



Nursery Class Information Booklet

**Everything you need to know about your child
starting Nursery**



Welcome to Mereside Nursery

We are very pleased to welcome children and their families to Mereside Nursery. We aim to make your child's introduction to Nursery and school life as happy and as smooth as possible. Children will be well looked after in our care by all the staff with whom they come into contact.

We want you to feel free to talk to the Nursery Teacher/Early Years Lead or Headteacher if you or your child should experience any difficulties.

We also want to welcome you as parents to our school. Some of you will already have children in the school but for others this will be your first experience. Parents often get to know each other as they wait in the playground for children to come out, however we also invite parents into school regularly when you can meet other parents, staff and find out what your child(ren) are learning about in school.

Communication between Nursery and parents is obviously very important. We send out weekly Newsletters and these are available on our school website also. In Nursery all letters go in your child's tray, please check this daily. All information relating to our school can be accessed via our website. We also communicate your child's learning journey through our observation and assessment system EEXAT. Your child will receive an individual code for you to log and be able to view all the exciting things they have been up to. It also has the facility for you to share their key moments from home with us.

We currently offer Nursery provision for 2 and 3 year old children, please ask us for more information and an application form to enrol.

Parents' Guide to the Curriculum

Each half term we focus on a traditional story and then follow the children's interests. This is an ever-evolving way of developing your child's learning. You will be able to view their learning journey on EEXAT.

There will be a parents day for parents during each term when you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's settling and progress with the class teacher. But the Nursery staff like to chat, and like to share regularly your child's special achievements, as well as hearing from you about life and experiences beyond Nursery. Sharing information between home and Nursery helps us to build up an accurate picture of your child's learning journey. Please use EEXAT and bring in anything you would like to share to let us know if your child has outside interests that we might not know about.

In this booklet we hope to provide some of the information to help you and your child settle into school. We want your child to learn and reach their potential, and we want every child at Mereside to be a happy child.

Please do not hesitate to ask someone if you require any help or further information. The School Office is a good place to start if you are not sure who to ask.

Staff:

Mrs Thomas – Class Teacher and Early Years Leader

Miss Salmon – Early Years Teaching Assistant

Mrs Lawrenson – Early Years Teaching Assistant

Miss McCarron - Early Years Teaching Assistant

Your child will also come into daily contact with:-

Miss McGarry - Reception Class teacher

Miss Simpson - Early Years Teaching Assistant

What happens now:

To make it easier for the children and staff to get to know each other we have created a system to ensure that your child's transition into Nursery is as smooth as possible.

Stay and play sessions:

We offer stay and play sessions, a chance for you and your child to come into Nursery with you and meet the staff, and become familiar with the room and staff. We will send you a letter outlining the dates available for your child to visit. You and your child are welcome to attend all of these sessions. If you are unable to attend any of these sessions then please contact the office to arrange another time.

Home visit:

We also offer home visits, please speak to a member of staff to arrange a suitable time if you would like one.

Uniform

Uniform is optional for Nursery children, but lots of children want to look like the older children. The children are very busy painting, digging, playing with playdough and other messy activities so any clothing worn for Nursery needs to be practical.

Uniform

Grey skirt or pinafore

Grey shorts or trousers

White polo shirt

Mereside blue sweatshirt (or cardigan for the girls)

Black school shoes (not trainers)

In the Summer term, girls may wear a blue gingham dress. Most items of our uniform can be bought from any of the major stockists or chain stores but jumpers and cardigans can only be bought through the school office.

Nursery Day:

All children are entitled to 15 hours a week free Nursery provision the term after their third birthday, this is taken across 5 mornings or 5 afternoons.

Nursery sessions:

Morning 8:30-11:30

Afternoons 12:00-3:00

Each additional session above 15 hours costs £10.50. A small additional charge of £3.25 including a school lunch will be added if your child stays from 8:30 till 3pm. We also offer after school club for Nursery provision from 3pm till 5:30 daily at a cost of an additional £8.75.

