



## **Welcome to Lark Hill Nursery School**

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.



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?

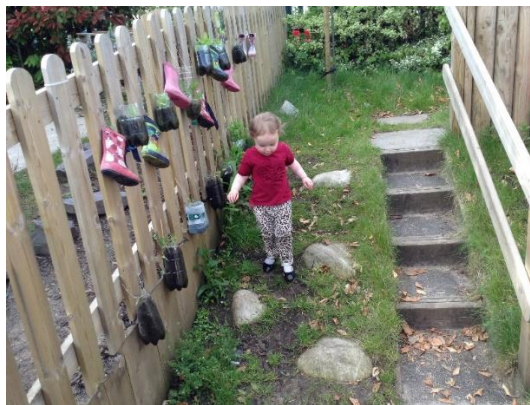
**For our 2 year olds** we offer either funded places if you think you might qualify) or places that you pay for. If you are eligible for a funded place your child can have the equivalent of 15 hours a week

Either

**five mornings** from Monday to Friday 8:30am – 11:30am

or **beginning of week** (Mon, Tue and Wed either 8:30-2:30 each day or 8:45am – 2:45 one week and Monday and Tue either 8:30-2:30 each day or 8:45am – 2:45 the following week)or

or **end of week** (Thur and Fri either 8:30-2:30 each day or 8:45am – 2:45 one week and Wed, Thur and Fri either 8:30-2:30 each day or 8:45am – 2:45 the following week)



If you are paying for sessions, you can choose sessions to suit your child (depending on availability). We ask you to have at least two sessions a week as we find this helps your child to settle and get the most out of attending Nursery.

**For our 3 and 4 year olds** (the term after your child turns 3 they can access the free 15 hour place which all children are entitled to). Your child will change key person and you will continue to have the same choice of places as before. We often find as children are older their family may then choose a 2 day/3 day place although can still choose mornings if they suit you.



You will also have then have the option to pay for sessions in addition to your funded hours. This might be a regular arrangement or a one-off. We like to offer this flexibility as we know some families need more sessions because of work commitments, but sometimes you may need time to attend appointments, to be with family or if you just fancy a day Christmas shopping !

Some families of 3 & 4 year olds may be eligible for up to 15 hours more (making 30 hours in total per week). We will be offering the total of 30 hours in two ways:

**five days** from Monday to Friday 8:30-2:30 or 8:45-2:45

or **four days** per week 8:00am – 3:30pm

## 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:

It costs £15.60 for a morning 8:30-11:30 or £31.20 for a full day 8:30-2:30 or 8:45-2:45

Place	Hours	Charge
Early nursery	8:00 – 8.30 or 8:30 – 9:00	£2.60
	or 8:00-9:00	£5.20
Morning	8:30am – 11:30am	£15.60
Lunchtime	(11:30 – 12:30pm)	£5.20
Full day	8:30am – 2:30pm	£31.20
	OR 8:45am – 2:45pm	
Full day	8:30-3:30	£36.40

Your child can bring a **packed lunch** or pay **for a cooked lunch** which costs £2.20

We are not currently offering a cooked lunch but hope to be able to do so again soon.

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. You will need to pay for this session a week in advance, but if your child is unable to attend there is no charge.

### **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.

### **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 a story sack to play with your child. We find the home visits begins our relationship with you and your child on a personal note and helps your children settle as they start. (Due to covid-19 unfortunately we are not currently doing home visits but we will invite you to a garden visit before your child starts and the option to pay for some 1 hour visits prior to your child officially starting with us). Our Headteacher, Jo O'Raw or Deputy Headteacher, Cath Evans will ring you before your child starts to discuss everything about them.



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. All of the children also have their own space on the wall where there are key photographs and reflections of their interests.

## **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.

Due to covid-19 we have separated our Nursery into a bubble of 2 year old children and staff and a separate bubble of 3 and 4 year old children and staff to minimise contacts.



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 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 and afternoon 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. How qualified and experienced are the staff?**

All Nursery staff are required to have a Level 2 qualification to work with children. Most of our staff have specialist qualifications at a significantly higher level. Our key workers are qualified to between Level 3 and Level 5 (degree level)



Two of our three Midday staff, who support children over the lunchtime period, are qualified to Level 3.

