



The Village Primary School



Nursery Information Booklet 2016

Welcome

We hope you will very soon feel that you and your child “belong” here, know and understand what Nursery is all about and enjoy the experiences which we invite you to share with us. This booklet gives you a brief insight into our Nursery, with basic information we think will be useful for you. Please feel that myself, and the whole staff team are always here for you if you’d like to talk about your child, or Nursery, to ask any questions or discuss any problems.



Our Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of two year group classes; Lower EY (Nursery) and Upper EY (Reception). It offers a distinct phase of education for children from the ages of 3 to 5 years and follows its’ own curriculum.

Nursery session times

Option A - morning attendance

Doors open at 8.45am and will close at 9.00am.

Children can be collected between 11:30am and 11:45am.

Option B – afternoon attendance

Doors open at 12.30pm and close at 12.45pm.

Children can be collected between 3.15pm and 3:30pm.

Option C – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning

Monday & Tuesday - 9.00am – 3.15pm.

Wednesday - 9.00am – 11:30am.

Option D – Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday

Wednesday – 12:45pm – 3:15pm.

Thursday & Friday – 9.00am-3:15pm.

If my child is attending nursery via Option C and D, what happens at lunchtime?

Children attending on full day placements (9.00-3.15) will stay in school over the lunchtime period. Children may choose to stay for a hot school meal or may bring a packed lunch, but are not eligible for free meals under the ‘universal free school meals programme’. If a child has a school lunch, information will be sent home to you daily outlining what they have eaten.

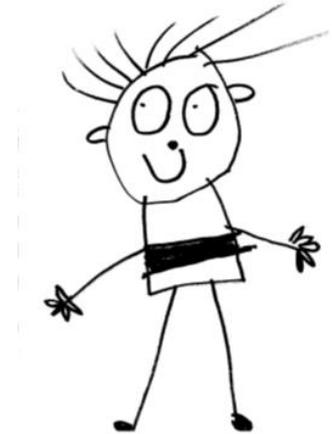
Please ensure that your child is brought right into Nursery and collected by adults they know and who are known to us. We use a “password” system to ensure children are safe and secure. At home time your child will not be allowed to go home unless there is an adult, over 16 years old, who is known to us waiting for them. Please inform the class teacher if a different adult will be collecting your child and we will ask for a password to be used at pick up time.

Our Aims

We aim to create an environment with children who are purposeful, calm, confident and independent. If you came to visit our nursery, you would see children engaged in what they are doing in a superb environment that is equipped to meet the needs, interests and stages of development of each child.

Just Playing?

A high quality nursery education is about much more than colours and shapes, numbers and letters. It's about learning to be confident, strong and curious. It's about developing children's natural joy and wonder at the world they live in. It's about having a positive attitude, forming positive relationships and believing in yourself. If children can learn to "have a go", learn from mistakes and try again, they will succeed in their future learning. Young children learn by doing things for themselves, by exploring and investigating, watching and listening, talking and discussing, creating and communicating – in other words playing. Play is children's work and playing hard is very tiring!



What do we do in Nursery?

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) is the curriculum that the Government sets for all early years providers (0-5 years) to make sure that 'all children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe' (Department for Education). There are 17 early learning goals to be aimed for by the end of the Reception year in school. Young children learn from everything around them – the people, the environment, the atmosphere, the routine, and the experiences. All of these elements of the Nursery make up "the nursery curriculum". All aspects of children's growth and development are woven together, but it is interesting to look at the different areas of learning separately to understand how young children learn. The Early Years Foundation Stage, EYFS, describes the following areas of learning, with 17 'Early Learning Goals' to be aimed for by the end of children's Reception year in school.

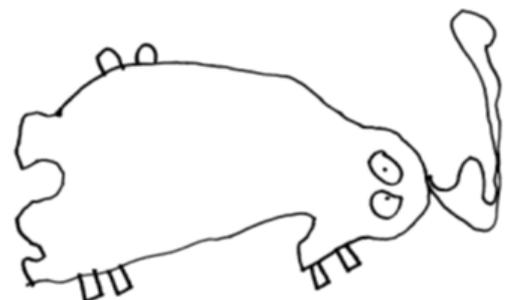
The EYFS describes 3 "**prime areas of learning**" – the 3 most important areas for all other learning.

