



Welcome to Nursery at

# Grace Darling C of E Primary School

Part of Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

---

Parent/Carer Guide 2021/22



## A message from the Headteachers

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to our Nursery classes at Grace Darling C of E Primary School. In this booklet, you will find some information and some reminders for the new school year.



We will provide a nurturing, safe, positive, fun and stimulating environment for children to learn through exciting learning opportunities, where all contributions big or small are valued.

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**

We encourage all of our children to develop a love of reading!

Our school is a place where everyone can let their light shine!

We hope your child is excited about starting in our Nursery!

If you have any questions about our Nursery provision, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Tel:** 01670 812019

**Email:** [admingd@gracedarling.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admingd@gracedarling.ncea.org.uk)

## Meet the staff



**Mrs McKenna**



**Mrs Smith**



**Mrs Dingwall**



**Mrs Murray**

# The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We are part of the *Early Years Foundation Stage*, which the children begin in Nursery and finish at the end of Reception.

Our learning is made up of seven areas of learning within the Development Matters curriculum:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication and language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Physical development
- Expressive arts and design



## Outdoors

- We spend a lot of our time in the outdoors, which is a great place to learn and explore!
- We sometimes go on welly walks.
- Children need to bring a coat to school every day, even if the sun is shining.
- Shoes need to be appropriate for all weathers.
- We have some spare wellies in school but if a pair of your child's wellies could stay in school, this would help (please put their name inside).
- In hotter months, please apply sun-cream to your child before school and send them in with a sun hat.
- Please name all jumpers and cardigans as they all look the same.



# Supporting your child's transition

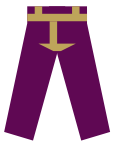
Prior to your child starting Nursery, it would be a big help to your child if you could support them in the following:



- Putting on and taking off their coat by themselves and hanging it on a peg



- Putting on socks and shoes



- Having a go and doing up buttons and zips (elasticated trousers are easier to manage than buttons and hooks when your child goes to the toilet)



- Support your child to use the toilet on their own and to wipe their own bottom and wash their hands afterwards.

It would be beneficial if your child is able to manage their own clothing when visiting the toilet and that they are toilet trained before they start Nursery. Your Health Visitor can help with this. Any worries, please speak to the Nursery staff and we will support you too.



# Rewards

We use lots of different ways to promote good behaviour within Nursery. We believe in assertive discipline - where good behaviour is rewarded. We use 'good sitting', 'good listening', 'good walking' and 'kind hands'.

## Some of our rewards:

- Child's name is put onto the rainbow!
- Stickers
- Visits to other staff
- Star Helpers are chosen daily to encourage kindness and sharing



# Water, Milk and Snacks

- Children will be offered a carton of milk and a healthy snack at school
- Children should bring a named bottle of fresh water with them to school every day (no juice or pop)
- Please let Nursery or office staff know if your child has any allergies or special dietary requirements

## Collecting from Nursery

You will be asked on your visit to school which family members will be collecting your child from Nursery. If it is someone else, please inform us in advance. Otherwise, we are unable to let your child go with someone we do not recognise, for your child's safety.

**Top Tip:** Make sure the school and nursery have up to date contact phone numbers, especially mobile numbers, in case we need to contact you in an emergency.



# Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening are at the heart of children's learning. Children need to be confident speakers and active listeners in order to learn about the world they live in.

**Conversation with parents has been found to be one of the most important factors influencing children's achievement.**

From the very earliest stages parents are teaching their children to communicate, through playing, chatting, singing, commenting and questioning. Parents are modelling speaking all of the time.

**Here are some ways to develop your child's speaking skills:**

- Talk to your child face to face, explaining what you are doing, what will happen next, why you are doing certain things.
- Encourage your child to talk about what they are doing and explain why they are doing things.
- Take turns in conversations with them and encourage them to listen to your contribution. 'My turn.....your turn.....'
- Show them how to listen by looking at the person who is speaking – good eye contact is vital.
- Take time to answer your child's questions, model being a good listener!
- Ask them questions; get them to ask you questions.
- Limit dummy use to bedtime only, as this will restrict speech development.
- Limit screen time e.g. tablets, phones, television.
- Read a bedtime story every day and share the pictures.



# Tapestry

- We use 'Tapestry' to share your child's Learning Journeys online.
- You will be given a username and password to access this and download the Tapestry app.
- Observations can be seen of your child in school.
- You can send photos/videos and information which will be added to their online journey.

It is very secure and only you can see your child's learning journey.

- We often communicate other information on here with things that might be happening in school so you can check it regularly.





## Top Tips

- ✓ Please arrive on time for the session (8.30am or 12.15pm). We start with an activity or story that is linked to our learning. Your child may not be able to make as much progress if he/she misses any of this.
- ✓ Similarly, aim to arrive in plenty of time to collect your child at the end of a session, a few minutes late can seem like an eternity to a child.
- ✓ If your child is poorly or will not be attending Nursery for any reason, please telephone the school office to let us know. Attending Nursery is important and any child with less than 90% attendance will be closely monitored.
- ✓ If you would like to talk to the Nursery staff at collection time please wait until all of the children have been collected safely.
- ✓ Please check signs and notices on the Nursery notice board in the cloakroom and it is important that you check any bags for letters daily.

**If you have any questions or concerns about your child starting Nursery, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us!**

Grace Darling C of E Primary School  
Central Parkway  
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea  
Northumberland  
NE64 6RT

W: [www.gracedarling.ncea.org.uk](http://www.gracedarling.ncea.org.uk)

