

Whitburn Village Primary School Nursery Brochure



2020-2021

Welcome to Whitburn Village Primary School

Whitburn Village Primary School was established in April 1997 when the separate Infant and Junior schools were amalgamated. The Nursery unit was built as part of an extensive refurbishment programme. The result of that refurbishment is a Primary School catering for pupils from the age of 3 to 11.

The accommodation consists of a purpose built Nursery Department, classrooms, a Library, a shared Infant area, a large hall, a dining hall, an I.T. suite and offices. In April 2008 we opened as a Children's Centre. This means we also have on-site facilities for families with children between the ages of 0-11.

The school enjoys a fabulous location, set on the outskirts of Whitburn Village, amidst green fields. We have the added benefit of playing fields, and a central garden.

This Brochure

This booklet details the policies and procedures in operation in our Nursery Department. However, there is no better way to find out than to ask or to come and see for yourself. The Department operates an "Open Door" policy, meaning that we are always available to discuss any queries or concerns you may have.

General Information

School Address: Whitburn Village Primary School,
Cleaton Lane,
Whitburn,
SR67NS

Telephone number: 0191 5293069

Fax:

0191 5295202

E-mail: jgrieveson@whitburnvillage.s-tyneside.sch.uk

Nursery opening times:

Morning session: 8.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Afternoon session: 12.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Full day session: 8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Continuing the Learning Journey

We are delighted that you have chosen Whitburn Village Primary Nursery Department for the next stage of your child's learning journey. We look forward to working alongside you to support your child to develop their full potential in a stimulating and secure environment.



The children love exploring the resources in the small world area..

Parents must visit the school to present their child's **Birth Certificate**. It is only then that a place is guaranteed.

Parents who do not accept the place within the stipulated period will forfeit the allocation.

Though Nursery education is non-statutory, we do expect parents to support pupils by developing good timekeeping and attendance habits. Please try to ensure that your child is here on time. If there are any occasions when you need to collect your child before the end of the set session please inform staff so that they are prepared. We would not expect this to happen regularly as staff would have to disrupt their planned teaching schedule.

Induction

Once allocated a place, you will be invited to come along with your child for a stay and play session. This session lasts about an hour and gives you and your child an opportunity to look around, ask any questions and complete any required forms. Before your child starts Nursery, the Nursery staff will visit you at home. They will bring a brief questionnaire and chat with you about what your child likes / doesn't like to do. The information you give at that meeting is really useful in helping prepare for your child coming to Nursery.

During that visit, you will be given a starting date for your child.

Settling in to school routines

Usually children settle very quickly into the Nursery routine, but before you leave your child for their sessions please tell them what time you will return as children find this very reassuring.

At the outset, if children find it difficult to settle, parents may be required to bring their child for only part of a session, increasing in duration in consultation with the Nursery Teacher.

Please ensure you make arrangements to collect your child promptly at the end of a session, as lateness can cause anxiety for the child.

For safety reasons, a child should be brought to and from the Nursery by a responsible adult NOT an older pupil at the school. Please tell us if someone other than a parent or guardian is coming to collect your child, so that we know they are being taken home safely. The Nursery operates a password system to ensure safety at the door - your password will be decided upon at your home visit.



Independence is an important skill for young children to develop.

Health and safety

Nursery doors and external gates remain locked while the children are in session. At the end of the morning and afternoon the Nursery staff will open the door for parents collecting children. Please do not ring the bell before the end of the session as staff are unable to leave the children unattended to deal with individual queries. If there is an occasion where you have to collect a child earlier than usual please try to arrange this in advance and call at the School main Reception area to collect your child.

Safety issues

- Please do not let children bring toys (except birthday gifts or special presents) to Nursery, as they can easily get damaged or mislaid.
- **CAR PARKING** is very difficult on site and can be dangerous when children are entering and leaving the building. There is a red coloured "dropping off" zone in the turning circle. Cars must not park here OR park on the turning circles as it obstructs other traffic for the school. The car park, to the rear of the school just along Cleadon lane, is the best place to park. However, parents collecting their children at 11.30 a.m. or bringing them at 12.30 p.m. may park in the School car park as these times do not conflict with the rest of the school.
- The road markings and traffic restrictions outside the grounds are part of the Government "Safe routes for Schools" initiative. The travel plan for this project was put together several years ago. While we recognise that these restrictions can cause frustration for car drivers, they are designed to help keep your children safe. Cleadon Lane is a very busy road and not all drivers using it have been considerate or even sensible about how they approach the School site.
- Parents should supervise their children before and after Nursery sessions. Children should not be allowed to run in the car park, along the paths or

lawns, or to climb on the walls. Please discourage children from picking the flowers outside Nursery as they are part of the floral display created by the gardening club.



