How to Help at Home

You can help your child to learn through the little things you do with them, for example:

- Everyday conversations, make-believe play, games with numbers or letters, reading together and involving them in the things you are doing, such as household chores and talking with them about it
- We will teach Read Write Inc (phonics programme) in a fun and active way. Look out for stickers being sent home so that you can say the sounds attached to them (more information to follow)
- Continue to count everyday objects and your child to say each number name as they touch and count. Encourage your child to use their fingers when counting also
- To support your child with their independence when getting dressed, please ensure they wear shoes that are easy for them to put on such as those with velcro fastenings. Encourage your child to try putting on their own coat and shoes
- Develop their independence in preparing their own snacks and pouring their own water as well as using a knife and fork. You'll be amazed at what they can achieve at an early age
- We love to be outdoors in all weather so please bring a pair of wellies to stay at school with your **child's name** clearly marked
- Please ensure that your **child's name** is in every piece of clothing to prevent items from getting lost
- We ask that children do not bring toys to nursery as they can become easily lost or broken
- We like to make your child feel welcome in nursery, so we ask that you bring a family photograph which can be displayed in the nursery setting. This enables us to talk about family life and the people who are important to us
- If you have any unwanted quality books, we would appreciate them as we can use them for our nursery library.
- We collect a donation of **50p a week (or £3 per half term)** for the nursery fund. This helps us to buy ingredients for play-dough, baking, toast, and other exciting items for our play. Thank you!

Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 5 September	Return to school
Friday 29 September	Macmillan coffee morning
Monday 2 October	Harvest Festival (children only)
Monday 16 October	School Photographer
Week beginning 23 October	Parent's Evening
Friday 27 October—Friday 3 November	Half term holidays
Friday 22 December—Monday 8 January	Christmas holidays

We regularly use Facebook, text and email to update and remind parents of events.

Please ensure that the office have your current mobile and email address.

Curriculum Overview

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Nursery

Dunston Hill Community Primary School

Ready Respect Kind

Welcome

The Nursery Team would like to say a warm welcome to all our nursery children and their families. This is our Curriculum Overview that you will receive every term in school. It will give you an outline of what is happening in our nursery and ways in which you can help your child and get involved with school life.

We continue to have a very supportive, knowledgeable and caring nursery team, who are dedicated to providing the best possible school experiences for your child. As each term starts we welcome new families and children and it always a pleasure to see our older children taking on responsibilities through supporting their new friends into feeling settled within their new environment, routines and of course playing together.

Your child's teacher is Mrs Osborne who is ably supported by key workers, Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Wishart . Mrs Osborne does not work on Monday or Friday afternoons, which does not affect the Nursery.

We are Learning

In Nursery we continue to focus on the three Prime Areas of learning. Staff plan activities based on what they have observed the children doing in their play, focussing on their interests.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During the first weeks of the autumn term we will be helping our new children settle into Nursery, helping them to feel confident and happy in their new environment, and establishing Nursery routines. We continue being kind to one another, following routines and boundaries whilst looking after our Nursery—both indoor and outdoor. We encourage children to be confident in asking adults for help and to become more willing to participate in new social situations. Our current Nursery children love to help look after our new starters.

Communication and Language

We continue to encourage your child to talk about where they are planning to work and recall their learning during review time. Using our group puppets we model good listening skills and taking turns in conversation. Building confidence to talk to adults and peers is key as well as following and responding to instructions whilst building a range of different vocabulary.

Physical Development

We will continue to focus on the children's fine and gross motor skills through mark making, painting, and movement within our indoor and outdoor environment as well as developing pencil grips and letter formations in name writing. We continue to practise putting coats on and fastening them with growing independence as well as promoting hygiene through hand washing.

In nursery we also teach the four Specific Areas of learning through play which include: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Our Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

When planning, we follow the Statutory Guidance for the EYFS and 'Birth to 5 Matters' which tracks the development of our children across 17 areas of learning. As well as engaging with discrete adult-directed learning opportunities, we focus on the interests of the children and the way in which they engage with their environment and others around them.

HighScope

We follow a HighScope Curriculum with an emphasis on active learning which means our children have direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events, and ideas. The Nursery team support children's choices of activities, play with them at their level, focusing on their strengths, and encourage them to find solutions to their own problems. We believe that children are entitled to a diverse, challenging and effective curriculum that:

- Responds to individual needs
- Acknowledges their natural enthusiasm and their need to be active learners
- Builds on previous experiences
- Supports and develops their thinking and learning
- Provides appropriate experiences and activities across all areas of learning and development.

Assessment—Online Learning Journals

We record the progress of our children in the form of an online learning journey called Tiny Tracker; this will include photographs of your child and their work along with notes detailing the learning that has taken place. We welcome all parents to contribute to their child's learning by adding moments that have taken place at home via Tiny Tracker. You can speak to a member of the team for more information.

Learning at Home

Nursery Library

Your child is encouraged to borrow a book from our nursery library which holds an array of engaging books that your child can choose with their key worker. We ask you to support your child by following the guide which is provided in your child's library book wallet. Please ensure that your child uses this opportunity regularly so that their reading skills and a love of reading is developed from an early age.

Interests at home

We love to find out what your child has been doing outside of nursery, therefore we welcome photographs or messages of what's been happening, allowing us to share in your child's experiences. There will also be occasions when your child is asked to participate in additional 'homework' such as collecting natural items so that we can explore them further in nursery, information about this will be sent home when required.