



Welcome to a new school year in Turtles class. For those of you that are returning, we cannot wait to have you for another academic year and for those of you that are new to Gagle Brook we really do welcome you and are so looking forward to learning all about you and your children, welcome to the team in our lovely school!

Our team this year will be Miss Tynan, Mrs Wasilyw and Miss Pollard.

Our timetable:

Please do arrive promptly for an 8.45 start ready for our morning activities to begin. If you are in school for morning sessions only, school finishes at 11.45am Monday to Friday. If you are in school with us all day then school finishes at 3.15pm Monday – Thursday, and at 2pm on Fridays.

Day	8.45am-9.05 (10 minutes for register and Adult led when children are settled and ready)	9.05am - 11.30 am	11.30am-11.40am	11.45am-12.45	12.45pm-2.40pm	2.40pm-2.50pm	2.50pm-3.05pm	
Monday	Continuous Provision/ register. Affirmations	Continuous Provision Inside and Outside free flow (skill led based on individual next steps) 9.45 - 10.30 Rolling snack 10.15 Story dough	Lunch	Maths Adult Led	Register Continuous Provision Inside and outside free flow (skill led based on individual next steps)	DEAR (drop everything and read)	Dough disco	
Tuesday				Squiggle while you wiggle			Jigsaw	Songtime
Wednesday				Let's chat!			Music	Storytime
Thursday				Dough disco			Maths Adult Led	Rhymes time – stage 1 phonics
Friday				"We are proud" Assembly			Storytime	12.15 - 1.15pm Outside play 1.15- 1.45 Wellbeing focus – Yoga, breathing, affirmations

We would please ask that if you have older siblings within the school, that your Turtle is collected first as it can be very difficult for nursery children to wait for very long, whilst sitting on the carpet.

The curriculum

Each term we celebrate a school value and have a 'big question' that our learning is based around. You will find more information about this in our termly newsletters and topic webs which we will send home each term. We will all of course also be following our children's leads and seeing where their interests and enquiries take us – we are excited to see what we can learn together.

In Turtles our phonic sessions are by daily nursery rhymes, ring games and reading lots of stories together. We listen and try to identify sounds of the environment, instruments, use our bodies to make body percussion, enjoy rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, making sounds with our voices and by blending and segmenting words. You may meet 'Fred the Frog' who will help you learn about letters and the sounds they make, which is the first step on the journey to being able to read all by yourself!



Tapestry

All your children will have an online learning journal under a system called Tapestry. As parents/carers you should all have access to your child's Tapestry account. On here, we put pictures and words of your children that demonstrate the learning they are doing and will share sporadic snippets of their day. Please do have a look at what your child has been doing, comment and like as well as uploading your own pictures and telling us about things your child has done, places they have been and loved and things that will make us smile. We do share these with the children, and they love sharing things they have done. It also shows us what amazing things we can celebrate in school – has your child started riding a two wheeled bike, produced some artwork they are proud of or showed resilience, independence or determination – please let us know.

Healthy Snacks

We are a healthy school and promote healthy snacks. There will be fruit and vegetables available, as well as enjoying some toast during Toast Tuesdays or you are welcome to bring your own alternative fruit or vegetable snack. If you choose to bring grapes or cherry tomatoes, can we please ask for these to be cut in half lengthways prior to bringing them into school. No nuts please!

Each child should have a named drink bottle full of water, in school each day.

Reminders

Please do label absolutely everything that comes into school including hats, coats, clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes. With small children they often do not remember where they have left their belongings, nor which items belong to them, and without names it is impossible to reunite individual children with their belongings. We are aware that sometimes labels can come off in the wash so if you could you please check often throughout the year that these are still intact, that would be very helpful.

Clothes – Can we please ask that every child has several, named, sets of clothes, including underwear and socks, in school each day. Even if your child does not routinely have accidents, there is the possibility that they may when deeply involved in their learning, as well as the possibility of needing to change through water or messy play, we play hard in Turtles and getting hands on is a big part of how a child learns so they will get messy! If you could keep a named canvas bag or bag for life in your child's bag for any clothes that need to be changed this will help us to use less single use plastic when sending clothes home.

The children do all have named drawers so if you would like to keep a bag of spares in school you are welcome to and then you can replenish as needed.

Turtles spend a large amount of time learning and playing outside, in all weathers, and so clothes reflecting this are a must. A waterproof coat, a jumper/cardigan, spare clothes and wellies are essential. We do have a welly rack where you can store wellies at school to save you carrying them backwards and forwards. Although not essential we would also recommend waterproof trousers and a coat set, which can be easier than an all-in-one for children to use, especially with toileting. You can again keep these in school if it is easier for you.

How can I help my child?

We are often asked, 'How can I help my child at home?' and for Early Years children one of the key things is to read to them often and encourage a real love of books! Talk about books, what can you see in the pictures? (Some books have amazing details and little surprises hidden in their illustrations, which children love to find!) Which characters do you like? & why? What do you think might happen next? etc We would love for you to record details of the books that you read together, comments that your child might make etc in their reading record. Remember that for every 15 reads your child will get to celebrate their successes with someone from our senior leadership team and receive a special sticker and a small prize for every 30 reads.

'Chatter Time' is also a great way of developing your child's language skills. Life can be busy, but make sure you find time each day to have a real 2-way conversation

with your child, listening and responding to show them you value what they have to say. This doesn't have to be a serious conversation, they're only little, make it fun!

Please encourage and support them with being as independent as possible e.g when going to the toilet, putting on their coat (pulling their own sleeves back through if necessary – just show them how) putting their shoes on the right feet etc.

Questions/concerns.

If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do feel free to come and arrange a time to speak to us or to request a phone call if it's easier. We are also available at the end of the school day, once all of the children have been safely returned to parents/carers or have gone to Dragonflies. We are here to help and support you and your child through their nursery year. You can also contact us via admin@gaglebrook.org.uk, and it will be passed onto us in the classroom