Foundation Stage

When your child starts at Mereside Nursery they are part of the foundation stage until the end of your child's year in the Reception class. Our Nursery and Reception classes work closely together, and share an outdoor learning environment. We like to celebrate special times together. This means a smooth transition for those children moving from Nursery into Reception.

The curriculum for the Foundation Stage supports and develops children's future learning.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development

Communication and language

Physical development

Literacy

Maths

Understanding of the world

Expressive Art & Design

This does not mean that all of young children's learning is divided up into areas. One experience may provide a child with opportunities to develop a number of skills and concepts across several areas of learning. For example, children building with blocks may cooperate in carrying the heavy and large blocks, talk with others and decide the best place to put them, compare the weight and dimensions of different blocks and acting out an imaginary scene.

They may be developing language, mathematical, physical, personal and social competencies through this single activity! But more importantly the child is "just playing".

Nursery Transfer Summary and Foundation Stage Profile

The children's progress is observed and monitored continuously throughout the year using EEXAT. These observations help us to know what the children can do and how to further their learning. You will have an opportunity to discuss and contribute to your child's learning journey during our parent day sessions. These are held termly and we hope all will attend.

Outdoors:

Outdoors is an extension of the indoor classroom and will be accessed on a daily basis by the children in all weathers. We are also a Forest School, so outside play and learning is a key part to your child's learning and engagement at Mereside Nursery. We ask that you do send your child to Nursery wearing a coat, and a hat and mittens when needed. We do have waterproofs and spare wellies that children can wear in wet, and muddy weather conditions. If your child has a pair of wellingtons your child can bring these into Nursery, please name them and feel free to take them home when they are needed.

Attendance:

Please inform us of the reason for any absence, particularly if your child is suffering from an infectious illness. You can either tell your child's teacher in the morning, or ring the School Office on 01253 761531.

If children are well, it is important that they attend every session. Our Foundation Stage is a vital step in a child's education and experience. Good timekeeping and attendance encourage habits which

last throughout a child's schooling. Nursery places can be withdrawn if children do not attend regularly, and the place offered to another child.

Illness and Medicines:

There will doubtless be days when your child is definitely under the weather. If he or she has not slept well, has been sick, had diarrhoea or has a bad cough or cold or any combination of these, please do not send them into Nursery. A day or two at home at the beginning of an illness can often prevent a longer absence.

There may be occasions when they have to take medication although they are well enough to be in Nursery. We have agreed to dispense medicine under very controlled circumstances in line with FCAT Administering Medications Policy to ensure absolute safety. If you need to bring medication into school you must take it into the School Office and complete a consent form. Without this authorisation we are unable to dispense medication.

Please make sure that you complete a consent form at the Office if your child needs regular medication e.g. for asthma. We can ensure that we chat about the symptoms your child has, and the dosage.

Good habits:

It is very important that children arrive and are collected on time. They will often get very worried about being late or left behind when other children have gone. Please inform us if you are going to be delayed.

If anything upsetting, or out of the ordinary, has happened at home please let us know. These things are often reflected in a child's behaviour and a brief explanation will be treated confidentially and will help us to understand and sympathise where appropriate.

School Milk and Fruit Scheme:

Children under seven are entitled to free school milk and a piece of fruit daily. Please let us know if your child cannot drink milk or has food allergies.

Children who attend Nursery in the morning also have a free breakfast, a Blackpool initiative. The children love having a chat whilst enjoying fruit loaf, or bagel, a fruit bag, and a carton of juice.

Happiness:

Thank you for choosing Mereside Nursery for your child. We want all of our children to be happy and to do as well as they are able.

If at any time you are concerned about your child, or unsure about how to support your child's learning please speak to your child's class teacher. The sooner problems are shared the better for all concerned.

We look forward to a long and happy partnership with you and your children.