



**Freedom to explore
Opportunities to express**

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**A very warm welcome to everybody!
We're looking forward to the year ahead with
exciting new challenges and opportunities to learn.**

First days and weeks....

Our returning children are doing a fantastic job of helping our new children to settle into their new routines and showing them the very high expectations we have of learning behaviours.

Our new children are settling in really well. We take things at a steady pace so that they have opportunities to explore their new environment, build new relationships with other children and adults and enjoy the new experiences on offer - all vital for their growing confidence and independence. Already we can see just how much progress they have made since their first few days with us.

This first newsletter includes answers to some of the questions we are asked the most at this time of year. Please do speak to your key worker if there's anything else we can support you with.

Snacks & Drinks



ALL children have access to a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables and a drink of water or milk during the nursery session.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND DRINKS OR SNACKS IN
(unless included in packed lunch)**

We kindly ask for a contribution of £2 per week towards snack and other consumables such as ingredients for baking, making playdough or other resources in the classroom. This is payable through your School Money app.

Attendance

Please make sure your child attends all of their sessions if they are well enough to do so. We encourage excellent attendance and punctuality over the year. Nursery education is funded and full attendance and punctuality is required at all sessions.

Children can only be collected early if they have a medical appointment. Please provide the office with the appointment letter.

If your child is too ill to attend, please ring the school office on **01744 677635**. It's important that you inform us so that we know your child is safe. The school office is open 8.30 – 4.30 Monday to Friday and if there's no one available to take your call you can leave a message on the answerphone.

Packed Lunches

Children staying for lunch will have been given a label for their lunch box to avoid any confusion and to ensure that children and staff are able to quickly identify whose box belongs to who. Please make sure this is **ALWAYS** attached to the lunch box as we cannot give out unnamed lunch boxes or drink bottles.

We encourage healthy options and don't be concerned if they're not eating a lot at first. Sometimes if there's too much choice, children struggle to know what to eat! They will often eat more if they've helped you to make the lunch and know what they're getting. And remember they only have very tiny stomachs!

Here are a few lunch box tips to help you:

- Drink bottle **MUST** fit inside the lunch box or in the holder. **Do not place separate drinks bottles on the trolley.**
- **Do not include food with nuts** included in the ingredients
- No sweets or chocolate bars. Save these for treats!
- Please include a drink of water rather than sugary drinks
- Containers that little hands and fingers can easily manage. Too many lids and boxes to open can be tricky for children's small fingers. You could practise this at home together.
- Slice grapes from top to bottom (not sideways across)

Adults are of course on hand to support children to open packets, boxes etc, but we always encourage them to 'have a go' themselves first.

Clothing

Please name ALL items of clothing.

Any named clothing left in nursery will be placed on your child's peg. If it isn't named we can't match it to the rightful owner!

Nursery School can be a messy affair. Children have access to aprons and waterproof clothing but will still get dirty and wet from time to time. We want your children to enjoy exploring paint, glue and other messy materials, as well as wet weather; it's the way they learn about the world around them and we wouldn't stop them from taking part just because they might get a little dirty.

Please make sure your child always has named, spare sets of clothes in school.



Outdoor Provision

Children have access to outdoor provision every session – whatever the weather.

Please provide a pair of wellies for your child to keep in school. Don't forget to add their name inside!



And now the weather is changing a warm coat too! Outdoor learning is a huge part of what we do, and we go outside every day.





Toilet Training

We're asked a lot about this in nursery!

Please speak to your key worker or health visitor if you'd like any support with toilet training. You may also find these websites helpful for tips and advice www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/toddler/potty-training-your-child/ www.eric.org.uk

When should I start training my child?

Almost all children can be potty trained **between 18 months and 2-and-a-half years old**.

Starting around this age gives your child time to practice these new skills and build confidence without nappies. The best thing to do is to start the training. You do not need to wait for your child to show signs or ask to use a potty before you start.

Children sometimes have toilet accidents in nursery even if they don't usually at home. Try to remember this is a new environment for them and takes time to get used to. Please don't worry about this as it usually doesn't last long.

Children can become so engaged in their play that sometimes they leave it until the very last minute to go to the toilet! We do prompt them, but we also encourage them to go when they need to. They use the toilets independently if they are already trained and this is why we ask you to dress them in easy to 'get off' and easy to 'get back on again' clothes. Tights and belts can be particularly tricky for small fingers!

STAFFING

Staffing for this academic year remains similar to the previous year. Staff are on site Monday to Friday unless stated otherwise:

- **Emma Nicholson – Headteacher** Miss Nicholson is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and SENDCO.
- **Jessica McGuire – Class Teacher** Miss McGuire has oversight over teaching and learning for 3 and 4-year-olds, in addition to being Key Worker for Yellow Group.
- **Ivy Burton – Senior Learning Assistant** is on site all-day Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday morning and is Key Worker for Green Group.
- **Liz Cathcart – Senior Learning Assistant & Lead Practitioner for 2 year olds.** Mrs Cathcart is Key Worker for Orange Group. Mrs Cathcart leads our Breakfast Club.
- **Melissa Charnock – Learning Assistant** is Key Worker for Blue Group.
- **Jacqueline Jordan – Learning Assistant** is on site Tuesday to Friday mornings supporting all our provision and Lunch Club.
- **Emma McAnearney – Senior Learning Assistant & Lead Practitioner for 2 year olds (currently absent)** Mrs McAnearney is Key Worker for Orange Group. Mrs McAnearney also leads our After-school Club.
- **Yvonne Tran – Learning Assistant** Miss Tran works across all our provision and is also Key Worker for Green Group Wednesday afternoon to Friday. Miss Tran supports children during After-school Club.
- **Sandra Walker – Learning Assistant** is a Key Worker in Orange Group our 2 year old provision. Miss Walker supports children during Breakfast Club.
- **Elisha Skeece – Level 3 Early Educator Apprentice** Miss Skeece supports all our provision.
- **Elaine Hegarty – Office Manager** is on site Monday - Wednesday. Mrs Hegarty leads the school office.
- **Angela Gregory – Clerical Officer** is on site Wednesday - Friday. Mrs Gregory provides clerical support to the school office.
- **Madeleine Cummings** is our school caretaker. Thanks to Mrs Cummings our school is always clean!

All classroom based staff work across our lunch club provision.

Next steps....

Miss McGuire leads on planning and the focus for this half term is on supporting new children to learn our routines and ensuring returning children continue to make excellent progress. We always take children's interests into account when planning and provide the right amount of challenge to move them forward in their learning.

So far, we've been learning nursery rhymes, joining in with action and number songs. We're also learning in our key worker groups how to keep safe and look after each other. We call this our Good Bears Guide and you'll see it displayed around our classroom. You might hear your child talking about using their 'walking feet' or 'kind hands' so we'll give you a copy for home when it's finished.

Dates for your diary:

- Break up for half term on Friday 23rd October
- Return on Monday 2nd November
- Autumn term ends Friday 18th December
- Parents Meetings will be held on Monday 19th October bookable via the School Spider app
- Photos – the photographer will be here on Wednesday 18th November to take individual photographs of the children