



Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe



**Early Years
Information Booklet - Nursery**

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome your child into the Nursery at Kirklevington Primary School. This is your child's first step into school life and we hope that together we can make it a happy one. This booklet will tell you information about our nursery, how it works and how you can help at home.

Our Vision

At Kirklevington Primary School, all of our staff care a great deal about our children. They work closely together towards a shared vision. Our shared vision is one in which all our children are happy, caring, confident young people, who show curiosity and a real love of learning. They show resilience, increasing independence and are well rounded pupils, who have a strong foundation for their future learning and lives.

Early Years staff work alongside one another to offer children the highest quality learning experiences in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. We strive to make a positive contribution to your child's early development and to help them to develop the foundation skills which will form the basis for lifelong learning and ensure that all children achieve their full potential.

At Kirklevington Primary School, we place immense value on positive partnerships with parents and carers, everyone working together for the benefit of each individual child. We welcome your involvement in school and in providing staff with regular updates about your child's progress and abilities.

Being a small school with year group numbers set at 20, classes in KS1 and KS2 are mixed year groups. Year 1 and some Y2 children work together in Birch; some Y2 and Y3 children work together in Chestnut; Y4 and some Y5 children work together in Elm; and finally, some Y5 and Y6 children work together in Oak. Therefore, Year 2 children and Year 5 children are the cohorts which are split between two classes. The expertise of the staff is used to ensure your child is placed in with their best interests at the heart of all decision making (RRS Article 3). These decisions are made using a variety of criteria, including age, friendships, social and emotional maturity, academic attainment and gender.

Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years is made up of two year group classes; Lower Early Years (Nursery, known as Acorn class) and Upper Early Years (Reception, known as Willow class). It offers a distinct phase of education available for children from the ages of 3 to 5 years and follows its own curriculum which places learning and achievement firmly within a context of play and practical activities.

The curriculum covers 3 prime areas of learning:

- **Communication and Language;**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development;**
- **Physical Development.**

Alongside 4 specific areas;

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics;**
- **Understanding the World;**
- **Expressive Arts and Design.**



In the EYFS, there is also a focus on the Characteristics of Effective Learning (CoEL).

The focus of the CoEL is on how children learn rather than what they learn. Underpinning the CoEL is the understanding that during their earliest years, children form attitudes about learning that will last a lifetime. Children who receive the right sort of support and encouragement during these years will be creative, and adventurous learners throughout their lives.

The characteristics of effective learning are:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

At Kirklevington, we have nursery places for 26 children and operate two attendance arrangements. All nursery-aged children are entitled to 15 hours free provision from the term after their third birthday. We also offer a limit number of afternoon sessions that can be booked using the 30 hrs funding.

At Kirklevington Primary School, nursery start dates are at the start of each term in September, January and April. A placement in nursery may be offered from the term after your child's 3rd birthday or if nursery has no capacity, as soon as a place is available.

Attendance options are as follows:

Option A - Monday - Friday morning attendance 9.00 – 12noon (doors open from 8:45am)

Option B - Monday to Friday all morning in addition to a choice of 30hrs funded afternoon sessions 9am – 3pm

Please be aware that there are a limited number of places in each option and allocation is administered on a first come, first served basis. Whilst we will endeavour to meet all preferences, this cannot be guaranteed.

If my child is attending nursery for a full day placement, what happens at lunchtime?

Children attending on full day placements (9am – 3pm) 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. School meals, priced currently at £2.50, must be paid for through the school Arbour app but, if you are in receipt of the appropriate qualifying benefits, your child may be eligible for a free school meal. Children are supervised by a key member of the foundation stage teaching team during the lunch hour and are fully supported in the dining hall.

What happens in Nursery?

A visit to our nursery will reveal a calm, fun and stimulating place to learn. Children are encouraged to follow familiar routines, access play with increasing independence and develop into self-confident and curious learners. The development of social skills is also an important aspect of learning in nursery; opportunities to interact with others, develop skills of cooperation and turn taking.

Nursery staff will carefully plan and scaffold activities and experiences to support children's learning across the curriculum and provision is divided into distinct key areas which typically include:

INDOORS

- Quiet Reading
- Listening station
- Mark making and writing
- Number
- Role play
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Sand
- Water
- Model making
- Painting
- Large and small construction
- Music
- Play dough and clay
- Imaginative play



OUTDOORS

- Sports and physical development
- Cooperative and ring games
- Role play
- Mud kitchen
- Construction
- Sand play
- Water play
- Vehicles, bikes and scooters
- Trail and sensory area
- Environmental area
- Quiet and thinking spaces
- Imaginative and creative play
- Climbing Area

Snack time and cooking

During each Nursery session all children have continual free access to drinks of water and at snack times they will be offered milk and fruit. We have our own fully equipped kitchen and often do cooking with the children.



Assessment and Reporting

As part of our provision, children will be continually assessed as part of their everyday activities in Nursery and Reception. This is achieved using observation of the children at play and their responses to teacher led activities. At Kirklevington Primary School, we use an online Learning Journal called Tapestry. Observations from school and home can be recorded here and you will be given a log in when your child starts Nursery.

