



Starting at Lark Hill Nursery School Handbook (updated Sept 2024)

A very warm welcome to Lark Hill Nursery School. We are delighted to offer high quality nursery places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in a caring atmosphere where children thrive. Our integrated Nursery provides a family atmosphere which is nurturing and challenging for all of our children.

We are proud to have been judged by OFSTED to be OUTSTANDING in all areas in four inspections and the last time was in December 2019.



We offer your child an interesting and stimulating learning environment, and the opportunity to play and explore alongside experienced and talented staff.

This leaflet contains the answers to questions we are frequently asked when families visit us. You are always welcome to pop in, ring or email us if you have any other questions.

Frequently asked questions

1. What times can my child come to Nursery?



30 hours

Over five days from Monday to Friday 8:50-2:50

Mornings (including lunchtime)

Monday to Friday 8:50am – 11:50am

Beginning of week

Week A: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:50am – 2:50pm every day

Week B: Monday and Tuesday 8:50am – 2:50pm every day

End of week

Week A: Thursday and Friday 8:50am – 2:50pm every day

Week B: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:50am – 2:50pm every day

You can also pay for your child to be onsite between the hours of 8am - 3.30pm.

The breakfast club run by Lark Hill Primary School Staff is between 8am – 8:50am and costs £1.50 a day **(3&4 year olds only)**.

The after school club which is run at Nursery, by Nursery staff is from 2:50pm to 3:30pm and also costs £1.50 a day **(for 2,3 and 4 year olds)**. Email sarah.allen@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk to find out what we can offer your child.

2. How much do you charge for extra sessions?

You can pay for extra sessions before or after your funded sessions, or on days that your child doesn't normally attend. Prices are:

Place	Hours	Charge
Breakfast Club at the Primary School (run by Primary School Staff) 3&4 year olds only	8:00 – 8:50am	£1:50
Morning	8:50am – 11:50am	£16.80
Full day	8:50am -2:50pm	£33.60

Your child can bring a **packed lunch** or pay **for a cooked lunch** which costs £1.85.

If you book a regular extra session, that place is guaranteed and so you are liable to pay for it whether or not your child attends, as we have arranged staffing cover. You will be invoiced each half term in advance.

If you want to book an occasional extra session, please check with us and we can let you know if we have space.

3. How is a maintained Nursery School different to a private Nursery?

We are owned by the Local Authority and we are required to have at least one qualified teacher as part of our staff and a Headteacher. We offer places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds during term time and all of the money we raise from additional sessions is spent on improving the provision for the children. All of our staff are at least level 3 qualified.

We follow the same holidays as Stockport Primary Schools.



Meet the team



Jo O'Raw
Headteacher



Chloe Higgins
Nursery Teacher



Sarah Allen
School Business
Manager



Carlos Arroyo Gil
Nursery Practitioner



Shafeen Ali
Midday Assistant



Tracy Bailey
Nursery Practitioner



Emma Briant
Midday Assistant



Emily Mullett
Nursery Practitioner



Heather O'Reilly
Nursery Practitioner



Jennie Speed
Nursery Practitioner

All of our Nursery practitioners have specialist qualifications of Level 3 or above. Our Midday assistants have a level 2 qualification. All teachers, practitioners and middays have an up to date paediatric first aid qualification.

Our Headteacher, has a PGCE Teaching Qualification and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Our Teacher has a BA Degree in Early Years Education and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). She is also our SENCO and holds the NASENCO qualification. One of our practitioners has a degree in psychology and holds Early Years Teacher Status. Another is a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Another is a qualified PE teacher.

As you can tell we take the ongoing learning of our staff very seriously as we know it improves the provision we can offer our children. The staff take part in staff meetings and have five full day training days together each school year. We also send our staff on specialist external training courses and have experts in the early years who visit us to work alongside our staff too.



4. How do you get to know my child?

We will introduce ourselves with a home visit before your child starts at Nursery. Our home visits are a lovely opportunity for you and your child to get to know two of the staff who will be working with them. One of the staff will bring some paperwork to fill in with you, and the other will bring resources to play with your child. We find the home visit begins our relationship with you and your child on a personal note and helps your children settle as they start.

Each child has a key person who is their special person and is your first point of contact as you arrive at Nursery. They get to know your child really well and are available to discuss anything relating to your child. They are linked with other key people at Nursery and they will both come on the home visit.

Each child also has an 'All about me' on our online learning journey called Tapestry. You can add information about your child to this and share it with your child's key person.

