

Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy
Church Balk
Edenthorpe
Doncaster
DN3 2PP

Mrs S Patton (Executive Head)
Mrs J Shelton (Head of School)
Mr C Mitchell (Chair of Local School Board)

Nursery Information Booklet



Welcome to our Nursery

Our nursery staff: -

Foundation Stage Leader	Mrs E Wenban
Nursery Teachers	Mrs E Wenban & Mrs C Barratt
Learning Support Assistant	Mrs C Hollis
Nursery Nurse	Mrs S Penhallurick

Session times are: -

Morning Nursery	8:45am – 11:45am
Afternoon Nursery	12:30pm – 3:30pm

30 hours free childcare

In addition to the 15 hours childcare all nursery aged children are currently entitled to, we are now able to offer up to an additional 15 hours of early education for nursery children which can be tailored to your requirements (within school hours). For further information and to discuss individual requirements, please speak to Mrs Wenban.

Eligibility criteria / how to apply

To take up the 30 hours of provision families need to meet all of the following criteria:

- Each parent earns less than £100,000 per year.
- Both parents are working and in a sole parent family the sole parent must work.
- Each parent works a minimum of 16 hours a week or earns on average a weekly minimum amount that is equivalent to 16 hours a week at either the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage, e.g. £120 a week based on the National Living Wage. For more details please see the additional parent's information sheet.

For those families not eligible for the 30 hours provision and only receive 15 hours of funded childcare, we offer a top up service. This means that for a payment of £15.00 per session, your child would be able to stay in nursery for additional time. Requests for this must be received well in advance to enable staff to check availability. Please note there is very limited availability this year, due to the number of children attended our nursery.

Payment is made through our Arbor system, of which log in details will be issued at a later date.

Entering and leaving nursery

Morning Nursery – At 8:45am a member of staff will open the nursery gate (situated on Church Balk) and invite the children in. At 11:45am parents should wait on Church Balk near the nursery gate – a member of staff will open the gate and invite parents to come into the nursery to collect their child.

Afternoon Nursery – Children enter and leave nursery through the gate on Church Balk. Staff will open the gate at 12:30pm and again at 3:15pm (this early opening is to give parents with older children at other schools the option of picking up early). Children being picked up at 3:30pm will continue to take part in story time activities until this time.

- Please note the Foundation Stage outdoor area is part of our 'classroom'. We therefore ask that you do not enter this area except when invited to do so at the times above. Please do not come into the area to wait if it is raining. Additionally we would appreciate it if you would ensure that your child does not play with the resources that have been set out for the learning activities that will happen through the day. Thank you for your co-operation.

Aims of the Nursery

Our main aim is to provide a happy, secure, stimulating environment that encourages your child to explore, investigate and make the most of his/her abilities. We encourage children to learn through first-hand experience and to become increasingly independent, developing good attitudes to learning that will benefit them throughout their school career.

It is very important that staff and parents work together to achieve these aims and we will communicate regularly with you to ensure that your child has the best start to his/her education.

Please do talk to us about your child and share any worries or concerns you may have with us. We are always available to talk to you at the beginning and end of each session.

The Nursery Session

At the beginning of each session we welcome you and your child to nursery. The children are asked to register by putting their name card into a box and then they are free to choose from a wide range of activities.

Each half term we focus on a different theme and structure play in the nursery around this. We will update our webpage each half giving you more information about our chosen theme so that you can talk to your children about the activities they are involved in.

The nursery session is based on play, because play is children's 'work' and they learn a great deal from being involved in it. Research shows us that children will look for play opportunities in every situation. Through play they learn about themselves, about other people and about the world around them. They learn to think, to explore and to imagine. Playing together also helps children to share and to work cooperatively with each other.

A lot of this play will be initiated by the children but sometimes they will be involved in play activities that have been planned by the nursery staff. These adult initiated activities will ensure that all the children get the opportunity to explore every area of the curriculum.

At the end of each session the children all come together for singing, rhymes, a story and a prayer.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework describes the learning opportunities that should be provided for all children during their nursery and reception years and all our play activities and adult initiative tasks are planned with this in mind.

The framework is divided into 7 areas of learning:

Communication and Language (Speaking, Listening and Understanding)

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Mathematics

Understanding the World (covering early Science, Technology, History, Geography and ICT)

Expressive Art and Design (Art, Music, Design, Creativity and Imaginative Play)

Assessment

Nursery staff are skilled at interacting with children and observing them whilst they play. By using these methods they are able to see what learning is taking place for each child and what progress is being made. Using these assessments they will plan next steps for each child so that they develop across all 7 areas of learning.

It is important that parents are also involved in this assessment process, providing information about children's interests and achievements out of school. Nursery staff will give you information about how you can contribute to your child's profile at the open days in September.

