

WINGATE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

come and
experience
a day @ wingate



immersed in our work and play

A DAY HOSTED BY

BECKY WOOD AND THE SCHOOL TEAM

history of our school



The original Wingate Nursery was built by the Local Authority in 1942 to care for the young children of the mothers who were working on the war efforts, but it was taken over the Education Department in 1952 as a Nursery School.

In 1989, Paddy Beels came to Wingate as new Headteacher. At this time everything about the place was worn down and dilapidated: the building was ancient and shabby with holes in the walls; morale was low, amongst staff, parents and the whole ex-mining community; and crucially, the education practice itself lacked understanding and direction!

Working in close partnership with parents, families and the whole community, Paddy picked the Nursery up off it's knees and injected a whole load of enthusiasm, passion, rigour and love, so that in 1992 a new Nursery School was built and opened on site, celebrating the previous tough 50 years and welcoming a bright exciting future !

A clear, new Vision was firmly established for the way that learning and teaching happened at Wingate, based upon adults' understanding of the value of the learning climate, our image of the child, the role of educators and relationships with parents and families.

our school today



Becky joined the nursery school in 1998 and worked alongside Paddy for 17 years, before she retired in July 2014. Becky was appointed as headteacher and began her own leadership journey in September of the same year.

Over time, the school has continued to grow and extend its provision, firstly opening it's first outdoor site in 2016, on a community allotment, and in 2021, after a long battle, the school opened its second outdoor site at the Park Keeper's Cottage, beside the woods.

Both outdoor sites operate all year round, with children accessing their nursery education across our 3 sites. It works brilliantly, with children's overall development soaring, as they build up resilience and strength physically, but also socially and emotionally.

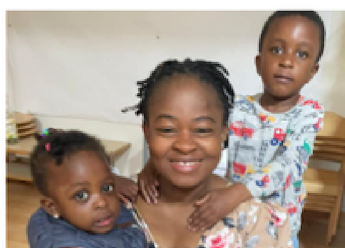
We are staggered by how time in nature positively affects children's behaviour and are about to embark on a piece of research with a Durham University PHD student to explore and evidence the impact.

our values

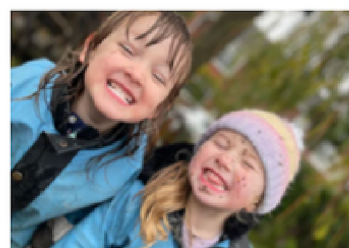
THESE 9 VALUES REPRESENT WHAT REALLY MATTERS TO US IN OUR SCHOOL, WITH OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY, UNDERPINNING OUR SCHOOL ETHOS AND PHILOSOPHY ON EDUCATION.



the holistic learning climate;
physical and emotional
environments combined



genuine, respectful partnerships
with parents, carers and families



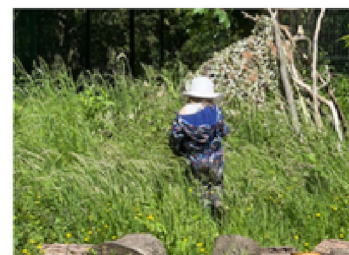
happiness, kindness,
collaboration, co-operation
and teamwork



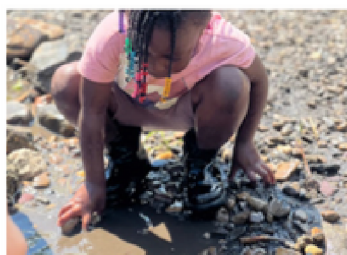
the relationship and mutual
respect with the local
community



reciprocal relationships
between children and adults,
as co-learners



and respect the natural world,
with uninterrupted time to
wallow in nature



professional love and respect for
children, their childhood and the
right to play



the description of our school by
Sir Antony Gormley;
'a laboratory of possibilities'



children's questions,
fascinations and lines of inquiry,
as leaders of their own learning

staff

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



BECKY WOOD
HEADTEACHER

Becky joined the Wingate family in 1998, as what was then called, 'Assistant Headteacher', spending 17 years working alongside Paddy, prior to becoming Headteacher in 2014. Becky now leads the ever expanding team of early years educators, as they venture down new and exciting pathways on the wingate journey. Becky is in her element, working creatively, innovatively and autonomously as leader of a very special place.



