

# WELCOME TO MEADOWS NURSERY 'DUCKLINGS'



## Information for Parents and Carers 2022 - 2023

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# Welcome to Meadows Nursery

Our overarching aim within Nursery is to help young children achieve, thrive and develop their curiosity and love of learning. We hope you will find this booklet helpful and that it answers any questions that you may have about your child's learning journey at Meadows First School Nursery. Please contact us at [ducklings@meadows.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:ducklings@meadows.worcs.sch.uk) If you have further questions and we will do our best to help you.



## Our Wonderful Nursery

Children are able to join our Nursery, the September after their 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday. During their time in Nursery, the children experience a wide range of exciting and varied play-based activities and provocations linked to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Curriculum. From making friends, becoming lively communicators, to success in school and later life – this is an important time for you and your child and there are lots of people on hand to help you and your child flourish. “In our plan for the education of little children we must create an attractive environment. Into this environment we must put everything that is good for the mind” Maria Montessori. We provide time for the children to talk, share their experiences and build relationships. We aim to ensure that each child accesses a broad and balanced range of experiences, closely linked with school life at Meadows First School. We offer equal opportunities for all children and value them all as individuals.

### Session Times:

Nursery runs from **9.00am until 3.00pm**, with sessions split into 3hour sessions; mornings and afternoons:

**Mornings** 9am – 12pm

**Afternoons** 12pm – 3pm

**We do offer extended morning (8.30am to 9am) or afternoon sessions (3pm to 3.30pm) as a chargeable extra at £2.50 each session. Please request these sessions via the school office.**



We offer full 30-hour provision, if you are entitled to this. 15 hours funding is available to all and we would encourage you to choose either **every** morning or **every** afternoon, as this enables your child to fully experience enrichment activities such as Forest School and Off-site visits. These are not held daily. If we have availability, we can offer you full days (for example 2 full days and a morning or afternoon) if this is preferred. Further information on your child's entitlement to funded hours please visit the following website; <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>. If you are entitled to 15 hours and would like to pay for sessions beyond your child's funded entitlement please complete the Parent Declaration Form to request hours. Additional sessions will be available at a charge of £13.50 per session. This can be provided by the School Office.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We politely remind you that these hours **MUST** stay in place for **at least half a term** as it is not possible for us to make changes mid-term and funding may be affected. Written notice of change (using the Parent Declaration Amendment Form) is required **one month** in advance of any changes.



## These are the adults who will help you in Nursery:

Miss Bailey



Mrs Constantine



Miss Karen



Mrs Glover



Miss Bailey is the Class Teacher and is in school all day every day. Mrs Constantine, Miss Karen and Mrs Glover are the Teaching Assistants within Ducklings Class, Miss Karen is here every day, Mrs Constantine is in Nursery Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Glover is in Nursery on Thursdays and Fridays. The Class size is 26, with a ratio of 1 adult to 13 children.

### A Typical day

- When you arrive at Nursery please encourage your child to find their photo card. They can take this to place above their peg before they hang up their coat and put their book bag in the book bag box.
- The children then have some time to a range of child-initiated activities as part of their continuous provision within the classroom.
- Once the children have all arrived and settled in we will come together on the carpet for a 'together time' - This will involve registration and a singing/ dancing session along with a story time.
- We then encourage independence and child-initiated learning where children play and staff support by modelling and facilitating learning during these play-based tasks. The children will be able to explore both the indoor and outdoor environments, choosing to engage with a wide variety of activities and enhancements within both environments.
- We will come back to the carpet for a letters and sounds, number, philosophy for children or topic-based session together as a whole class.
- Snack time – we provide the children with a healthy snack, which usually consists of milk or water and fresh fruit/vegetables (please let us know if your child has specific allergies or dietary needs). Milk and Fruit are a free entitlement for all Nursery aged children.
- Playtime, we try to make use of the large playground, to aid children in large gross motor and active play, this also aids transition into school later as they are familiar with the wider school environment.
- Lunchtime (for afternoon or all day sessions only) – will take place in Nursery and is supervised by familiar adults. They will need to bring a healthy packed lunch\* and drink, or they can purchase a hot dinner provided by BAMfm Ltd at a current charge of £2.25 per lunch. \*please DO NOT provide nuts this also includes peanut butter, Nutella spread and some cereal bars or fruit bars in packed lunches as we have children with severe nut allergies in school. We also do not allow sweets or fizzy drinks as we encourage the children to make healthy choices. The current menu is available on the following website; <https://www.meadowsfirst.co.uk/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/DL%20Reggie%20First%20Schools%202022%20proof.pdf>
- At home time the children will have a singing session on the carpet and wait for their name to be called to go home.
- Our weekly timetable will also include Forest School, Assembly and Parent Stay and Play Sessions



## The EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)



We choose our topics based on the children's interests with the aim of exciting and engaging children in their learning. We play with the children and observe them in their learning to help plan for their 'next steps'. We will post these observations and photos on 'Tapestry' so that you can share and contribute to this process too. This will also help you to talk to your child about Nursery – talk and vocabulary development are important ways to help your child at home. There are **seven** areas of learning that provide children with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to develop to ensure maximum achievement in the future.



### The 7 Areas of Learning are:

**PRIME AREAS:**  
 Personal, Social and Emotional Development  
 Communication and Language  
 Physical Development

**SPECIFIC AREAS:**  
 Literacy, Mathematics  
 Understanding the World  
 Expressive Arts and Design

For further information on supporting your Nursery aged Child's development, please take a look at the following website; [https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_2015\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf)

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- Making relationships**
  - Let me build things with my friends using big cardboard boxes and pieces of fabric.
- Self confidence and self awareness**
  - Let me help you match the socks together.
- Managing feelings and behaviour**
  - Let me dress up and pretend to be a nurse, doctor, firefighter, mum or dad.
  - Explain to me why I cannot do things like run around the supermarket.