Additionally at 2 points in the year you will be invited in to meet with the nursery teacher to celebrate your child's achievements and discuss his/her progress. At the end of the year parents will receive a written summary of their children's achievements and experiences.

Refreshments

All nursery children are entitled to free milk every day. If you would like your child to have milk, you will need to register your child's details on the Cool Milk website www.coolmilk.com – if you do not register, milk cannot be provided.

If your child does not drink milk we will provide them with a drink of water but no other drinks (e.g. juice) are allowed. We also participate in the fruit for schools scheme so that the children will have the opportunity to eat fresh fruit each day. Please send in a named water bottle if you wish but please do not send any other food or drink into nursery with your child.

Lunchtime

If your child is doing full days in Nursery then they will need to bring a packed lunch and drink with them as we do not provide school meals for Nursery children. Please do not send any glass bottles or cans of drink – only cartons or plastic bottles are allowed. If children are bringing items that require spoons or forks e.g. yoghurt please ensure that you include cutlery in their lunch box as this cannot be provided by school. Due to allergies, please ensure there are no banana or banana-based products e.g. smoothies are included in packed lunches.

Working with other agencies

To help us provide the very best service to all children we do try and work in close contact with other groups who provide support to children and their families e.g. the Children's Centres, Health Visiting Team or the Educational Psychologists. If you have any worries or concerns about your child please share them with us and if necessary we will try and put you in touch with someone who may be able to help you.

How you can prepare your child

Encourage your child to do things for him/herself. He/she should be toilet trained and able to go to the toilet unaided. Please make sure that clothes are easily manageable as accidents do happen if children are struggling with dungarees, belts, buttons and zips.

The children play both inside and outside throughout the year so please encourage your child to put on and take off his/her coat independently.

Talk to your child about the things that you do and the things that you see. Practise counting when climbing stairs, fastening buttons, setting the table etc. Talk about the colour, size and shape of things around you.

Take every opportunity to encourage your child to listen to the sounds that are around him/her. Being able to distinguish between different sounds in the environment is a very important pre reading skill for children. Sing songs and say rhymes and encourage your child to hear the pattern and rhyme in the words. Draw your child's attention to the print in the environment e.g. road signs, labels on food packaging etc. let him/her see you writing shopping lists, notes, letters and explain why you are writing.

Share books with your child. Children enjoy looking at books and having stories and nursery rhymes read to them long before they learn to read. Please talk to your child about the pictures and ask him/her to retell the story to you. This will help them to develop a love of books that will be invaluable throughout your child's school days.

Clothing

As your child will be working with messy materials such as paint, clay, glue, sand and water, it is advisable to dress him/her in practical clothes which can easily be washed. Aprons are provided but accidents do happen.

A lot of children choose to wear a blue Canon Popham sweatshirt which is available online from School Trends, from Cliff's on Printing Office Street or from Witchprint in Kirk Sandall. This is easily teamed with a white polo shirt and easy to manage elastic waisted trouser, jogging bottoms or skirt.

Please ensure that your child has a coat or thick cardigan to put on as part of every session is spent outside. Equally in hot weather please send a sun hat as children enjoy spending much of their time in the outdoor area. It really does help us and the children if all these things are named.

For Health and Safety reasons children are not allowed to wear any jewellery in school. This rule also applies to nursery children so please do not send your child to nursery wearing jewellery. A small pair of simple stud earrings is acceptable, although we advise that they are removed before coming to nursery as they can get easily caught when the children are removing their tags.

General Information

For your child's safety, please let us know if you are unable to collect him/her from nursery yourself and tell us who will be collecting him/her.

There may be specific occasions when we will ask children to bring in items to share with us and we will write to tell you when this happens, otherwise it is better if children leave all their personal belongings, including toys, at home.

We do ask that you keep your child at home if he/she is not well as young children pick up germs very easily. We would appreciate a telephone call to let us know the reason for your child's absence.

Medicine – prescribed medicines can be given to children in school. Parents need to complete the relevant consent forms which can be obtained from the school office and from the school website. Medicines must have the child's name and dosage requirements on them and be handed in to a member of staff. Please do not leave them in your child's bag.

Holidays / other absence during term time – if your child will be absent from nursery please speak to a member of staff at the school office, thank you.

Reception Applications

During your child's first term in Nursery, you will receive application details from the Local Authority School's Admissions Department. This will explain in detail how to apply for a Reception place for your child. This is completed online and **must** be completed before the application deadline of 15th January 2025. Please note there is also an additional information form that must be completed for all faith schools.

A place in our Nursery **does not guarantee** a place for your child in our Reception Class as we only have 30 places. Therefore, if you wish to apply for a place at our school we would strongly advise you to look carefully through our admissions criteria.

Finally, we hope that both you and your child will find this a very rewarding, beneficial and in particular enjoyable year. We look forward to working with you.