeling about starting at nursery. This will help your child to talk about any fears or concerns they may have and allow you to reassure them. Some examples are: 'Elephant Comes to School'

by Jan Omerod and 'Starting School' by Janet Ahlberg. We will also read some of these stories in the first days of the children joining nursery.

One of the things we work on over the time your child is in nursery, is beginning to develop independence, ahead of starting school the year after. Some ideas to help promote independence include:

Encouraging children to use the toilet and wash their hands

- Helping them put on and take of their coat
  - Helping children with eating and drinking
- Encourage children to share toys and take turns

If your child is not yet toilet trained, then please encourage them to toilet train over the Summer. Accidents do happen, and staff will help children when necessary, but please encourage your child to attend to toileting independently where possible.

Ensure you have filled in and returned the various forms included with this pack. Forms should be returned to school as soon as possible, and before the child begins nursery.



Nursery and Reception work closely together, following the statutory Foundation Stage curriculum. This is organised around the following seven areas of learning.

The prime areas are:

- Communication & language (Listening & Attention, Understanding, Speaking)
- Physical Development (Moving & Handling, Health & Self-Care)
  - Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Making Relationships, Managing Feelings & Behaviour, Self-Confidence & Self-Awareness)

The specific areas are

- Literacy (Reading & Writing)
- Mathematics (Number & Shape, Space and Measure
- Expressive Arts & Design (Being Imaginative and Exploring Media & Materials)
  - Understanding of the World (People & Communities, The World and Technology)

Each session is carefully planned to give children the opportunity to take part in a range of play based activities which encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in all seven areas of learning. These could include:

- Sand and water play
- Using construction toys
  - Creative activities
    - Role play
- Listening to music, songs and rhymes
- Using the computer and other technological toys
  - Playing with small world animals, vehicles or people
    - Completing puzzles and games
  - Tactile play with materials such as pasta, rice and jelly.

The nursery has its own outside classroom, where children can take part in activities to develop their learning, with an emphasis on physical development.

## Parents

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We operate an 'open door' policy, so parents can talk to staff when they drop off and pick their children up. Parents are welcome to stay for the first 15 minutes of the session to complete an activity with your child, and can talk to nursery staff when needed. If you need to talk with staff for a longer period or in private, please arrange a meeting with the appropriate member of staff.

Each child has a Home/Work 'Book', which they bring home each week. This is used to let parents know what their child is learning and to suggest ways in which parents can support their child's learning. It can also be used as a means of communication between parents and nursery staff. Please make every effort to complete these activities, and bring in on a weekly basis. You will also receive a termly newsletter from the nursery staff detailing the topic for the term and other activities that will be happening.

Staff make regular observations of children in Nursery and keep a record of their progress and development by completing the Foundation Stage Profile, which is linked to the seven areas of learning

in the Foundation Stage curriculum. Every child will have a learning journey consisting of observations and Wow moments that parents can fill in at home. We also have a parent app, where you will be able to make observations of your child to share with Nursery staff. Information on this will follow later on in the Summer term.

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We also utilise a 'work' book where focused learning is kept.

Parents have an opportunity to meet with nursery staff to discuss their child's progress on a regular basis. In the first term, a parents evening will be held to discuss how your child has settled, and

discuss what your child's next steps in their learning are. As the year continues, you will have an opportunity to meet with nursery staff at a further parents evening as well as VIP Visits. These happen once a term, and give you change to look at your child's learning journey and work books in the classroom. In their final term, you will receive a written report.

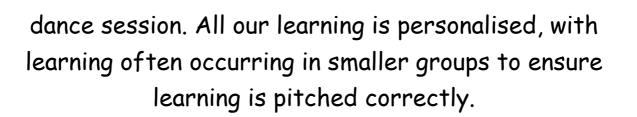
Nursery children are entitled to free school milk and free fruit is also available for children each day as part of the governments 'Fruit in Schools' scheme.



A typical session in nursery is very busy, with a mixture of child initiated learning, focused group activities and independent working. Below is an example of what a typical session can involve:

08:30 -	Meet & Greet/registration
08:45	Parent Activities
08:45 -	Group time - Maths/Literacy & CL
09:00	
09:00 -	Continuous provision
09:45	Focused activities = Maths/Literacy
09:45 -	Phonics
10:00	
10:00 -	Snack
10.15	
10:15 -	Outdoor continuous provision
11:15	Focused Activities =
	EAD/UTW/PSED/PD
11:15 -	Stories & Rhymes
11:30	
11:30	Home

Throughout the week, all the children will also complete a physical development session which can include dough disco, squiggle whilst you wriggle and a



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After today, we will be keeping in contact through emails. We will let you know all future plans regarding transition and possible visits, but please be aware that due to the ongoing health crisis, these may change

. If you have any questions or queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact school on 0161 368 3366.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU WHEN YOU START NURSERY