



# BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

## APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL AT SIDNEY GROVE  
BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL AT DECKHAM

Our children are confident, risk  
seeking, motivated learners.

THEY ARE ALL UNIQUE AND AMAZING!

 **Play to  
Learn**



What a busy Spring Term at Bensham Grove Community Nursery School!

# WOW !



**It was such a busy Spring term ! We cannot believe what has happened since we Christmas across both Sidney Grove and Deckham Nurseries. It has been so lovely to see new families join us as well as established ones continue to thrive and develop across all of our rooms across both sites.**

Both Nurseries continue to thrive under the consistent leadership at both the Sidney Grove and Deckham sites. We have the expertise of a great team across both sites and are very fortunate that they are led by an expert and wonderful child care manager, two very experienced deputy child care managers as well as an experienced SEN Co and three expert EYFS teachers who support on the teaching and learning across both sites. They all do an amazing job and are a great source of support for the wider staff team as well as ourselves. The team work effortlessly to ensure the children are cared for and are instrumental in offering amazing learning opportunities for all ages to enjoy.

The newly introduced weekly 'Play to Learn' communication from all rooms has enabled our families to gain an insight into the care and curriculum on offer for all of our young children. It is posted weekly on Family and is now also posted on our website too so our whole community can see our curriculum. We are looking forward to a busy summer term and embracing the lovely weather that it brings. Thank you to all parents who submitted their preferences for funded and fee paying hours ahead of the DfE funding expansion. We are currently finalising our September offer for funded places and will share this with at the end of the week.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Sue McElrue and Jill Hutton  
(Job Share Headteachers)**

# OUR VISION

Care and Education with a Purpose

**WE ENSURE THE VERY BEST OPPORTUNITIES ARE ON OFFER FOR OUR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND STAFF. EVERYONE IS VALUED AND RESPECTED EQUALLY TO ENABLE OUR CHILDREN TO BE HAPPY CONFIDENT AND CURIOUS LEARNERS.**

At Bensham Grove Community Nursery School we want our children to be confident, motivated learners who enjoy challenge and confidently take 'risks' in their learning. We want children to see how exciting and enjoyable it is to learn with and from others. We want children to have a 'voice', make contributions and have an active role in their learning. We want all children to realise their full potential and to know they are valued for the amazing and unique person that they are.

## Our Values

At Bensham Grove Community Nursery School we ...

- Develop positive relationships with children and their families that are based on mutual respect
- Continually reflect on children's needs and interests ensuring adults are responsive in their approach and meet the specific needs of the children
- Embrace the diversity of each child, their family and our local community
- Create a safe and welcoming environment where all children's contributions are valued
- Provide an enriched, exciting and motivating learning environment that engages and involves children.





# SUMMARY OF THE SPRING TERM

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## BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT DECKHAM

We have had a very busy Spring term with lots of experiences occurring for the children and families to join at Deckham. It has been lovely to welcome new children and families to our setting. We would like to thank all parents and carers who were able to join us with the various events we have held this half term such as the Spring Stay and Play, which was so well supported. It has been lovely to see how the new children have settled this term and reflect back on all of the events and experiences we have explored.

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Within our curriculum, we explored so many festivals and celebrations. We followed the children's interests as we explored Chinese dragons and used so many connections with this for drawing, painting, imaginative play as well as developing cultural understanding.

We always look forward to meeting the new children joining us in the nursery. As well as welcoming back the children there are always new faces and some children move from the Discoverers (with Claire, Amy, Jodie and Ethan) to the Investigators (with Miss Goodrick and Terri).

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Across the term, we followed the children's interest in the changes to the outdoor environment as we moved through Winter and into Spring. We loved watching out for birds and engaged with the bird watch survey. What scientists! In the garden, there was a growing interest in imaginative play as the children acted out real life experiences such as making and using binoculars, making bird feeders and purposefully showing a care for living things! The children continued to make progress in their development of fine and gross motor skills across both the indoor and outdoor areas: great foundations for writing!

As we moved into the Spring the highlight for children, staff and families was definitely the eggs that arrived in the incubator. The observation skills, patience, care and support offered from the children has been so amazing to see! The learning opportunities have been so vast and the enjoyment by all a privilege to see! Thank you for taking care of the ducklings so well! We would like to thank you all for your continued support. From the Nursery Staff at Deckham

# SUMMARY OF THE SPRING TERM

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## BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT SIDNEY GROVE

We had a very busy Spring term with the children following their interests and discovering new ways to do things! Seasonal change from Winter to Spring has promoted the opportunity for the children to engage in first hand experiences by enjoying the wonderful outdoor spaces we have. We began our Spring learning with some very cold weather and the children explored the changing environment outside; enjoying exploration of frost and ice and developing a keen interest in caring for the birds they spot in the garden. We were able to explore this further through a range of activities planned around the Great Schools Birdwatch in February. We have celebrated a variety of occasions this term including Pancake Tuesday, World Book Day, Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, Eid and Easter.

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We started the new term welcoming children from the Nest into the Den, the Den into the Discovery Hub and the last transition from the Discovery Hub into the Investigation Hub. We work hard on these transition moments throughout the year as settling in takes time and we want all of our children to feel safe and secure in our setting! The teams from across all rooms support transitions.

