



BENSHAM GROVE COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

JULY 2026 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 another 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! We have had two exceptional Ofsted inspections on both sites which recognise the wonderful staff team and children that make our Nursery so special.

Both Nurseries continue to thrive with the expertise of our committed staff team. Our work this year on our 'Belong' agenda has ensured that our staff have gained some excellent CPD on supporting all children and seeking to ensure interactions are as positive as possible for all children ensuring their individual needs are met.

Some of our older children proudly represented Bensham Grove at the #INSPIRE Gateshead Schools Fun Run in Saltwell Park. They were fantastic ambassadors for our nursery, showing great determination, enthusiasm and encouragement towards one another.

Our visits from Karma Yoga have continued to impact positively across both sites and all age phases for the benefit of enriching our children's experiences. As their skills have developed week by week, we have seen wonderful progress in confidence, balance, strength, and coordination. Many children have become increasingly confident in creating strong poses and moving in a variety of ways. So much to celebrate!

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to work in our Nursery community. Our children continue to make us proud each day.

Sue McElrue and Jill Hutton
(Job Share Headteachers)



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

***FYI: Nursery is closed for staff training on
Tuesday September 1st 2026 and Monday
January 4th 2027.***



**A CALENDAR OF DATES WILL BE ISSUED WITH THE PARENT HANDBOOK FOR ALL.
THIS IS BEEN IMPLEMENTED ON THE FEEDBACK OF PARENT VOICE AND WE HOPE IT
WILL SUPPORT EVERYONE TO PLAN NURSERY COMMITMENTS DURING THE YEAR.**

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.

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

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL WELLBEING HAS CONTINUED TO BE A KEY PRIORITY. STAFF HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING IN EMOTION COACHING, FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO SUPPORT CHILDREN IN RECOGNISING, UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING THEIR EMOTIONS.

At Bensham Grove Community Nursery School our children are being supported to develop the language to recognise and talk about how they are feeling. Using the four stages of Emotion Coaching, we acknowledge children's feelings, help them make sense of their emotions and guide them towards positive ways of managing them. Simple calming strategies are familiar to many of our children, helping them become increasingly confident in regulating their emotions with the support of caring adults.

Our work on emotions has led perfectly into a very special 'Belong in our Community Week', where our whole nursery focused on the theme of belonging.

Through beautiful stories the children explored the importance of kindness, friendship and welcoming others, recognising that every one of us brings something unique and special to our nursery community and beyond.

The week was filled with collaborative experiences that strengthened our sense of togetherness. Children worked together to engage with cooperative activities that encouraged teamwork, communication and inclusion. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity that makes Bensham Grove and Deckham such a special place to 'belong' to.

That same sense of belonging extended to our families as we were delighted to welcome so many of you to our Stay and Play sessions. It was lovely to see parents and carers spending quality time learning alongside their children, sharing smiles, laughter and special moments together. Strong partnerships between home and nursery are so important in helping children thrive, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER TERM

BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT DECKHAM

What a fabulous summer term we have shared together at Deckham! It has been a joy to welcome so many new children and families into our nursery community. Our newest children have settled beautifully into nursery life, growing in confidence each day as they build relationships, explore their environment and begin their learning journey with us. It has been wonderful to see friendships flourish and curiosity blossom as children have embraced every opportunity to play, discover and learn.

One of the children's greatest fascinations this term has been the wonderful world of minibeasts. Our learning was inspired by much-loved stories including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *Superworm*, which sparked endless curiosity and conversation. The children eagerly searched for minibeasts around our outdoor environment, making careful observations using magnifying glasses and learning how to handle living creatures.

Supporting children's emotional wellbeing has continued to be developed through understanding and managing their emotions. Through stories such as *'The Colour Monster'* the children have developed the language to recognise and talk about how they are feeling. Our Yoga techniques and calming spaces have supported the children so well to help them regulate their emotions.

A real highlight was caring for our very own caterpillars. Watching them eat, grow and becoming beautiful butterflies was an unforgettable experience. We have loved the experiences that the warm weather has brought by enabling the outdoor area to be utilised so effectively to support knowledge and understanding of the world.

