

NUNTHORPE PRIMARY ACADEMY



NURSERY HANDBOOK

The days that make us happy make us wise.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you and your child into our Nursery and hope that he/she will be very happy with us. We aim to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment where children learn while they are enjoying themselves and having fun.

Our Nursery allows us to accommodate 26 children per session.

For children turning 4 and moving up to school the following year, their sessions are spent working on phonics and numbers, as well as other activities planned to prepare the children for full time school.

For the children turning 3-years-old and who are just starting their time in Nursery, we aim to support them as they become used to being with us and learn all about our setting and the activities on offer.

School Contact Details

Nunthorpe Primary Academy
Guisborough Road
Nunthorpe
Middlesbrough
TS7 0LA
Tel: 01642 315508

Email: enquiries@nunthorpeprimary.org.uk.

Website: <http://nunthorpe.ironstoneacademy.org.uk/>

Starting Nursery

Starting Nursery is an exciting time for both you and your child but we understand that you may also feel a little anxious. Most children settle very well after their first session. We are happy to work with you to build your child's confidence and make them feel as comfortable as possible in their new classroom.

Opening Times

All children aged 3 and 4 years old are eligible for 15hrs provision in nursery from the term after their 3rd birthday. Our Nursery is open for three hours for both morning and afternoon sessions. Please be aware that we accept applications and allocate places in our setting based on catchment and sibling links.

For the children who are eligible, we do also offer a number of 30 hour places from the term after the child's 3rd birthday, for more information please speak to the Nursery teacher or visit our website

<https://nunthorpe.ironstoneacademy.org.uk/30-hour-provision-30-hour-free-childcare/>

Sessions:

We have a timeslot for drop off and pick up from both sessions

Morning: Drop off 8.45 - 8:55 am. Pick up 11.30 – 11:45 am

Afternoon: Drop off 12.30 pm. Pick up 3.20 – 3:30 pm

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which begins at birth and continues until children reach Year One in school. The Early Years Foundation Stage has its own learning and development requirements. The educational programme covers seven areas of Learning and Development.

There are three prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development



And four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

There are three overarching principles in the EYFS called The characteristics of Effective Learning. These underpin our provision in Nursery and are skills, which your child will be encouraged to demonstrate throughout their school journey:

Playing and Exploring

Play acts as a catalyst for active learning, creating and thinking critically and it is often through play that children will choose to engage at the edge of their ability, thus challenging themselves and further developing their learning power.

Children are encouraged to use open-ended, hands on experiences, which arise from curiosity. These provide the basis on which a child builds concepts, tests ideas and finds out how things work.

Active Learning

Active learners are involved, excited and interested; they use and apply what they are learning, become deeply involved, and bounce back easily from difficulties. Active learning is all about the individual; it is not something that can be done to you. For children to develop into self-regulating, lifelong learners they are required to take ownership, be motivated, accept challenge and learn persistence.

Creating and Thinking Critically

Creating and thinking critically refers to children creating ideas, thinking flexibly, drawing on their previous experiences, and then using a rational approach, or thinking critically to choose the best idea to solve a problem. This is why it is essential for children to have opportunities to play and explore with resources and ideas in a range of contexts so that they are able to discover connections and develop better understanding.

Daily Routine

Shortly after the children arrive, we assemble for a short period to begin the day with a greeting and a phonics lesson. After this, the children choose what

they would like to play with from the variety of resources available to them. These resources are carefully planned for by the adults in our setting to provide opportunities to support learning and offer challenge. Staff closely monitor and support children to achieve their next step targets. We always try to spend some part of every session outside and use this area as an extension of learning environment.

We have a snack time within each Nursery session. This provides an opportunity for the children to speak informally to one another and develop healthy eating habits in a social context. We will work in groups to develop their number recognition and counting skills with fun and engaging activities.

During each session we sit down all together for story time where we read or watch favourite stories and those related to our learning that week. Each Nursery session ends with the whole group sitting together where we enjoy some music, sing songs and nursery rhymes and do activities all together, such as playing a game, investigating musical instruments or using the parachute.



Play

Well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge.

Through play, in a secure environment with effective adult support, children can:

- explore, develop, and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world
- practice and build up ideas, concepts and skills;

- learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules;
- be alone, be alongside others or cooperate as they talk or rehearse their feelings:
- take risks and make mistakes;
- think creatively and imaginatively.

Clothing

We ask that all children wear school uniform for our Nursery class. Children in nursery wear a white polo shirt. Their jumper or cardigan should be navy blue and trousers/ skirts and pinafores should be grey. Uniform can be ordered directly from Elizabeth's Embroidery. If using Elizabeth's embroidery, do consider getting your child's initials put on to the uniform, as initialled items tend not to get lost among 26 blue jumpers!