NICHOLA HESSELEWOOD
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Nichola joined the team in 2018, initially on supply, but never left! Because she quickly grew to love and cherish the ethos and philosophy of 'the wingate way', she soon became our permanent early years teacher and more recently, deputy head. Nic has a passion for young children learning in nature and is enjoying supporting the staff with the pedagogy at our outdoor sites - Allotment and Cottage



PADDY BEELS
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

In 1999, during her time as Headteacher at Wingate Nursery School, Paddy was awarded the first National Teaching Award for working with parents and the Community. And in 2000 she received an OBE for services to education. In 2014, following 25 years @ wingate, Paddy finally decided to retire and take a step back ... or rather a sideways step, into the role of Chair of Governors, maintaining close contact, support and friendship.

staff

EARLY YEARS EDUCATORS



BURCU MCGHIN

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND GREEN GROUP LEAD



SOPHIE EDWARDS

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND RED GROUP LEAD



HANNAH HEDLEY

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND BLUE GROUP LEAD

Burcu came to us in 2019 on a one year contract to cover Adele's maternity leave. She became the foster carer for the red group. However, 4 years later, she's still with us, but is now the key person for the green group - a permanent member of the team!

Burcu is originally from Turkey, but came to live and work in England in 2018 as a teacher.

Sophie worked with us on supply for a whole year, supporting our children with SEND, before jumping at the chance to become a fully fledged member of the team. She became key person for the red group and is embracing the role, learning alongside the team.

Sophie comes from a farming background and is passionate about our work with children outdoors.

Hannah began her time at wingate working with the babies. She then became the Manager of our onsite Childcare Company and did a great job leading and managing a large team of practitioners for 4 years.

In September 2023, Hannah decided to hang up her leadership hat and step into the key person role within the nursery school and is loving it!

staff

EARLY YEARS EDUCATORS



SHAAN GRIFFITHS

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND YELLOW GROUP LEAD



JODIE BURLINSON

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND INTERVENTION LEAD



AMY FORSTER

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Shaan joined the team in 2024 and is key person for the yellow group.

She is one of the newest members of the team, but has taken to 'the wingate way' like a duck to water!

She is another nature lover and has foraging as a special interest. Shaan is multi-skilled and has many strings to her bow,

Jodie has worked with us on supply, supporting our children with additional needs. She is highly qualified, skilled and experienced, making her the ideal educator to deliver intervention and support children on support plans.

Jodie is joining the team in September 2024 and will be responsible for a small group of children who will benefit from her expertise and support..

We first met Amy back in 2012, when she was a parent. She first joined the team as a dinner nanny, but then went on to study childcare level 3 and so now is part of the teaching team. Amy works with the younger children who join us mid-year.

staff

NATURE LEADS AND EARLY YEARS PEDAGOGUES



ADELE CHAPMAN
EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND NATURE LEAD

Adele first came to wingate nursery as a child, then a student and then a member of staff. We strongly believe that 'growing your own staff' is by far the best way to acquire people who truly 'get' the wingate way.

Historically, Adele has been the key person for red group, but in January 2023, she stepped into the role of nature lead at the cottage.

Adele has recently qualified as a teacher in early years, through the equalitas route, which has been revolutionary in terms of her own learning journey. We have watched Adele grow in confidence to facilitate even greater learning opportunities for children. We're so proud of her!



BEATA BRZEZIANSKA
EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR
AND ALLOTMENT LEAD

Beata is originally from Poland, but has been living and working in England as an educator for the past 18 years, with her partner, Raf, who's also a teacher.

Beata joined us in 2019 and has been key person for the orange group since then. She has shown incredible skills at supporting children with large, ambitious and quite often, risky block play. However, from September 2024, Beata is handing children to a newer member of the team, as she adopts the role of nature lead at the allotment, supported by Nichola. We look forward to seeing how she will transfer her skills and expertise to the new role.

Beata has a great sense of humour and doesn't take life too seriously.

about the day

We are often asked if people can come and visit us, so rather than this being random and rushed, we plan a full day at wingate, where we dedicate all our time to you, your questions, your wonderings and to do this properly, we need to charge.

The fee is £165 which includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. We will also share with you several images of the environments and learning spaces you see on the day, to share with your team.

Please remember, we are not claiming to be experts in early years, or believe that our practice is something we think everyone should be following. We simply do what we believe is right for our children and families, in our local community in the north east of England and are happy to share this with interested colleagues.