**Communication and Language**

- Listening and attention**
  - Play listening games with me like "Simon Says" - "Where is there to copy an action or "Ready, Steady, Go" where I have to wait to push the ball or car.
  - Make up silly sentences with me where each word begins with the same sound as at the start of my name.
- Speaking**
  - Talk to me about things we did or places that we went to yesterday.
- Understanding**
  - When I'm helping you to make the lunch, ask me questions like "What do I need to cut the apple?" or "What do I need to pour your milk / water into?" so that I can find you the thing we need.
  - When we're tidying up give me simple instructions like "Put your shoes in the basket" or "Put the remote control on the sofa."

**Physical Development**

- Moving and handling**
  - Let me practice using children's scissors to cut dough, cooked spaghetti or paper.
  - Make an obstacle course in the park or garden where I have to run around benches or chairs, crawl under a table and crawl through a cardboard box.
- Health and self care**
  - Make sure I brush my teeth twice a day.

**Mathematics**

- Numbers**
  - Make a train shed with numbers on so that I can match my trains into the shed with the same number on.
  - Put numbers on a skittles game made from plastic bottles. Ask me what number was on the bottle I knocked down.
- Shape, space and measure**
  - Let me build from cardboard boxes or wooden bricks. Use words like "long" or "tall" to describe my model.
  - Go on a shape walk inside or outside to find things which are the same like "circles" or "spheres".

**Understanding the World**

- People and communities**
  - Take me out to different places where we live, like the fire station or the library.
- The world**
  - Let me explore mud, rain or snow.
  - Plant seeds with me in a pot or in the garden.
- Technology**
  - Let me press buttons, like on the pelican crossing or the doorbell at our friend's house, to see what happens.

**Literacy**

- Reading**
  - Set up a pretend shop where I can read the labels on the packets and boxes.
  - Read a recipe to me as we're making dough.
- Writing**
  - Tell me what you're writing as you write a shopping list.
  - Make a name card for my bedroom door or a placemat with my name on. Let me use these to help me try to write my name by myself.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

- Exploring and using media and materials**
  - Let me use my paints to mix up my own colours.
- Being imaginative**
  - Help me to use some of my toys to make up a story.
  - Give me pieces of material to make a cape or a big cardboard box to make a spaceship when I'm pretending to be somebody else or going on an adventure.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are crucial steps for learning and engagement and embed children's attitudes to learning that will equip them for life;

- Playing & Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

Within our Nursery we begin to build a sense of community and belonging and we work in liaison with our wider community and other agencies to build and maintain supportive networks. With the aim of supporting families, parents, children and young people within our class community to lead happy, healthy and fulfilled lives. Further support linked to family wellbeing and parenting support can be found here;

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20643/the\\_worcestershire\\_virtual\\_family\\_hub/2417/worcestershire\\_virtual\\_family\\_hub](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20643/the_worcestershire_virtual_family_hub/2417/worcestershire_virtual_family_hub)



WORCESTERSHIRE  
**CHILDREN FIRST**



**Home Start**  
 Support and friendship  
 for families

# General Information

Uniform isn't compulsory in Nursery, but clothes do get messy with all of the sensory activities! If you do choose to provide uniform please ensure each item is **NAMED**:

A green sweatshirt,  
A white polo shirt,  
Grey pull up trousers/ skirt/ pinafore  
Velcro fastening shoes  
Please also send in a spare change of clothes in a bag in case of accidents.

Please ensure that your child is aware that he/she may use the toilet at any time.

We hope your child will **be fully toilet trained** before they start Nursery, however if you require any additional support then this will be discussed during family contribution and we will support where needed.



We do go out in all weathers! You will need to send in named wellingtons and set of waterproofs (to keep in school).



Please ensure **ALL** clothing and shoes are **clearly labelled** with your child's name – they all look the same!

It is greatly appreciated if the children arrive and are collected from Nursery promptly. If you know you are going to be late, please contact the school immediately as a charge will be applied if you are late to collect. (£2.50)

We ask that children **do not bring** toys from home as they may get lost or broken. We have lots in Nursery to play with!

We teach our children how to care for their toys and resources, to help develop a sense of care we use authentic, often breakable resources regularly in our play.

## Forest School

Each week the children go out to explore our grounds and wooded areas in Forest School. You will need to send your child in clothing appropriate to the weather on these days.

# General Information

## Parent Partnership

Parents and Carers are valuable partners in learning. You know your children better than anyone; you can tell us what they like or dislike! Working together we can build upon and develop your child's existing knowledge and strengths. During your settling in sessions a staff member will discuss any needs your child may have. These Sessions will be allocated later in the summer term.

## Stay and Play

These sessions are your opportunity to see our Nursery routine and join in with our nursery community they may also support learning at home.

## Collection

Please ensure we have **written** details of people who can collect your child from Nursery and that they are aware of your password.



## Newsletters

You will receive nursery newsletters monthly, informing you of topics, current learning objectives and upcoming events. Please also see the website and TAPESTRY for lots of information too.

We encourage you to chat with our staff if you have any concerns or wish to discuss your child's progress. We also have parent consultations in the spring and summer terms and there is a written report in the summer term.

## Illness

If your child is ill and will not be attending Nursery, please contact the school office absence line – 01527 872508 option 2 and give a reason for the absence. If your child displays any symptoms of sickness, the school policy is that they **do not** attend Nursery for **48 hours**

## Contacts

Please keep us up to date with **current email** and phone numbers of people we can contact during the Nursery hours.