



Welcome to

Riverside Nursery

www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk

Aims and objectives.

Admission to nursery is often a child's first contact with school-and parents' too. Positive attitudes towards themselves, school and learning fostered in Nursery will benefit a child for the rest of their school career and beyond. We aim to nurture these attitudes as well as providing an education which is at once rigorous and fun.

We aim to:

- build on a child's previous experiences and help them to further their intellectual, personal, social and cultural development.

- prepare children for the next stages in their school career with reference to the Early Years Foundation Stage and to effect a smooth transition.

In order to meet these aims we:

- provide an environment which is caring, supportive, safe and stimulating.

- offer a broad and balanced curriculum delivered through play and informal learning situations based on first-hand experiences.

- establish positive relationships with parents and work towards an effective partnership with them in the education of their children.

- provide high quality and well-planned resources, activities and interactions which help each child progress in accordance with their potential.

- have high expectations of all children's behaviour and achievements.

- keep clear records, informed by detailed observations and assessments of children's progress and achievements. These inform our planning and teaching as well as providing information for parents and other professionals.

How will we help your child to settle in?

Nursery staff will offer to visit you and your child at home before admission to nursery. This gives your child a chance to meet the staff in the security of their own home and provides you with an opportunity to share information about your child and to discuss any concerns you may have.

We will have a 'Stay and Play' day for you and your child to spend all or part of a session exploring and getting to know the nursery and hopefully making some new friends.

We ask that a familiar adult stays with your child for part or all of their first session at nursery. This will give them confidence and security when growing familiar with new people, places, experiences and routines. After this first session we will discuss the next steps with you. Some children will settle immediately, others may need a little more time and support.

A staggered intake enables us to settle in new children more effectively.

What should my child wear?

Children play actively indoors and out. They will therefore need comfortable clothes and shoes which allow them to move freely and safely. Children are provided with aprons for painting etc but messy materials do occasionally escape on to clothes, so please save your child's smartest to wear at home.

We encourage children to use the toilet as independently as possible, so please ensure that their clothes are easy for them to manage.

Young children do have 'accidents' and need a change of clothes. We keep a limited supply of spare clothes; however you may wish to keep a spare set of clothes in a bag on your child's coat peg.

School uniform and sweatshirts are available if you would like them for your child. Please speak to a member of staff either in nursery or at the reception desk.

PLEASE ensure that your child's clothes and shoes are clearly labelled- especially their coat and any school uniform.

What will my child do at nursery?

The EYFS framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support all aspects of their development.

Your child will be learning skills and attitudes, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas These are:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children and designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Activities may be 'structured activities' led by adults or spontaneous and self-chosen. The resources and activities in nursery are carefully planned and selected to help children progress and to offer appropriate activities for all children who will, at any one time, be at different stages of learning and have various interests.

Children choose where and for how long they play. They may be encouraged to take part in a particular activity or to play in a particular area in order to ensure that they make progress across all areas of the curriculum. Adults are always on hand to lead an activity or to support children's learning through their own ideas and activities.

What can I do at home to support my child's learning?

Nursery themes and activities are planned weekly to respond to children's current needs and interests. An outline of the week's planning is available on the door in the nursery cloakroom and on the school website, with ideas for linking activities at home. Here are some general suggestions for activities at home: you will probably find them familiar!

- Talk with your child about anything and everything!
- Sing nursery rhymes and simple songs together and make up your own.
- Read to and with your child-books, signs, labels, addresses on envelopes-anything!
- Count- in songs, as you go upstairs, putting toys away- and point out numbers in the world around e.g. on your door.
- Involve your child as much as possible in all you do and talk about it.
- Make photo albums of special times, people and events and talk about them.
- Play alongside your child at home and show an interest in their play at home and nursery.
- Talk to nursery staff about your child's interests and enthusiasms.

We have an informal library box in the nursery. Please help your child to choose a book to read at home with you. You are welcome to choose and change books as often as you wish- all we ask is that they are returned in good condition.

Your child has a 'special box' on the trolley in the cloakroom. They will put pictures and other creations in there to bring home. We will also put letters for you in there, so please check regularly.

Please help your child to keep their own toys at home. It can be very distressing if toys are lost or broken at nursery. Comforters can be brought to nursery and kept in your child's bag or special box.

When will I be able to discuss my child's progress?

Brief informal chats at the beginning or end of the session are very useful for sharing day-to-day information and achievements.

Nursery staff are always available should you wish to discuss progress or concerns-please make an appointment to talk to your child's key person or Mrs Robin/ Mrs Taylor. There will be an opportunity every term to discuss your child's progress.

We keep a 'Profile' for each child in order to monitor and plan for their learning. This profile contains photographs, observations of significant things your child has done or said and samples of writing, drawing etc. The profile is available for you to look at whenever you wish. We would really like you to add your own comments, photos and any drawings etc from home too if you can.

If your child attends other settings as well, then with your permission we will share information with the other setting at least once a term. This means that we have a fuller picture of your child's learning and interests and can plan more effectively for them.

Should you have any questions, information to share or concerns which you wish to discuss then you can of course make an appointment to talk with Mr Yapp (headteacher), Miss Woodward (Early Years Coordinator), Mrs Robin (nursery teacher), Mrs Taylor (nursery teacher), Miss Oprysk (teaching assistant) or Mrs Webster (teaching assistant) at any time.

Are there other ways I can be involved?

We always value and welcome your help and support.

We may ask for help in our newsletters, perhaps asking you to collect or make items to support our activities or asking for people with particular skills or interests to come in and work with the children.

We welcome help with some of our regular activities too: you may like to come and play number games with the children or play alongside them at the computer.

Some children enjoy having their parents with them in nursery and some find it unsettling. We have to be sensitive to the needs of individual children at various times.

We are part of the national fruit scheme and children are provided with a range of fresh fruit each day to enjoy with their milk or water.

If you would like to offer your help in any way, please talk to a member of staff.