

Nursery New Starters Information

Welcome to Nursery and the start of your child's exciting school adventure. Here is some information about what will be happening in Nursery during your child's time with us.

Settling in

We want your child's first few weeks with us to be as calm and settling as possible and we work closely with parents to achieve this. The first week your child attends will be a staggered start; 1 hour stay and play on the Monday, 1 hour independent session on Tuesday leading to a full session by Friday.

We will discuss how your child is coping with their new surroundings each day and decide on what is best for your child, this may mean doing full days sooner if your child is confident or continuing with shorter sessions if needed until your child is settled.

We want this transition into Nursery to be as smooth and as settling as possible for your child so that they are excited and eager to come and learn.

Session information

Each child is entitled to 15 hours of provision a week which is split into five 3 hour sessions. Morning sessions run from 8.30am-11.30am and afternoon sessions run from 12.15pm-3.15pm. Children are dropped off and collected through the gate on Browns Lane. At the beginning of each session, children are encouraged to sign in and it is lovely for them if you could do this with them. All mark making is celebrated, whether it is scribble like marks or letters; this gives the children a real sense of pride and achievement.

30 hours provision and wrap around sessions

We also offer 30 hours provision to working parents who meet the criteria. You can check whether you are eligible on www.gov.uk. We have a limited number of 30 hour places so please let staff know if this is something you want to access as soon as possible. Our 30 hours provision is delivered through 4 and a half days. Parents are also offered the chance to pay for wrap around sessions, where available, for the cost of £10 per session. If you would like more information please speak to Mrs Gall or Mrs Erskine (school bursar).

Lunch

From September children who are staying for full days will be expected to have a school dinner for their lunch and eat it in the dinner hall. We believe this will help with their transition into Reception and encourage them to try new foods and develop good table manners. There are always different healthy options for your child to have and the menu can be viewed on the parents section of the school website. Schools dinners cost £2.25 and should be paid for at the beginning of the week at the school office.

Timetable

Your child will be following a structured timetable and will be able to join in with a range of activities. They will have the choice of what they do and where they play, both indoors and outdoors. Your child will be invited to join adult led activities, which aim to develop their knowledge and understanding or teach them new skills.

Observation is a key part of Nursery; this allows us to see what your child can do, how they interact with others, what their interests are and how they achieve new skills. This will also help us plan activities to develop their next steps. Observations are carried out through photographs, children's comments and written observations. We hope that you can play a part in helping us get to know your child better by talking to us about your child, what they enjoy and what they can do or need help with.

Key Person

Every child is assigned a key person whilst in Nursery and you will be informed of who this is. This will either be Mrs Gall (class teacher) or Mrs Jones (teaching assistant). All staff work with your child to help them learn and develop but their key person can keep a close eye on them to ensure that they are settled and happy.

If you have any concerns throughout your time in Nursery, please speak to Mrs Gall, who is the main point of contact for you to discuss any worries or concerns.

Uniform

We ask for children to wear our Nursery uniform, which includes red joggers, red jumper and red polo shirt. Wearing this uniform helps develop a sense of belonging and helps distinguish Nursery children from other pupils in school. Children naturally want to explore and when outside will want to run, jump and get messy – their uniform is ideal for this as it is comfortable and easy to clean. We are encouraging our children to become independent learners so Velcro shoes are vital for allowing them to change into wellington boots.

All uniform can be purchased from the school office. Please ensure that all your child's items are clearly labelled to avoid any mix ups.

Snack

During your child's session, they can help themselves to a healthy snack and drink. There is a range of fruit available and the option of milk or water. If your child has any dietary requirements please speak to a member of staff. We also ask that every child has a school water bottle which staff fill and clean daily. This ensures the children have free access to water during the session which is vitally important in the summer months.

Subs

To provide snack and for other things such as ingredients for playdough, trips and visitors into school we encourage parents to take part in our subs scheme. We ask

for voluntary contribution of 50p a week and this means there is no extra cost for trips.

Please pass any subs to a member of staff on a Monday in a clearly labelled envelope. If you would like to pay for a whole half term in one payment, speak to a member of staff who can let you know how much to pay.

Outdoor play

An important part of Nursery is for your child to develop their muscle strength through physical activity. To develop this we encourage the children to use the outdoors as much as possible where they have access to climbing equipment and tools on a large scale.

We provide wet weather clothing for your child to wear on rainy days, as well as when they access water activities and the mud kitchen, but we ask that you provide wellington boots which can be left in Nursery. As with all clothing please ensure that these are labelled with your child's name.

Toileting

Children at Nursery age are learning to be independent in their toileting needs and we are here to support this. We ask that you send spare underwear, clothing and shoes in a bag which can be left on your child's peg because accidents do happen, especially when children are busy playing and learning! If an accident does happen, your child will be changed by an adult and their soiled clothes will be sent home. If your child needs support with toilet training, please speak to a member of staff to discuss how to best to support you in this.

Stay and play!

At the end of each half term, we run a stay and play session where you can come into Nursery and spend time playing with your child. Each session has a different focus and gives you the chance to see what your child has been up to. You will also be able to look at their learning journey, which includes photos, work and observations.

Weekly Newsletter

A newsletter is produced each week and emailed out to parents on Friday. This gives information about what has been happening during the week and what we will be doing in the upcoming week. It will also give you ideas about things that you can do or talk about with your child. The school newsletter is also emailed out on Wednesday. Both newsletters are accessible on the school website also.

Website

We have a school website www.stoswaldsnetherton.com which is full of information, including important dates. There is a Nursery class page which is updated regularly; keeping you up to date with what is happening in Nursery and displaying photos of

what the children have been doing. It also gives you information about the Foundation Stage curriculum and how children learn through play.

We hope that this answers some of your questions about Nursery, but if you have any other questions, please feel free to speak to a member of the Nursery staff. We look forward to welcoming your child into Nursery and beginning a trusting relationship with you.