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'Through plan, do, review we continue to share and develop children's interests in our indoor and outdoor environments. We have recently worked on further improving our outside environment and the children have been thrilled with the additional learning opportunities offered to them on a daily basis. In the Summer term we look forward to supporting our children who will be beginning their school journey in September with this transition, alongside continuing to support our children and families across all of the rooms!

In January we were fortunate enough to take a small group of children from the Investigation Hub to the Gateshead Multisport Event and we won the overall award for self-esteem. This was an impressive achievement as we were the only Nursery school in attendance and the children made us proud with their determination and enthusiasm!

We were delighted to welcome parents into Nursery for our Spring 'Stay and play' event and the children were thrilled to showcase their learning and share some special time with their grown-ups!

Nursery staff enjoyed meeting with parents to share their child's interests and achievements from throughout the term; these meetings are always a good way to meet face to face and gain an insight into the progress for your child. The Famly App continues to be the way we communicate between nursery and home and any home communication is always appreciated. We welcome many new children and their families at this time of the term so please ask a member of staff if you need anything clarifying.

Thank you for all your support from the whole team at Bensham, Sidney Grove.



## OUR CURRICULUM

At Bensham Grove Community Nursery School the children have a broad balanced curriculum to promote their social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development. The curriculum is differentiated and rooted in a child centred philosophy. The Investigation Hubs are led through qualified teachers who are able to plan an age appropriate curriculum who also understand the key skills needed for starting statutory school. They ensure our children are 'school ready' but never lose sight of the importance of developmentally appropriate learning underpinned by quality adult interactions and by providing enriching childhood experiences.

## DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In all areas of the centre, staff formulate developmentally appropriate learning opportunities with a focus on the curriculum and the children's interests. This was so wonderful to see in the Spring term and demonstrated high levels of engagement from all children in all rooms across both centres.

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. This term and next we are investing in the outdoor environments for all age groups as we all striving to enhance the importance of physical development and mental well being that can be catered for in a quality outdoor environment.

We hope you had the opportunity to attend our Spring 'Stay and Play' events so you can see first hand the wonderful environment that the staff team develop so well for our children. Please feel free to book a visit any time to see what the children are doing as you are always welcome. We will be holding a summer term 'Stay and Play' session so please look out for the date.

Life at

# BGNS



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## SUE MCEL RUE

Headteacher ( Monday and Tuesday)

My previous experience includes being a headteacher at both a state primary school and an independent school, a lecturer at Newcastle University and Head of an early years Initial Teacher Training institution. Outside of work I enjoy family life. My two children, Finn and Poppy are now at Edinburgh and Oxford University so my life is often spent on a motorway!

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## JILL HUTTON

Headteacher (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

My previous experience has focused on my passion for early years taking several leadership roles based in Primary schools. Outside of work I enjoy being fully active in my family. I have two children, William and Rosa who are in Primary School and are often at a party or clubs; as you can imagine life is busy when I'm not at work!

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## STAFFING UPDATES

### **MATERNITY LEAVE**

Steph welcomed her baby boy Alfie and all the family are doing well. Congratulations to them all.

### **WELCOME**

We have the following staff starting with us and look forward to getting to know them as part of the wider team:

At Deckham:

Ethan Swallow

At Sidney Grove:

Hayley Bhogaita

Emma Burdis

Laney Forster

Dianne Hall

Sophie Lawrence

Amy Turnbull

Holly Wilson

# OUR STAFF





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# PARENTS AS PARTNERS. YOUR SUPPORT IS SO APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.

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- 1 Please can you make sure all prescribed medication is handed to relevant staff at the start of your child's session. No medication, cream etc should be left in children's bags.



- 2 Due to health and safety and risk to other children can you please ensure no food/drink is left in your child's bag.



- 3 Can we kindly request that you are mindful of where you park as both sites are shared with the community. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



- 4 **FYI: the Nursery is closed for staff training on Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2025.**



Please note: As the weather is warming up can all children attend Nursery with sun cream applied (8 hour protection would be the best). Please see the room leader to offer and any additional sun cream for any children staying for longer periods of time in Nursery.



# Safeguarding Team

We believe everyone has a responsibility to promote the welfare of all our children to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them. We will make sure that all our children have the best protection. We have robust procedures in place for recognising and responding to safeguarding concerns. Should you wish to report a safeguarding concern please contact any of the following team members who are designated safeguarding leads.

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Bensham Grove Community Nursery School  
Jill Hutton (Headteacher)  
Sue McElrue (Headteacher)

Bensham Grove Community Nursery School @ Sidney Grove  
Hilary James (Child Care Manager)  
Kelly Keating (Deputy Child Care Manager)  
Lesley Chesson (SEN Co and Lead Teacher for both centres)

Bensham Grove Community Nursery School @ Deckham  
Claire Hardy (Deputy Child Care Manager)  
Emma Goodrick (Teacher)

If you are not able to speak with any of the above and you believe a child to be at risk please call the police or the local safeguarding team in Gateshead 0191 433 2653

## CONTACT US

BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL  
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