Footwear should be suitable for the activities children will be undertaking at Nursery. We ask that you consider how your child will be able to put on and take off their own footwear. Velcro fastening shoes are very practical for this reason. We consider lace up shoes to be inappropriate for school. Please remember to label all items of uniform. We love to play outside as much as we can. So ideally, children should have a pair of wellington boots and a waterproof jacket. You could keep these items in Nursery or bring them each day. When it is cold, please send in a hat and gloves for your child to use while playing outdoors. In hot weather, please apply sun cream to your child before the session begins and send a sun hat.

Your child will need to have a bag of spare clothes, which can be left on their cloakroom peg. We advise that the clothes in this bag closely resemble our school uniform, in case your child needs to be changed during the session.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are named.



Children's Records

The Nursery admissions form is the beginning of a record for your child. Please let us know of any changes of address/telephone numbers, and if there is anything at home which may affect your child's behaviour at Nursery, for example, a new baby, new home, separation, bereavement or change of carer. Please let us know of any special interests and achievements too.

You will be invited to attend a parents meeting at regular intervals during your child's time in Nursery. We value your contribution to your child's record of achievements and we will actively seek your input.

Evidence Me

During your child's time in nursery, we will be observing and monitoring their experiences and progress. We will use an app to record our observations, link them to our curriculum and identify their next steps. We aim to send at least one observation home each week for you to enjoy and share with your child. These observations form an assessment of your child's learning throughout EYFS.



Marvellous Me

Across school we use the 'Marvellous Me' app to communicate with parents. We use this to share information about the class, update you on events that are happening in Nursery and share any news with you



Homework

We will give each child a homework pack so that you can share and support learning at home. Each Friday we will send your child's pack home. We will set a weekly activity that closely links to the topic, interests or skills we have been learning in school. We ask that you complete the activity with your child and return the pack to school on the following Wednesday.

Home loan books

Enjoying books and reading stories from a very early age is crucial in the development of children. It helps with their ability to understand words, use their



imagination and develop their speech, as well as being something they really enjoy. Children in nursery choose a story to take home on a Friday and will need to return their book by the following Wednesday. We will provide you with a reading record and ask you to write a short comment/ signature so we can see that your child has shared each story with you. We monitor our children's engagement with our home loan scheme as we feel that sharing stories is a vital part of early reading skills.

Health

If your child becomes ill at Nursery we will try to contact you or another carer. We will make your child comfortable and look after him/her until someone comes to collect him/her. Please do not send your child to nursery if she/he is ill. If your child is ill please let us know, especially if the illness is infectious. We would appreciate any information at all regarding your child's health.

Our school operates a healthy eating policy; so we consider what we offer the children to eat and drink carefully. During the session the children will be offered milk or water to drink and fruit or a snack to eat. We usually do some baking each week, encouraging the children to try new foods and to enjoy preparing food. If your child has or develops any food allergies please let us know.



Toileting

We would encourage you to develop your child's independence before they start nursery. This includes, putting their own coat/ clothes/ shoes on and using the toilet independently. We expect children who reach nursery age to be toilet trained and wearing pants through the day. We would like you to work on this skill before coming to nursery. We are aware that your child may have an accident during their time in school so we ask you to keep a spare clothes bag on your child's cloakroom peg.



Nursery Fund

We would appreciate your support in giving a £5 voluntary contribution each half term. We use the fund to buy equipment and resources, which enable us

to offer extra but worthwhile activities. We purchase items such as ingredients for baking and playdough, things for the children to grow in our outdoor area, extra books and items for our topics. We will send an envelope home with a half-termly newsletter.

Transition to School

Parents are required to apply for a place in our Reception class from the Local Authority. If your child is in our Nursery an application form will automatically be sent to you. If successful, your child will be admitted to Reception class in the September following his/her 4th birthday. Please note that a place in Nursery does not guarantee that a place in Reception class will automatically be available.

During the last half term in Nursery we work hard to ensure that the transition to Reception is as smooth as possible. Your child will spend time in his/her new classroom with his/her teacher and teaching assistant there. Parents will be invited to a meeting where information about the transition will be given and there will be an opportunity to meet the Reception class teacher and see the classroom. Parents will also be invited to have a school lunch with their child in the summer term before your child starts full-time school.

Thank you for your interest

We have tried to cover most aspects of Nursery life in this booklet, but if there is anything further that you would like to know, please do not hesitate to ask.

Similarly, if there are any problems concerning your child, which you need to talk over we, will be here to listen and support you. Please note that we have more time to listen at the end of a session rather than at the beginning.

We hope that you and your child will be happy in our Nursery and we look forward to getting to know you.



Checklist of items to provide for your child when they start Nursery

- 1) School uniform – order forms for our school supplier are available from the main office.
- 2) Book bag – available from school supplier or main office
- 3) Drawstring bag to be kept on peg containing a full change of clothing (including underwear and socks)
- 4) Wellington boots
- 5) Waterproof jacket with hood
- 6) Labels for all items of uniform (including shoes)
- 7) Ensure that all registration forms are completed and returned to nursery staff before/ on the day your child starts **(Please note: Children cannot start nursery without these forms)**