



Nursery Welcome Booklet

2022-2023



"First steps to tomorrow's world"



WELCOME TO OUR NURSERY!

We are pleased that you have chosen Market Weighton Infant School Nursery and look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming months. We hope this booklet will answer some of the questions you might have about starting Nursery and make you feel welcome. You know your child better than anyone and we would like to work together to ensure your time with us is a happy and fulfilling one. We operate a key person system where a named member of staff is allocated as your child's key person when they start. Their role is to build a positive relationship with your child and work with you in partnership to ensure your child's individual needs are met. We are always available to speak at the beginning or the end of the session, so please do not hesitate to approach us with any questions or to talk to us about your child.

NURSERY STAFF

Mrs Oliver - Nursery Teacher

Mrs Wilmot-Payne - Nursery Nurse (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday pm)

Mrs Green - Nursery Nurse (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Mrs Stiff - Teaching Assistant (Monday to Friday mornings and lunch time)

Mrs Bagley - Teaching Assistant (Monday to Friday morning lunch time and afternoons)

NURSERY VISTS

Prior to your child's first day, you and your child will be invited into school to have a look around and become familiar with the environment. Your child will be able to choose some of the activities set up and play alongside some of the other children. You will have a chance to meet the staff who work in Nursery and ask any questions you might have. This may be an opportunity for you to share any relevant information with us, tell us about any favourite stories or toys and for us to tell you a little bit about our Nursery sessions. This will hopefully help your child to settle when they start Nursery. Arrangements for this will be confirmed nearer to the time.

OUR SESSION TIMES

Morning session 8:45am – 11:45am

Afternoon session 12:30pm – 3:30pm

We offer up to 18 hours per week of early learning and childcare. This equates to 6 three-hour sessions. We recommend attendance for at least 5 sessions per week. Experience tells us that attending regularly throughout the week helps children to become familiar with our routines, settle better and make good progress in their learning. All parents are entitled to 15 hours of free early learning & childcare but some may also be entitled to a *further* 15 hours of free childcare to use between settings, these are called Extended Hours. If you are **not** entitled to the extra 15 hours and you want your child to attend for the full 18 hours, these extra 3 hours, will be charged at £4.50 per hour. This will be invoiced in advance per half term and is payable even if your child does not attend.

If your child is staying for lunch this can be a hot school meal or a home-made packed lunch, both of which will be eaten in the hall. The children enjoy sitting together at the table. Do not worry if your child does not find using cutlery easy yet, they will soon become confident and we will, of course, help them. Please note that lunchtime sessions do not fall within the 15-hour entitlement and are offered as an additional paid-for session (£3 per day) in order to cover staffing costs. Parents have the option of providing a packed lunch, taking their child home for lunch or purchasing a school dinner (an additional £1.50 per meal taken).

SETTLING IN

We realise that this may be the first setting your child has attended without you. It may seem daunting at first, but your child will soon become familiar with the new routines and make new friends. With your encouragement we support the children in developing independence and confidence by doing things for themselves such as finding their own name card and hanging their coat up.

THE NURSERY SETTING

The Nursery is set up in accordance with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines. You will see when you come to visit that we have lots of carefully planned activities set up both indoors and outdoors. We believe that the outdoor area is an extension of the indoor classroom and the children will be given similar opportunities in both. We cover all seven areas of learning and we let children choose their own activities throughout the session. The children will also complete adult-led (focus) activities; these will be working on one part of their development. We track the children's progress so that we can see what they need to achieve next and these are called 'Next Steps'. These are considered carefully and included within the day to day provision. We always plan around a theme or topic, such as 'Toys' or 'The Seaside' considering the



children's interests.



Here is a selection of the areas of Nursery where the children can play:

- Sand
- Water
- Malleable – Dough, gloop etc.
- Painting
- Creative
- ICT – iPads, smart board
- Writing
- Roleplay
- Small and large construction
- Maths
- Reading
- Small World
- Discovery table

THE DAILY ROUTINE

Each session follows a routine which gives the children plenty of opportunity to work and play individually, in a small group and as a whole class.

GROUP TIME

Children take part in a group activity directed and supported by the adults. These may include singing, counting, speaking, and listening, phonics, friendship games or an aspect linked to our topic. This is a time for talking and listening to each other, developing their personal and social skills.

BUSY TIME / INDEPENDENT LEARNING

During this part of the session children choose their own learning activities both inside and outside. The staff work alongside them, extending their learning and encouraging them to try new activities. This is often the time when staff note down observations and identify 'Next Steps' in their learning.

SNACK TIME

This is a time where we all come together and sit down to eat snack and develop our speaking and social skills. During this time the children are provided with a piece of fruit and drink water from their water bottles. We ask that bottles are sent daily with water in them. We do encourage children to try new things in Nursery. However, if your child will only eat certain fruit then they can bring a piece of fruit for snack time. Please take it out of their bag at the start of the session. We do ask that grapes be cut up for safety reasons.

STORY TIME

We end the session with a story, songs, and rhymes, which are an important part of the Nursery session.