These are:

- **personal, social and emotional development** - which is about making relationships and getting along with other children and adults, having confidence and self-awareness, and being able to manage their feelings and behaviour.

- **physical development** - which is about large and small movements in a variety of ways, having good control and co-ordination, handling different tools and equipment well. It also covers health and self-care, looking at ways to keep healthy and safe.

- **communication and language** - which is about developing good listening and attention skills, to have good understanding and also speak and express themselves clearly.



The 4 other “specific areas of learning” are:

- **expressive art and design** - which develops different forms of expression, exploring music, dance and song, encouraging children to be creative in all respects. It also focuses on media and materials and imaginative/pretend play.
- **understanding the world** - which is about people and communities and helps children understand about the world they live in, including ICT.
- **literacy** - which is about stories, rhymes, books and reading, and also mark making/writing.
- **mathematics** - which looks at numbers, counting, shape, space and measure.

The most successful ways in which children learn and develop are through playing and exploring, learning actively, and creating and thinking critically. These are called the “characteristics of effective learning”.

Characteristics of learning

Playing and exploring which is about finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to ‘have a go’.

Active Learning which is about being involved and concentrating, persevering and enjoying achieving, what they set out to do.

Creating and thinking critically which is about having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.



Our Curriculum

At Village Primary School, we plan to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that touches on all aspects across the year, based on the observations of children’s play and what their interests are.

Indoors and Outdoors

Children in Nursery have access to our fantastic indoor and outdoor environments, every day, all year round. They have long periods of time when they can play both inside and out, observed carefully by our staff. We strongly believe children learn best through play and so we make sure that the environments they play in are well planned, organised and resourced with clean, high quality resources to promote high quality engagement.

Our indoor environment offers;

- stories and puppets
- mark making
- maths and Numicon

- malleable and clay
- water and sensory
- role play
- block play and small world
- creative – paint, colour mixing, clay, modelling, placing and arranging – no glue, woodwork
- ICT (pc, ipads, cameras, remote controlled toys, interactive whiteboard etc.)
- baking and cooking
- music, movement and dance

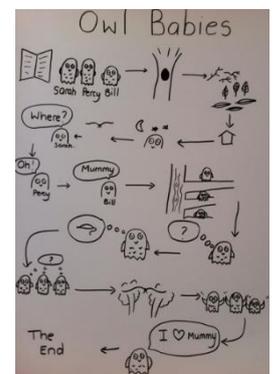
Our outdoor environment offers;

- sand
- water
- shed with open-ended resources
- outdoor blocks
- role play
- mud kitchen
- natural den
- vegetable garden
- music
- stage
- sports and physical development
- woodwork

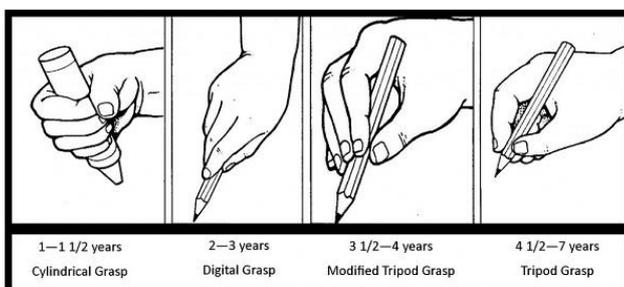


Talk for Writing

At Village Primary School we use ‘Talk for Writing’, an innovative approach to teaching writing developed by Pie Corbett; an English educational writer who is well known for promoting creative approaches in the classroom. Talk for Writing enables children to imitate the key language they need for a particular topic orally before they try reading and writing it. Children will have the opportunity to create story maps and take part in other fun activities such as role play and puppet shows that help develop children’s language skills which then helps develop their writing skills.



Pencil control and letter formation



Correct motor control and letter formation skills are very important once a child begins to mark make so that ‘bad habits’ are not acquired. Time will be taken to assess where your child is in their pencil control development and activities will be carefully planned in order to move them onto the next stage of development. Children will have daily access to gross motor and fine motor skills both indoors and outdoors.

Physical Education

All nursery children enjoy a weekly session of P.E in the school hall. For safety reasons the children take off their main clothing, shoes and socks. The school provides shorts for children to wear but it is extremely helpful if they can dress and undress independently, help of course is given to those who have difficulties.

For your child's safety please ensure that they do not wear necklaces, watches, rings, earrings or bracelets to school.