5. What is the learning environment like?

We have a smaller room and a larger room which our 2, 3 and 4 year olds all explore together. Our Nursery is set up with areas indoor and in the garden which appeal to children and their interests. We have thought very carefully about the layout and resources available for the children. They have all been chosen to support and promote your child's learning and development. There are opportunities to develop skills across all areas of learning wherever your child prefers to play.



Inside we offer a wide variety of activities for the children to develop skills across all areas of learning such as the opportunity to share books, make marks (early reading and writing), through trying a variety of collage, paint and role play experiences (expressive arts and design), using tools such as scissors, pencils and paintbrushes (physical development) and time to share their ideas with others (communication and language).



In the garden the children can also explore all areas of learning on a larger scale. They come into contact with nature by growing plants and looking for ladybirds (understanding the world), they can explore making marks in the sand with sticks or with chunky chinks on the playground (early writing) and develop their large physical skills through the challenge of climbing up our hill, learning how to use our rope swing, our ladder and climbing on our log (physical development). Our whole environment supports the children's learning in all seven areas of the curriculum (more information about our curriculum later on in this leaflet)

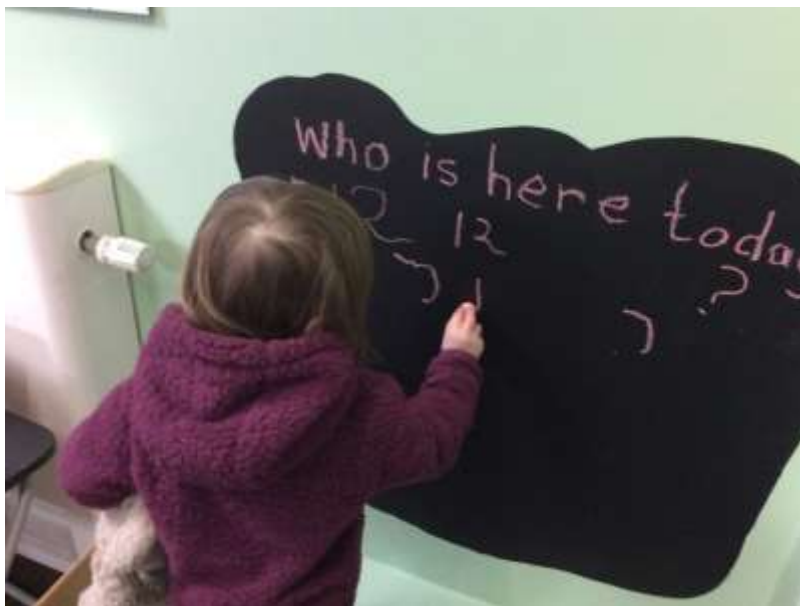
6. What will my child do at Nursery?

As your child arrives for the start of their session they will be greeted by the staff. Your child will have choices about where they would like to explore which is known as child initiated learning. The staff are skilled at supporting the children's learning through their play and enabling the children to extend what they are doing supporting their language and thinking skills.

Each morning they will also have a group time. This includes an adult led activity. We use an approach called 'in the moment' planning to allow us to monitor the learning and progress of individual children and think about their next steps in response to their interests. We will discuss this with you, so we can work together to ensure your child enjoys learning and continues to make progress

7. What ratio of staff to children do you have?

For our two year olds we are required to have a ratio of 1:5. We always have at least this number of adults working with our youngest children. For our 3 and 4 year olds we are required to have a ratio of 1:13 which means your child will always have an adult nearby to interact with and support them. Your child will have a key person who comes on the initial home visit with another member of staff.



8. What does the curriculum include and what is the approach to supporting my child to learn at Lark Hill Nursery School?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework which is the curriculum devised by the Department for Education for children between the ages of birth and five. This is until the end of your child's year in Reception. We believe children's experience in the early years should be happy, active, hands on, exciting and fun.

We believe children should be presented with a beautiful and fascinating environment to explore both indoors and outdoors. We feel that children

should have the opportunity to return to experiences and deepen their learning throughout their time at Lark Hill Nursery School. Children should have genuine choice between experiences which are rich in potential.

We want our children to be lifelong learners and to be willing to challenge themselves, take risks, to be creative and confident to explore new experiences. We find the characteristics of effective learners as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage really useful to help us support our children's development as confident learners.

We believe children are competent learners from birth and we have an important role in working closely with families to nurture and support this.

We believe an effective learning environment evolves as staff use their observations to further support the children's learning. Children need to feel emotionally secure at Nursery if they are to have the confidence to explore and learn. At Lark Hill Nursery School relationships are the foundations of children's learning and development

There are seven areas of learning which we use to help us support a child's development, care and learning needs. Children mostly develop their skills through the 3 prime areas first, which are essential for your child's healthy development and continuing learning:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.