It is with both pride and sadness that we prepare to say goodbye to our oldest children. They have grown so much during their time with us, developing into kind, curious, confident learners who are more than ready for the next stage of their educational journey. We know they will continue to flourish and make us incredibly proud and we wish every one of them the very best as they spread their wings and fly. To all of our children and families, thank you for a wonderful year of learning, laughter and shared experiences. We wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer break.

From the Nursery Staff at Deckham

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER TERM

BENSHAM GROVE NURSERY SCHOOL AT SIDNEY GROVE

In the Investigation Hub we explored the theme of growth and change in a variety of engaging ways. Through real-life observations of caterpillars transforming into butterflies, the children learned about life cycles and the needs of living things. We also reflected on the children's own growth, particularly those preparing to move on to primary school. Visits from Reception teachers, stories about starting school and focused activities exploring emotions helped to support this important transition. Our core texts included Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man, and The Very Hungry Caterpillar, which were brought to life through a range of hands-on experiences. Story props encouraged children to retell familiar stories.

Our exploration of the theme of belonging was a particularly special part of the term. Through stories, collaborative artwork and music the children celebrated what makes each of them unique. Each child created a piece of bunting which was combined into a beautiful display, symbolising that while every child is individual, together we all belong at Bensham Grove Nursery.

We have had another lovely term in the Discovery Hub and have been so amazed by the progress the children have made. The children have engaged with many experiences such as preparing snack, making playdough and exploring with ice and frozen gloop. Across the term, the children have shown an interest with planting various seeds and observing them.

Over the term our smallest children have again shown great interest and curiosity in books and a variety of singing/song time activities. The staff have introduced a variety of props and sensory trays to further promote their interests.

In the Den there has been a focus on incorporating new words into the children's vocabulary, and physical development continues to be a focus in the den and nest as the children explore a range of physical opportunities like the climbing frame, spinning top and tunnel. These activities have been a great tool to help develop their gross motor movements as they focus on large bodily movements. The outdoors also continues to be a large part of the children's time at nursery; the warmer weather has allowed us to enjoy social snack times together in the garden.

We have enjoyed searching the outdoor environment looking for spiders, worms, ants and woodlice. This term we have had a lovely experience of observing caterpillars transforming into butterflies. We were very lucky to have the Glasshouse join us! They brought along some resources and instruments for us to join in a lovely song time during our week of Belonging.

Thank you to everyone who attended our summer stay and play session. It was lovely to see so many people attend. The children loved having their parents and carers in the environment with them observing and playing alongside. We wish all of our children 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



CLAIRE HARDY

DEPUTY CHILD CARE MANAGER

I have been at Deckham as a Deputy Manager for 17 years. I have a passion for supporting our families in making sure all of our children feel safe and secure so they can all reach their full potential. I have lots of experience of working in early years and as a SENDCo. I am very proud to be part of our team which received amazing feedback in our recent OFSTED. Outside of nursery I love family time with my husband and two grown up daughters Caitlin and Lucie. We also have our little dog Fern who loves keeping me company when I am gardening.

KELLY KEATING

DEPUTY CHILD CARE MANAGER



From a young age I have always had a passion to work in childcare. I began working at Deckham nursery in 2005, where I completed my team leading qualification, then moved to Bensham in 2014 to become the Deputy Manager. I support the 0-3 team and families on our Bensham site. I'm one of the Deputy safeguarding leads for the site and a member of the operations team within School. I hold both first aid at work as well as paediatric first aid. Outside of work I enjoy family life, holidays and days out. My two boys attend senior school and sixth form gaining more independence each day.

STAFFING UPDATES

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: Dianne Hall, Sakar Hama and Lyneisha Alberts.

At Sidney Grove: Erin Moffat will support The Investigation Hub as the teacher along with Lyneisha Alberts and Sumaira Javed will support our wrap around shifts. Chloe Hunter and Lucy Langley will support in the 0-3 phases.

GOODBYE We say a special goodbye to Natalia. She is moving to a school in Sunderland and we wish her all the best in her new promoted post. We will all miss her. Good Luck Natalia.

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.

During the school holidays many staff are on holiday however Kelly Keating (one of our safeguarding leads) will be at the Bensham Site. If you consider a child is in immediate danger, call 999. For other serious or urgent issues, contact Gateshead children's services directly on 0191 433 2653 rather than waiting for a reply from us. Parents and carers can contact the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.



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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