This brochure will hopefully help you decide if 'a day @ wingate' is something you would like to invest in.



networking

There could be up to 12 delegates joining us, from various schools/settings across different parts of the country. We try to make it as interactive as possible, with lots of discussion between all parties, to get the most out of the day.



more info about the day

Please arrive at 8.15am for coffee/tea.

Following brief introductions, you will join staff and children in family group time, where you can listen in to their conversations, discussions and plans for the morning session.

We have 5 groups in total, but only 3 on our school site during your visit. One family group will be spending their week at our community allotment, just around the corner from school. The other family group will be 'in residence' at our outdoor nature school, 'the cottage in the woods', about a mile away.

You will spend the morning observing practice at the main school site, before heading off to 'the cottage' for lunch. We plan to spend an hour at the cottage, before heading back to visit the allotment during the afternoon, to see the space, the opportunities and the children and adults sharing it together.

Throughout the day, there will be ample opportunities to chat and ask questions to Becky and the team. We will return to the school site to end the day together, where we will host a Q&A session to answer any further questions.



housekeeping

A FEW REQUESTS

Can we please ask ..

- if possible, that you switch your mobile phone to silent/vibrate throughout the day (other than at lunch time, of course)
- you **not** to take photographs during the day (Becky will take a selection of photographs during your visit and will what's app them to you at the end of the day to share with colleagues in your school/setting)
- that you bring suitable footwear for outdoors and a waterproof coat - in case of wet weather

rhythm of the day (a.m.)

EVENT	START TIME	END TIME
INTRODUCTIONS		
SHARING MORE ABOUT YOU; YOUR ROLE, WHY YOU ARE HERE AND WHAT YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF TODAY	8.30	8.55
JOIN FAMILY GROUP TIME		
LISTENING TO CHILDREN IN CONVERSATION WITH THEIR KEY PERSON AND EACH OTHER TO PLAN THEIR PLAY	9.00	9.20
JOIN MAIN PLAY SESSION		
JOIN THE CHILDREN AND STAFF AS THEY WORK ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER FOR THE MORNING. YOU WILL BE FREE TO OBSERVE THE PLAY SESSION, INDOORS AND OUTDOORS. THROUGH ALL THE LEARNING SPACES!	9.30	10.40
REJOIN FAMILY GROUP TIME		
LISTENING TO CHILDREN IN CONVERSATION WITH THEIR KEY PERSON AND EACH OTHER TO CHAT ABOUT THEIR MORNING'S WORK	10.40	10.55
DELEGATE DISCUSSION		
WHILST THE CHILDREN TIDY UP AND GO INTO THEIR DIFFERENTIATED STORY GROUPS, WE WILL GET TOGETHER TO CHAT ABOUT THE MORNING, SHARING OVERALL IMPRESSIONS, THOUGHTS AND WONDERINGS	11.00	11.30

rhythm of the day (p.m.)

EVENT	START TIME	END TIME
LUNCH WE WILL PROVIDE LUNCH FOR EVERYONE AT THE COTTAGE	11.45	12.30
AN HOUR AT THE COTTAGE WE WILL HAVE TIME TO JOIN THE CHILDREN AND STAFF IN RESIDENCE TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'VE BEEN UP TO OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS	12.30	1.30
AN HOUR AT THE ALLOTMENT ONE FAMILY GROUP AND THEIR KEY PERSON WILL BE AT THE ALLOTMENT. WE'LL POP DOWN TO SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO	1.30	2.30
A FINAL CHANCE TO CHAT A FINAL HALF HOUR TOGETHER TO FOCUS ON ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED ACROSS THE DAY. WE ARE MORE THAN HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF OUR WORK, BUT WILL BE LED BY YOU DURING THIS SESSION, SO PLEASE MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OPEN Q&A SESSION	2.30	3.00
EVALUATIONS AS WE APPROACH THE END OF OUR DAY TOGETHER, WE ASK THAT YOU COMPLETE OUR ONLINE EVALUATION FORM VIA A QR CODE, TO ENABLE US TO REFLECT AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS WITH THE WHOLE TEAM. IT WILL ALSO HELP US TO CONSIDER HOW WE MIGHT IMPROVE DAYS LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE.	3.00	3.15

the allotment

IS ROUND THE CORNER FROM THE SCHOOL AND WAS GRANTED TO US BY WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL IN 2015

IT HAD BELONGED TO AN OLD CHAP CALLED RONNIE, WHO LOVED HIS GARDEN, BUT OVER TIME IT BECAME OVERGROWN AND NEGLECTED

SO, WORKING WITH PARENTS FROM THE 2015 AND 2016 COHORTS, WE DEVELOPED IT INTO A SPACE WHERE CHILDREN COULD BE BASED THERE TO EXPLORE NATURE IN THE GARDEN AND 'BEYOND'

On a rota, each family group spends a whole week at the allotment with their key person.