Key Person

Every child will be allocated a Key Person and will belong to a little key worker group when they start Nursery. These groups meet every day to talk, have conversations together, plan the children's play, as well as play little focused games and activities that help develop children's learning.



At the beginning of each session, we ask parents to support children in hanging up their coat and collecting their name-tag to give to their key person and say hello. The first 10 minutes of the session are a chance for parents to pass on information and have a brief chat with their key person, before saying goodbye to their child. The key person role is crucial in developing positive relationships with all our families and place high value in giving time to everyone, as fairly as possible.

Learning Journey's

Observing, reflecting, assessing and recording children's progress is the key to future planning, to meet the needs of each individual child. Your child's teacher, keeps a record of their progress in their Learning Journey; a Journal of their learning. We hope you will enjoy being involved in this beautiful document, which helps us to plan activities to suit children's needs. All of our observations, photos and videos will also be available for parents to look at online whenever they want and parents will also be able to add their own comments.

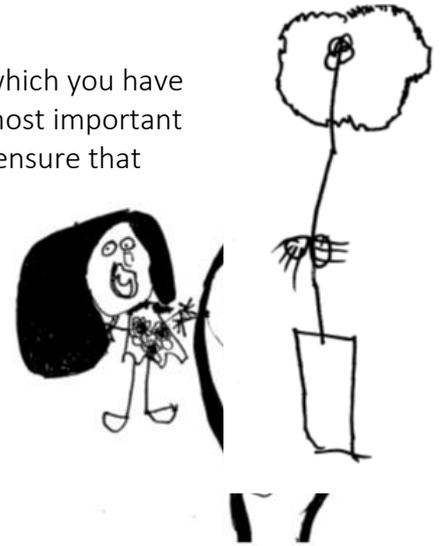
School Clothing

The school colour is royal blue. Children are required to wear a royal blue sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan and grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore with a white shirt or polo t-shirt. Shoes should be black and suitable for your child to wear in school (Velcro or buckles). An appropriate coat should be brought to school each day.

Please make sure all items of clothing and footwear are labelled with your child's name, as unfortunately, if clothes do get misplaced they are hard to identify if unnamed.

Partnerships

When your children come to Nursery school we build on the foundations which you have laid and will continue to develop at home within your family. You are the most important people in your children's lives and always will be, so we need your help to ensure that your children progress and achieve success in reaching their potential. Once your children are really settled at Nursery, we hope you will be able to stay and help from time to time. Parents and other carers are always welcome in Nursery at any time. You can help in so many different ways: talking with the children, joining in activities, sharing books with children, helping them on the computer, woodwork, baking, playing games, accompanying us on visits, or helping with "jobs" around the Nursery; whatever suits you is great for us. The partnership between the family and the nursery staff is crucial to children's happiness, wellbeing and development.



Snack

At each session children are offered a drink of milk, or chilled water and a "snack". Snack varies enormously, but is always healthy. It could be cheese or fruit; apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, etc. or raw vegetables: carrots, celery, sweet peppers, dips and bread sticks, or the children may make sandwiches, toast or warm bread from time to time. Children have access to a kitchen in nursery, with the opportunity to bake weekly. We would appreciate a weekly donation of £1, this is a voluntary contribution and is used to cover the cost of extra snack time treats and cooking ingredients.

A Few Guidelines about Illnesses

Sickness and Diarrhoea

In the case of "tummy upsets" it is vital that children stay at home for at least 48 hours after the last incidence of sickness and diarrhoea to prevent it spreading to others.

Asthma

Nursery staff need to know if your child has asthma, and if an inhaler is used, we need to keep one at school, labelled with your child's name.

Childhood infectious diseases

There are lots of common infectious diseases, which your children will invariably have at some time, perhaps whilst at Nursery. Please let us know as soon as you suspect an infection, or have a diagnosis, so that we can inform other parents. We can also advise you about the minimum exclusion periods.

At the heart of all that we do at Village Primary School is a **RESPECT** for each other; adults and children alike. This year with us will fly by so quickly. I would just like to urge you to make the most of every opportunity to become involved in life at nursery, to find out more about how young children learn and discover the many ways you can support your child at home, so that he/she will not only reach his full potential, but go way beyond it!

Mrs G Ball
EYFS Leader