As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in four specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, challenging themselves, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Each term we have a theme which we link our work to:

Autumn : Who am I ?

Spring : Out and about

Summer : Growing and changing



9. How will you share my child's progress with me?

We see the supporting of your child's progress as an ongoing partnership between Home and Nursery. Your child will have an online learning journal on Tapestry which you and staff can add to so we can share significant aspects of your child's progress and to celebrate special occasions. For our 2 year olds, the staff complete the statutory 2 year old progress check with you. For our 3 and 4 year olds your child will have two learning reviews where will ask you to share ideas about the progress your child has made. We offer you the opportunity to have meetings during the year with your child's key person.

At each stage we will agree with you the next steps for your child.

10. What if I am worried about my child's development and progress?

If you have any concerns about your child's development please share them with us and we can offer advice, help devise an additional support plan to help your child or if needed refer your child to access help from another professional such as a Speech and Language Therapist,

Educational Psychologist or the Child Development Unit. Please see our School Offer on our website for more information about how we support children with Special Educational Needs (S.E.N.) and liaise with other professionals to support your child. We treat every child as an individual. You can also find further information about the Stockport Local Offer on our website as well. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDSCO) is our Nursery Teacher, Chloe Higgins.



11. What will my child eat at Nursery ?

Each morning and afternoon we provide the children with a healthy snack. To encourage the children to try a wider range of fruit and vegetables our weekly menu includes apples, bananas, pears, carrots, tomatoes and peppers. We shop weekly and make seasonal choices to ensure the children have a variety.

At lunchtime our children can choose to bring their own healthy packed lunch or to buy a cooked healthy lunch.

The children only have access to milk or water to drink at Nursery. We have a water cooler and the children have access to it all day.

12. How does attending Nursery prepare my child for their Primary School ?

Our children move to at least ten different Primary Schools and we have well established transition relationships with all of our feeder schools. This includes welcoming visits from their new teacher and sharing information about your child as a learner and the progress they have made.

As your child takes their next step in their learning journey they will be equipped by the experience of Nursery to help them be independent, confident to face new challenges, happy to share their ideas and be comfortable to learn alongside different children and adults.

13. What does my child need for Nursery?

We want your child to be able to explore freely without worrying about their clothing, so please send your child to Nursery in practical and comfortable clothes and shoes.

Please do not send your child to Nursery in their best clothes.

Due to the rising cost of living, we no longer stock new uniform, however, we do still have 2nd hand uniform available for £1 a piece if you would like to buy some.

Please bring a drawstring bag with the following:

- Underwear
- Socks
- Trousers/leggings
- Tshirts/tops/jumpers
- Nappies or pull ups and wipes (for those not yet toilet trained)

You will also need:

- A waterproof coat (all year round)
- Seasonal essentials such as summer/winter hats and gloves.

Please ensure your child's name is in all items of clothing and shoes are closed toe and of a style children will be able to learn to put on independently (we recommend Velcro).

14. How can I help my child be ready for Nursery ?

It is a big step to move to Nursery and for some children it may be the first time they have spent time with people who are not part of their family.

The most important thing that children always need is people to love being with them, chatting and playing with them. The most simple, fun experiences such as helping you with jobs at home, playing at the park, sharing a story or singing songs all help your child to learn. These experiences help your child to enjoy being with others and support them to learn new things.

It can also help them to be with new people at Nursery if they are used to spending small periods of time with other people.

It also helps children if you can support them to try to put on their own coat and shoes (although obviously we will help them).

If they are showing an interest in being toilet trained then if they can manage this it helps them feel grown up and independent. If they are not showing an interest yet do not worry as we can work on it with you.

It is an exciting step for your child to start Nursery and if you choose Lark Hill Nursery School we look forward to getting to know your child and your family.

Top tips

- 1) Give your child plenty of time to get used to Nursery – don't rush things.**
- 2) Be available for your child whenever she or she wants you during the settling in period.**
- 3) Talk to your key person and share your ideas**
- 4) Try to be as confident as possible in front of your child.**
- 5) Don't worry if your child gets upset or angry – it's a big step to move from Home or Nursery.**

Apply for a place

If you are applying for a 2 year old place with us please email our School Business Manager on sarah.allen@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk.

If you are applying for a 3 year old place you can register with the council website and apply for a place

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/nursery-and-school-admissions>

Please email us if you have any further questions. Jo O'Raw our Headteacher can be emailed on:

headteacher@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk

or ring us and leave a message on 0161 480 0867