Parents are given a timetable each half term, so they know which location to drop off and collect their children from.

So, across the year and throughout all the seasons and diverse weather conditions, staff and children are outdoors, learning in and with nature, all day long.

We are well established using this outdoor space and have also been given the allotment beside ours, which has enabled us to expand and develop the opportunities even further.



the cottage

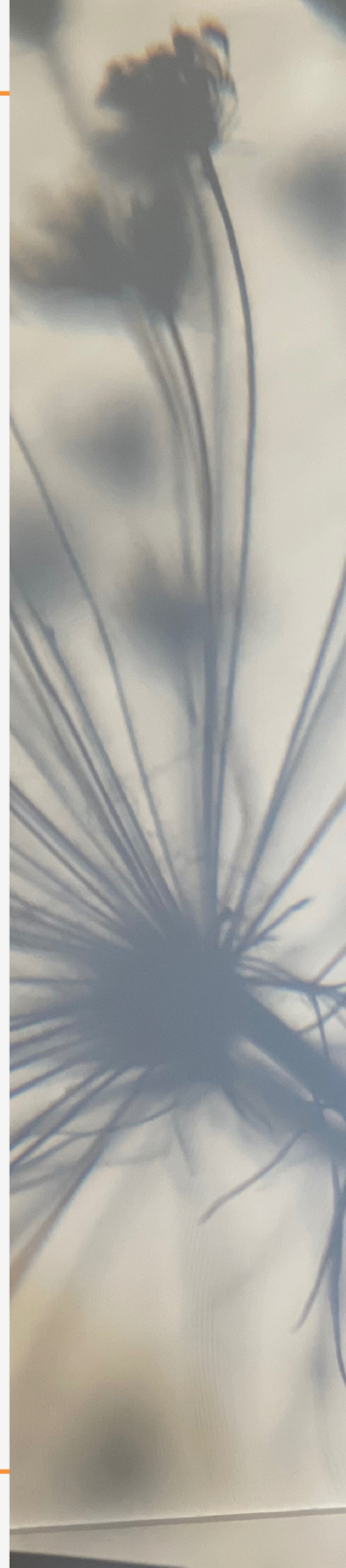
THE PARK KEEPER'S COTTAGE WAS EXACTLY THAT - THE COTTAGE WHERE MR PICKLES, THE PARK KEEPER AND HIS WIFE LIVED FOR MANY YEARS, BESIDE THE WELFARE PARK AND WOODLAND IN WINGATE

WHEN MR PICKLES RETIRED, THE COTTAGE BECAME AVAILABLE AND SO AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF FUNDRAISING AND OVERCOMING OBSTACLES IN OUR WAY, THE COTTAGE WAS RENOVATED AND EQUIPPED READY FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN AT OUR OUTDOOR NATURE SCHOOL.

The cottage is equipped with resources that enable children and adults to research and find out more information about their curiosities and discoveries when out in nature.

There are non-fiction books, a computer, an iPad and knowledgeable adults who are as curious about nature as the children are. There's also a high quality microscope attached to the pc, so that as the smallest treasures are found, detailed images can be seen and projected onto the wall for closer examination and discussion.

Throughout the year, a family group and their key person take up residence at the Cottage, with either Nichola or Adele. Their stay is usually 3 to 4 weeks, where together, they go on hikes and adventures as a close-knit team. I call these children my 'Duke of Edinburgh students', because in exactly the same way, they are a group of young people adventuring in all weathers, tackling uneven terrain, working together to solve problems, taking care of each other, enjoying the camaraderie while they have the time of their lives.



WINGATE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

we hope you
choose to
join us for
a day @wingate

... to wallow in
the wingate way



thank you for being interested in us

TO BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT US TO ENQUIRE ABOUT SET DATES WE
HAVE AVAILABLE EACH TERM