TAPESTRY

On your visit to Nursery you will be asked to sign up to Tapestry. In Nursery we use this to record our observations and link them to 'Next Steps'. We will send you observations of your child together with photographs and examples of their progress. This will continue through Nursery, their Reception Year and into Year 1 and Year 2.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

In Nursery the children wear the optional school uniform. This consists of:

- Burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo*
- Yellow polo shirt with school logo*
- Black or grey school trousers/leggings/skirt/shorts
- Dark coloured shoes – Velcro fastening is ideal

A generic brand of burgundy sweatshirt / cardigan or gold polo top (from a supermarket, for example) is acceptable. We have items of second-hand uniform available- please ask at the school office.

Please make sure that the clothing you choose is comfortable and easy fastening, to help your child with independent toileting and dressing. They will need to bring a spare set of uniform each time they come to Nursery.

Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name. We recommend sticky labels from stikins.co.uk

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO BRING:

- A school bag with a recognisable keyring
- A full change of uniform
- A change of underwear
- A named water bottle
- A coat with a recognisable keyring

DRESSING FOR ALL WEATHERS

The children play outside a lot of the time, so they need to be prepared for all weathers! Please make sure your child has the following:

IN SUMMER

- A sunhat
- Sun cream applied before the session

IN WINTER

- A warm coat
- A hat
- Gloves

TOILET TRAINING

We encourage the children to use the toilets in Nursery and wash their hands afterwards. We are always there to help them if needed. Please speak to us if you have any concerns.

FIRST AID/ILLNESS

We always have a trained first aider available. If your child injures themselves it will be recorded in our accident book. If your child has a bumped head or has needed some first aid, you will receive a note regarding this at home time. If we are concerned about your child's health, we will ring you and inform you of the situation. If your child is ill at home, please telephone the school to inform us that they will not be attending. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please leave 48 hours after their last bout before they return to Nursery.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR NURSERY

- **Familiarise yourselves with nursery and school:** Come along to all the visits and meetings. Walk past and see the children playing. Talk about your child's interests and what they'll enjoy doing. Read books about starting nursery and school (eg. Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg; I am too absolutely small for school by Lauren Child; Lucy and Tom go to School by Shirley Hughes, Harry & the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow & Adrian Reynolds). Include your child in shopping trips to buy school things such as a lunch box.
- **Encourage independence:** Encourage your child to be as independent as possible when getting dressed and undressed. Encourage them to put on their own shoes and coat. Help them as much as possible to manage the toilet themselves and to wash their hands independently.
- **Teach basic social skills:** Give your child opportunities to play with children their own age, so they are used to sharing and interacting with other children. Teach them that it is not OK to snatch or to use any inappropriate behaviour when things don't go their way. Make sure they don't always get their own way at home!!
- **Give your child basic instructions to follow:** Your child will need to be able to follow instructions, so ask them to do things for you, such as set the table, or fetch their own coat and hat. It would also be useful if you could teach your child to tidy-up after themselves!!
- **Be positive:** Remember- all these activities should be FUN!! Be upbeat and positive, even if you are worried yourself!

In terms of preparing your child for giving them the best start academically we suggest you do the following:

- Talk with your child about the world around them, answer their questions, take them with you on little outings and show an interest their activities.
- Make the most of every day experiences- bake together, weigh the apples at the supermarket, read door numbers on the way to the park, count things for a purpose, play board games together...
- Read, read and read!! We would strongly encourage you to read to your child as often as possible. Bedtime stories are a must! We will keep you up-to-date with the best books to read in children's literature. To start you off, read books by Julia Donaldson, Jez Alborough and Martin Waddell. Read favourite stories over and over again until you and your child know them by heart.

Poetry is ideal for this too. Teach pre-reading skills- that we get meaning from the print and that print is read from left to right.

- Help your child to recognise their own name. Only the first letter should be a capital- the rest should be lower case. If your child is ready for it, you could also get them to write their own name.

DEALING WITH PROBLEMS

We are committed to working closely with parents and carers for the benefit of the children. No problem is too small and can often be prevented from becoming a bigger issue if you discuss it with us straight away. Legislation requires us to have a clear complaints procedure in place for parents and carers. If you have a complaint, you should follow the procedure set out below:

Complaints procedure

1.	Speak to your child's class teacher. The teacher will listen to your concerns and will follow up issues arising.
2.	If you are not satisfied with the response, please contact the school office to make an appointment with the Headteacher.
3.	If you continue to feel that your issue has not been resolved, then you can write to the Chair of the School's Governing Body. Hand in your letter at the school office.
4.	Ultimately, if you feel that your complaint has still not been addressed, you should request that your matter is dealt with by the Governing Body's Complaints Committee. You will then be advised of any further steps to take.

Be assured that you will be listened to fairly and courteously at all levels with a view to amicably resolving any issues or concerns you have regarding your child.

If there is anything you wish to know, please do not hesitate to ask. We are always more than willing to speak to you about any concerns, queries, or celebrations you may have!

We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.