



BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

JULY 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 SummerTerm at Bensham Grove Community Nursery School!

WOW !



What a Summer term ! What a year! We cannot believe that our first academic year as Head Teachers is drawing to a close! It has been a busy one but such a pleasurable one with so much to celebrate! The learning that has taken place at both Sidney Grove and Deckham Nurseries has been exemplary.

Both Nurseries continue to thrive with the expertise of our committed staff team. As our nursery expands due to the National Agreed Child Care options so does our team! We work hard to recruit staff with Early Years expertise but most importantly a commitment to working with our families and young children in a respectful and positive interactive manner. The continued professional development of the team is a priority and as the only maintained nursery school in Gateshead we are fortunate to access our training courses alongside all Gateshead school staff ensuring our staff receive the most up to date Early Years pedagogy. We also enjoy showcasing our expertise as many schools and nurseries request visits to see what we do so well! We have hosted senior leaders and Early Years Staff in both Nurseries. It is amazing to have visitors enjoying our provision.

The nursery development plan has focused on ensuring the adult:child interactions are the best they can be and subsequent training has focused on this agenda throughout the year and will continue to do so. We have implemented developments within the outdoor environment to extend quality learning opportunities and will seek to enhance this further next year. A large part of our work has been designated to the DfE funding expansion and identifying an offer for funded places that can work for our buildings and staffing and we look forward to implementing our offer moving forward in September.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to work in our Nursery community.

Sue McElrue and Jill Hutton
(Job Share Headteachers)



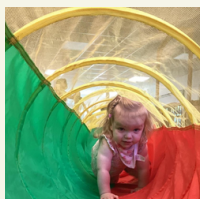
PARENTS AS PARTNERS. YOUR SUPPORT IS SO APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.



1 All medications needed in Nursery need to be signed into Famly. Staff will support with this if required. All accidents will now be recorded on Famly and need your acknowledgement.



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 Please take care where you park as both sites are shared with the community. There have been some incidents in the car park which we would really like to avoid in the future. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



4 ***FYI: Nursery is closed for staff training on Monday September 1st 2025***

GOOD LUCK: We would like to wish all of our children and families who are moving on our best wishes and hope the next step is a positive one for you all. Our children going to school go with our knowledge that they have been supported to be independent, curious and respectful learners who are 'school ready' because of the partnership created between our amazing staff team and you as parents. Thank you from the whole team for trusting us with your most amazing gift, your child. Your continued support during your journey with us has been appreciated.



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 work hard to ensure that we know our children through our own observations but by also working closely with families. We believe that 'Family' is the single most important influence in a child's life. Positive parental relationships and engagement are powerful levers to a child's success and progress. We work with families to ensure all their needs are met. Knowledge is power not only for our children but also for us and we are always learning about them! We want to know as much as we can about our children in order to support them develop and grow. Our focus is on nurturing children and celebrating individuality. The strong emphasis on relationships ensures staff know the children well, which enables us to provide experiences for the children to build on their existing skills, knowledge and understanding constructed around their current interests.

Highly skilled practitioners use careful observations to follow the child's lead. We know children learn best when they are interested and motivated. We plan to make the most of this intrinsic motivation and organise our reflections and learning opportunities with this at the core. Our Investigation Hubs are teacher led provision ensuring that all planned learning has the future development needs of school in mind. Our newly introduced teacher led provision in the Discovery Hub is in place to support the very best in provision for our young children.





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.

Our plan, do and review approach enables children to have some independence over their own learning. In 'The Moment Planning' allows us to capture the moment a child is highly engaged and inspired, allowing our practitioners to build and extend on learning which is appropriate to the unique child. Small group focus opportunities are implemented by the expert staff who know what next steps are required to enable children to meet their individual, full potential. Scaffolded adult:child learning enables children to engage and develop their independence to follow and extend learning.

DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In all areas of the centre, staff formulate developmentally appropriate learning opportunities with a focus on the curriculum as well as children's interests. The Characteristics of Effective Learning, namely 'playing and exploring', 'active learning', and 'creating and thinking critically', underpin the children's learning and development across the areas of the curriculum.