Parents will have a formal opportunity to discuss their child's progress during consultation with a member of staff twice yearly. A written report will also be given as your child leaves Nursery and progresses into Reception.

Physical Development

All nursery children enjoy a weekly session of P.E in the school hall. For safety reasons, the children take off their jumpers/cardigans, shoes and socks. It is extremely helpful if they can dress and undress independently. Help is of course given to those children who have difficulties.

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

Nursery Uniform

We have a uniform for our nursery children consisting of a jumper or cardigan in the school colour (red), a white polo shirt and grey skirt/trousers. Sensible, flat black shoes (no trainers) should also be worn, preferably with a Velcro fastening system. Summer uniform consists of a red gingham dress for girls and grey shorts for boys.



We have several messy activities within nursery such as play dough, paint, glue etc. and although we do provide aprons, accidents can happen. We therefore ask that children do not wear expensive or delicate clothing.

We are always grateful for any donations of old uniform and additional clothing such as socks, pants and vests which we can use in emergencies.



Please ensure all clothing including shoes, coats and hats are clearly labelled with your child's name.

School jumpers and cardigans can be purchased directly from Elizabeth's Embroidery or Motif8.



Behaviour

In Nursery, we foster and promote an atmosphere of caring, self-control and cooperation between all children and within school we operate a behaviour strategy linked to our three school rules – Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. Regular circle time activities help to promote positive relationships and develop social skills. Praise and rewards are given to children who follow the rules and demonstrate positive behaviour. We also have 'Star of the Week' Awards which are given to children who have shown outstanding progress, effort or manners during the week.

Other Important Information

Absence

Attendance at nursery is very important, but if your child is unwell please do not send him/her to school and keep him/her at home until fully recovered. Please let us know about any illness by telephoning the school office on the first day of absence. It would also be much appreciated if you could let staff know when your child has an infectious disease, such as chickenpox or measles. This is often important for the health of other children in the setting.

Telephone Number 01642 781261 or email: kirklevington@kirklevington.org.uk

The school has clear policy and procedures which cover all other absence during term time. A copy of the policy is available on the school website. Requests for 'leave of absence' in other circumstances should be made using the appropriate form obtained from the main school office. This form should be returned to the Head of School.

Recycling

As part of our Early Years resourcing, we continually need a range of good quality recycling materials and would appreciate any donations of the following:



- Small boxes
- Bottle tops
- Plastic
- Fabric scraps
- Paper and card
- Wrapping paper
- Jigsaws and small games
- Old dressing up clothes
- Taped stories and books
- Newspaper

** Due to health and safety regulations, we are unable to accept egg boxes or toilet roll tubes.*

The Outside Classroom

Our playground area is used daily as a teaching area and we would appreciate parents fully supervising their children at the start and end of each session.

Children are **not permitted** to access the equipment or facilities in the playground area at this time.



Parental concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's education or wellbeing in nursery, please make an appointment to speak with a member of staff. We are strongly committed to working in partnership with parents and staff will do their best to allocate time to discuss any concerns you may have so that parental concerns are quickly dealt with.

Transition into Reception.

Children attending our Nursery have a lot of interaction with our Reception class children and often go through to the reception classroom to play and learn. They share the EYFS outdoor area and are also very familiar with the Reception staff. This provides staff and children with the opportunity to get to know each other and the environment that they will eventually move into, when they move up into Reception class themselves. The EYFS area of Kirklevington Primary operates very closely and information about your child and their learning is shared amongst all the EYFS staff, in order to ensure consistency and the best possible learning environment for your child.

Unfortunately, a place in the Reception class of Kirklevington Primary School is not guaranteed by attendance in our Nursery. All parents are required to apply for a place in a school of their choice following the Stockton Local Authority admission arrangements, and places are then allocated in accordance with the admission criteria by the local authority. For further information see the admissions website at www.stockton.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

Information regarding requirements for your child's transition into reception will be given at time of entry.

Child Safety

The safety of our children is of utmost importance to us. The nursery class and play area is secure to outside visitors and access is made through locked gates and electronic doors. We ask that parents support us in maintaining this security by ensuring all doors are closed as they enter or leave the building and that the nursery gate closes behind them.

If your child collection arrangements are altered for any reason, please inform staff as soon as possible either by telephone or email.

Nursery children must only be collected by someone over the age of 16 years and staff are not permitted to allow a nursery child to leave with someone unfamiliar to either themselves or the child.

Emergency Contact Details.

On occasion we may need to contact parents during the nursery session as a result of illness or accident. All parents are required to complete a personal information form prior to starting nursery which gives details of emergency contacts. These pupil details and emergency contact numbers are then filed electronically and maintained in the school office. If you have any changes to address and emergency contact numbers please inform the school office as soon as possible.

We also operate a text messaging service for parents which provides details of events, school changes and other information directly to a nominated mobile phone.

This booklet, we hope, has provided some information about the Early Years in Kirklevington Primary School. However, we operate an open door policy so if you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We want parents and the community to show an interest in and care about the work we do.

Your support and partnership with us is essential for what we do and we hope you and your child will have fond and happy memories of the time spent in nursery as they move through into the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 at Kirklevington Primary School.