

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
- 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
Monday 8 January	Return to school
w/c Monday 5 February	Safer Internet Week
w/c Monday 5 February	Children's Mental Health Week
w/c Monday 12 February	Parent Consultations (details to follow)
Friday 16 February	Break up for half term
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day
w/c Monday 11 March	British Science Week
Thursday 28 March	Break up for Easter 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



SPRING TERM 2024



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 have a very supportive, knowledgeable and caring nursery team, who are dedicated to providing the best possible school experiences for your child. We understand that starting nursery can sometimes be a nervous time but we want to ensure you that your child will have a wonderful beginning to their education with us. We know that you as a parent/carer have already played an important role in your child's development and we want to build upon this to make the next stage of their journey a very positive one.

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 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 Spring 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 model and talk about 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 take pride in looking after our new starters.

Communication and Language

We encourage your child to talk about what they are planning to do and recall their learning during review time. In our groups 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. We will introduce a range of story books and story sacks to promote communication and language skills. We focus on stories for a few weeks so the children get to know the story well, we act it out, using puppets and props and complete small groups focussed on this story. The first book we are reading is 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

Physical Development

Here we focus on the children's fine and gross motor skills through mark making, painting, and large movement within our indoor and outdoor environment as well as developing pencil grips and letter formations in name writing. We will be promoting hygiene through for example, hand washing eating healthy and oral hygiene.

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)

Teaching within the Early Years follows the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This revised framework was effective from September 2021. Staff use Birth to 5 Matters in order to support the implementation of the EYFS framework. Teaching within the Early Years focuses upon seven key areas of learning.

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 hope to share your children's learning journals with you before the end of the half term, and there will be further information in the coming weeks.

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. 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.