The children enjoy maths in Nursery. There are lots of opportunities for counting and exploring resources.

Clothing

Please help your child to become independent by putting them into clothing that can be easily managed. Children feel much happier if they can cope with their clothes; allow them to practice fastening buttons and zips.

As you dress your child tell them the names of the articles of clothing and their colour. Playing at dressing up can make this practise fun- this is something we do at Nursery.

Please ensure any clothing is marked clearly with your child's name- especially jumpers and wellingtons!

For safety reasons, children should not wear earrings or other items of jewellery at Nursery. This rule also applies in main school.

Some children wear the school uniform. Prices are quite reasonable and the uniform is very hard wearing. (It also saves arguments in the morning about what to wear!)

The uniform comprises of:

White / light blue shirt, blouse or polo shirt; grey/navy/black trousers or skirt; navy pullover, cardigan or sweatshirt and black shoes.

The school office no longer stock uniforms. Uniforms can be purchased from Simply Workwear in South Shields or ordered online via Tots To Teams

(www.totstoteams.com/ 0191 271 5454). Uniforms can be delivered to home or school, with free delivery if the uniform is delivered to school.

Links with the Main School

We consider the Nursery department to be an integral part of the Whitburn Village Primary School family. The children have many opportunities over the academic year to meet and mix with staff and children from the main school. This includes attending performances and plays, Achievement Assemblies or for other special events. Nursery and Reception children work together as part of the "Foundation stage", so there are very important links made across these two classes. Nursery children "freeflow" with Reception children for a period of time each week. The children mix and work together throughout the unit. Parents of children transferring to the Main School from Nursery receive a copy of the relevant School brochure and meet the Head Teacher and staff during the Summer Term, prior to admission.

Using the compare bears helps children to count, identify and create patterns, as well as developing fine motor skills.



Healthy Lifestyles Policy

At Whitburn Village Primary we operate a Healthy Eating and a Dental Health policy. This is based on 3 key messages:

- Encouraging children to choose sugar-free foods and drinks between meals.
- Encouraging children to brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.

- Ensuring that children visit the dentist at least once a year.

In support of a joint initiative between our Nursery and Oral Health promotion, we have adopted the following regulations:

1. All snacks served will be healthy e.g. fruit, vegetables, assorted bread snacks
2. The only drinks to be offered will be milk or water
3. At birthday times - your child may offer sweets / treats after Nursery session to take home.
4. The Nursery will include activities linked to dental health, and supporting the three key dental health messages, at least once a year.

School Fund

In order to supplement resources in the Nursery we have a system whereby parents can make voluntary contributions each Monday. (Usually 50p - to be given to the staff member at the door). Money collected helps subsidise special treats, cookery ingredients etc, which are not available from the general School budget. As well as providing nice things to eat, learning to cook helps children's knowledge of the world, as well as mathematical, personal and language development.

Educational visits / visitors

At Whitburn Village Primary we believe the children's education is enhanced by visits and visitors. While organising Nursery visits can be quite a challenge, getting children out and about is truly beneficial to their learning. In order to carry out visits, the Nursery may appeal for adult helpers to support the trip. If you would be interested in this, please let staff know.

Special Needs

It is important to remember that children do not all progress at the same rate. Some may exceed age-appropriate expectations while others may have difficulties in academic or emotional learning. We believe in early identification so that the right kind of support and resources can be targeted. In Nursery we work very

closely with the Health Service and with a group of professionals from "Portage" (Early Years). If you have any concerns at all about your child or feel that you need some guidance on health or learning-related issues please approach the Nursery Teacher or Head Teacher.

While we may need to refer to external agencies for practical or additional support, we aim to be an inclusive school.

The building has very good disabled access. An access and inclusion document is available in the School office, should you wish to view it.

