

SETTLING IN

Starting nursery school, becoming independent of your parents, feeling at home in a large, strange environment, surrounded by unfamiliar adults and lots of other 3 year olds and not knowing what to do is a very big step.

We are so pleased to tell you that our new children have done so well and are now confidently arriving at nursery, finding their wooden tag to take to their teacher before waving goodbye to you.

We're proud of them and know that you will be too!



TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

All parents need to start thinking about which Primary School they want their child to go to next September 2024, because the deadline for all applications is

MONDAY 15 JAN 2024

The form is online and can be accessed via the following website:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces>

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



the holistic learning climate; physical and emotional environments combined



the relationship and mutual respect with the local community



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



genuine, respectful partnerships with parents, carers and families



reciprocal relationships between children and adults, as co-learners



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



happiness, kindness, collaboration, co-operation and teamwork



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



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

THE FOCUS FOR TEACHING & LEARNING THIS TERM

This term is all about settling into nursery life and the daily routine, making new friends and developing relationships, learning to listen and communicate, share resources, take turns and become independent.

But it's also the term when children are taught 'the what and why' of all the learning spaces, equipment and resources, teaching children how to do things and the hundreds of possibilities, such as mixing paint, modelling clay, hammering into wood, baking, building, understanding the flow of water, trying new foods, playing musical instruments, dancing, gardening and so much more.

There's also a lot of new vocabulary to learn too - which we introduce playfully, in context so that it is meaningful and makes sense to the children.

We know, from years of experience, that if we devote time to teaching these things now, the children will become more independent, creative and confident to lead their own learning in the following 2 terms, spring and summer. Our Curriculum is centred around children learning for life.

PARENT'S EVENINGS

The staff are busy writing 'checkpoints' that capture how each child is doing in the 7 areas of learning. These will be shared with you this term, so that you can find out how you can support their learning and development at home. We will contact you nearer the time, to allocate a 10 minute slot to meet with your key person.

NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE



Check out our new school website - with lots of information especially for parents and carers.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Please make sure your standing orders are set up and running for the full 10 months - as we asked, at the very beginning of each month. If you pay cash, please aim to do so on a Monday.

SUPPORTING NURSERY SCHOOL



WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO HELP US ARRANGE EVENTS, MINGLE, INSPIRE AND GREET OTHER PARENTS, ORGANISE FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

IF YOU:

- have an hour to spare every now and again
- would like to be involved in your child's nursery school
- have input into how we spend fundraised money
- get to know other parents and make new friends

PLEASE JOIN THE AMIGOS

LOST PROPERTY

We accumulate clothes, shoes, coats, hats etc on a daily basis - but have no room to store these long term. So, from now on, can every family check the wardrobe regularly, as we will be emptying the wardrobe on a weekly basis and dropping items left at the local clothes bank.

OF COURSE, WRITING THEIR NAME IN EVERYTHING WILL MEAN IT NEVER BECOMES LOST PROPERTY!

OUTDOOR SITES

The green group have got off to a great start at the cottage and are learning SO MUCH!

We will be starting groups at the allotment very soon - watch out for the timetable.

If anyone didn't manage to get to the nature workshop, please ask admin for a copy of an A5 booklet we made for parents



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 26 Oct 5.00 - 6.30pm	HALLOWEEN DISCO	Wingate Comm Centre	£2 ticket for adults & children
Friday 27 Oct	Break up for half term	Monday 6 November	Return to school
Tuesday 5 Dec	SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER	Tuesday 19 Dec	Break up for Christmas

PLEASE MAKE TIME TO READ THE FOLLOWING REMINDERS:

- Becky & Natalie will be on the gate most days to collect money owed and answer any queries
- please make a point of checking the lost property wardrobe every week, as items are already accumulating. We will be dropping off any items left behind to the clothes bank on a Friday afternoon
- remember to ring/text us if your child is absent from school for whatever reason. School admin will no longer ring or text you. If we are not aware of a child's absence, it potentially could be classed as a safeguarding issue and may be reported
- PLEASE DO NOT park in the very small car park at the end of the building (near the Family Centre) or down the narrow road on Partridge Terrace, or on the pavement on New Cross Row as this forces pedestrians to walk on the road

Reminders!

THANK YOU