We are a maintained Nursery School and so we are expected to have a qualified teacher working with the children at all times. Working alongside



the rest of our staff are two qualified teachers: our Headteacher who has a Master's degree and our Deputy Headteacher who also has a Master's degree.

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.

## **8. What ratio of staff to children do you have?**

For our two year olds we are required to have a ratio of 1:4 and 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 but we plan our staffing at a ratio of 1:8, which means your child will always have an adult nearby to interact with and support them. Your child will have a key person and also have a paired key person who is an alternative point of contact if your child's key person is not at Nursery.

## **9. 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.



## **10. 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 review weeks where we 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. These discussions will currently happen over the phone.

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

## **11. 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, Early Years Behaviour Support Teacher 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.



## **12. 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. Unfortunately to minimise the possibility

of transmission of covid-19 we are not currently offering the children a snack



At lunchtime our children can choose to bring their own healthy packed lunch or to buy a cooked healthy lunch which is provided by a company called By Request. (See our 4 weekly menu on the next page) They offer home cooked healthy meals including spaghetti bolognaise, lamb hot pot, chilli, tuna pasta bake.

We are not unfortunately currently offering a hot meal. Our children eligible to Free School Meals will be given a payment after each half term towards buying their packed lunches (based on their attendance).

Each day the children also have either a fruit platter or yoghurt.

The children only have access to milk or water to drink at Nursery. On special occasions such as for each child's birthday we make a cake together to share, but apart from this all of the food we offer is healthy and follows nutritional guidelines for young children.

We are not currently making cakes but still have a celebration with your child where they can choose a small present.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Oven baked burger in a soft roll with baked beans Veggie burger Mini yoghurt pots	Ham and pasta bake Mushroom pasta bake Mixed green salad Fresh fruit platter	Fish fingers Egg salad Tomato wedges and peas Mini yoghurt pots	Chicken curry and rice Veggie curry Fresh fruit platter	Fish pie Veggie bake Mixed veg Mini yoghurt pots
Week 2	Chicken casserole Chickpea casserole Broccoli Min yoghurt pots	Tuna and pasta bake Mixed peppers and pasta Chunky mixed salad Fresh fruit platter	Bacon, cheese, potato and leek bake Cheese, potato and leek bake Carrots Mini yoghurt pots	Sausage hot pot Chick pea hot pot Beetroot Fresh fruit platter	Pork stir fry Veggie stir fry Basmati rice Mini yoghurt pots
Week 3	Mild chilli with rice and wraps Veg chilli Fresh fruit platter	Lamb casserole New potatoes Mini yoghurt pots	Steak hot pot Sweet potato hot pot Peas Fresh fruit platter	Spaghetti bolognese Quorn bolognese Green salad Mini yoghurt pots	Pork curry and rice Chickpea curry and rice Fresh fruit platter
Week 4	Cottage pie Cheese and lentil rissoles Baby carrots Mini yoghurt pots	Filled pitta pouches Pepper filled pittas Potato wedges Fresh fruit platter	Fish cake Garlic and cream cheese bites Jacket potatoes Sweetcorn Mini yoghurt pots	Lasagne Veggie lasagne Mixed leaves Fresh fruit platter	Chicken kebab Veggie kebab Vegetable rice Mini yoghurt pots

### **13. Are the staff qualified as first aiders ?**

We are expected to have one first aider on the premises all of the time. We currently have 10 of our 11 staff who directly work with the children who have an up to date first aid qualification. Nine of these staff have the paediatric first aid qualification and one has the first aid at work qualification.

### **14. How do I apply for a place for my child at Lark Hill Nursery School ?**

If you are applying for a 2 year old place with us please email our Deputy Head Cath Evans on [catherine.evans@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:catherine.evans@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk) or Karen Fairweather, our School Business Manager on [Karen.fairweather@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:Karen.fairweather@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>

### **15) 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.



## **16) 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.

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

[headteacher@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@larkhill-nur.stockport.sch.uk)

or ring us on 0161 480 0867

### **A useful source of information**



A booklet about your child's development from the ages of birth to 5.

Available to download for free from:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

It includes information on how to support your child's learning and development.