While in Nursery, every child will be part of our BLAST (Boosting Language and Auditory Skills Training) programme. The aim is to build up their pre-linguistic skills such as attention, listening, speech sound awareness and story awareness in order for them to more rapidly develop speech and language skills based on these pre-linguistic abilities. The programme has been found to be beneficial for all children, not just those with speech difficulties. Your child will be awarded a certificate on completion of the programme. BLAST is carried out in small groups in the Nursery by staff trained in the programme.

Supporting your child's learning

Everyday activities which children share with parents or other members of the family can provide valuable experiences to help prepare children for work in Nursery or Main School Education.

We would ask that you encourage your child to talk about these experiences, speaking clearly, and using correct words rather than "baby talk".

- Look at pictures in books and talk about them.
- Help children to enjoy books by reading favourite stories to them.
- Encourage your child to talk about people in the story and what they do.
- Let them tell you a story or choose a story tape and listen to it together.
- Encourage your child to listen carefully and patiently - (quite often a difficult task for young children!)



Give children opportunities to mark make using a variety of materials.

- Learning to recite nursery rhymes helps memory training and speech as well as providing much enjoyment.
- Try to watch television together, especially programmes for the youngest children. Talk with your child about the programmes. Give them opportunities for drawing their own pictures, and let them tell you about the drawings.

If you help your child to write their name, please do not use capital letters. We would write it like this:

- Children learn from simple repetition in different places such as counting cars on the journey home, matching shapes in the environment etc. In Nursery they will sing and say many rhymes.

For example:

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive

- Let your child play at the kitchen sink with empty plastic cartons of various sizes, a funnel for pouring water and a strainer to watch water running through.
- Allow your child to practise cutting out, using small scissors with rounded ends, pictures from old magazines, birthday cards, etc are great for this type of activity.
- Whenever you go out to the shops or collect an older child from school, point out something interesting to look for on the way.

- Count how many cars you pass. Look for different trees and flowers in the park.
- The child's every day environment can provide a wealth of education and enjoyment. By involving your child in some of the suggestions above, they will already have experienced some of the learning objectives which form our policies and practice in the Nursery department.



The Nursery children really enjoy cooking on the fire pit. We make soup, cakes and even bacon sandwiches!

"Bookstart"

On your child's 4th birthday they will be given a "treasure bag" of books and information. This is part of the Government strategy to encourage all children to take an active interest in books and reading. In their first term in the Reception class they will receive another little bag of books. We hope you enjoy sharing these with your child.

Fundamental British Values

In line with government legislation, the Nursery promotes Fundamental British Values in a range of ways. The children are taught the value of individual liberty

through self-selecting their learning activities. They are taught about the value of democracy through collaborative decision making, for example, collaborating with staff to decide on the activities for the following week. They learn to tolerate the different faiths and beliefs through their learning of the festivals of Chinese New Year and Diwali. Mutual respect is constantly being reinforced for themselves, other children, Nursery staff and property. They learn to uphold and understand the value of classroom laws.

The children love any opportunity to mark-make. They have constant access to the interactive whiteboard to support their budding computing and writing skills



Nursery curriculum / Assessment

While we don't like to talk about "testing" at such a young age, Early Years staff use a range of methods to monitor and assess each child's progress in learning. The Nursery curriculum is based on "Foundation Stage" guidelines. This curriculum covers the Nursery and Reception year and is based on "areas" of learning and development.

3 PRIME AREAS

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Communication And Language (CL)

4 SPECIFIC AREAS

- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

You will be able to tell what the learning focus for each of these areas is simply by looking at the physical environment in the Nursery, as each is set up to support children's learning.

On a daily basis staff observe how children respond to a task or activity. They assess their progress against development matters (descriptions of what a child might be able to do).

We noted earlier that children do progress at different rates. This is particularly so in Nursery and Reception. The most important thing for any child is that they are making appropriate individual progress.

As most parents see Nursery staff on a daily basis this provides an ideal opportunity to chat to staff, please feel free to approach a member of the team if you have any questions or concerns - no worry is too small, and we pride ourselves on operating this open door policy. At the end of the year you will also receive a written report.

- ❖ We hope that you have found the information in our brochure of value. If you have any queries either before or after your child begins Nursery, please see either the NURSERY TEACHER or the HEAD TEACHER. Never feel that a problem is too small to mention to us. It is only by working together that we can make sure every child is happy, confident and secure, and reaches their potential.