We always focus on language. From early language to aspirational language. Language unlocks learning! We have developed key books and rhymes that relate to these characteristics of learning so that the children can be given the opportunity to develop their language and communication skills as much as possible. In September we are engaging with a programme called 'Launchpad for Literacy' to further support staff professional development in this crucial area of the curriculum.

Look out for 'Stay and Play' sessions in the Autumn term along with some curriculum information sessions. Please feel free to book a visit any time to see what the children are doing as you are always welcome.

Life at

BGNS

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER TERM

BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT DECKHAM

We have had some lovely weather this Summer Term and we have enjoyed exploring in the outdoor environment as much as possible. The children have enjoyed helping out in the garden as we develop areas creating a digging area, sandpit and a planting area. There have been lots of interest in the garden as the children have explored mark making with chalks, paints and mud, engaging in outdoor games and exploring movement and physical challenges. We have engaged in various experiences such as Insect Week, Fairtrade, caterpillars and a visit from an Oral Hygienist.

We cannot quite believe that the school year is over and how quick it has gone. We are so proud of the children and the progress they have all made during this school year. It has been lovely to welcome new children and families across the year at various points.

Next year Jodie will be working with us for three days a week as she starts her new course at University. We are happy to welcome Rob for two days a week. Rob has worked at Bensham Grove across both sites for many years. Miss Goodrick will be moving to working in our Discovery Hub at Bensham and we are pleased to welcome Hayley Bhogaita and Hayley Bewley to work with our children here.

During the year, we have had so many wonderful learning opportunities which we have loved sharing with you. Across the year, the children have been developing their own characters and personalities and it has been lovely to observe as well as the children developing their own interests and friendships within the environment.

To all of the children and families who are moving onto to other schools, we wish you all the best and know you will all be amazing in the next stage of your journeys. We hope you have a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you back in September. We would like to thank you all for your continued support. From the Nursery Staff at Deckham

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER TERM

BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT SIDNEY GROVE

We started the summer term by welcoming many new starters across our rooms at Bensham. We supported these children helping them adjust to new routines and larger learning environments. The learning environment in each room allows for and facilitates children to take greater steps in independent learning and staff are always on hand to help children to adjust to changes in the outdoor and indoor learning environments. In the summer term we broadly explored the themes of growth and change in a variety of ways! Through real life observations of hatching ducklings and caterpillars to butterflies the children explored life-cycles and changes in living creatures, whilst considering what they would need to thrive!

We explored core-texts and key rhymes and embedded them through a variety of hands-on experiences. For example, children retold The Gingerbread Man using large equipment outside to represent the river and to build bridges for an alternative ending to the story. In the Discovery Hub the children loved representing their ideas from the colour monster story.

The children have all accessed a weekly yoga session with Fay. This meant we saw some wonderful progression as Fay carefully built on their skills each week. This was evident in the children's confidence when creating strong poses, balancing and moving in a variety of ways. The children in the Investigation Hub also experienced a taster Bollywood Dance session from Gem Arts which was extremely joyful!

'Our smallest children have loved singing along and listening to repetitive stories and rhymes and connecting with key sensory tasks. During the term we made full use of our outdoor spaces in order to enrich our curriculum further. Children developed interests in water play, throwing and catching and observation of minibeasts in the garden. Through plan, do, review sessions we are able to cater for children's interests and next steps of development by carefully planning opportunities to experience in the Nursery and outside.

Some of our older children attended the Saltwell Park Gateshead Primary Schools Run and made a fantastic effort showing great determination and confidence and represented our whole nursery so well.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to welcoming our families new and old to the new term.

We wish all of our children and families starting their next phase of education our best wishes.

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

OUR STAFF



SUE MCEL RUE

Headteacher Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

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!



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!

STAFFING UPDATES

MATERNITY LEAVE

We welcome Sam Jakeman back after maternity leave in July and Rachel O'Neil in November.

WELCOME

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

At Deckham:

Hayley Bhogaita (been working as a teacher at Sidney Grove) & Hayley Bewley will job share this teacher role. Rob Sherrington will join for two days/week as he will now work across both sites.

At Sidney Grove:

Emma Goodrick (been working as a teacher at Deckham) will support the Discovery Hub in the teacher role.

The following staff will join the team in the Investigation Hub: Lauren MacDonald, Melanie Wilson and Gwen Taylor.

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.



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)
Emma Goodrick (Teacher)

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

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

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