

## Academic Year: 2023-2024 Newsletter : October 2023



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### Welcome

We would like to welcome all our new and returning families to Nursery. We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child.

#### **Every child has the Right to an Education.**

At our school we offer free early education, 15 hours per week for all children aged 3 and 4 mornings or afternoons. We offer 30 hours for qualifying working parents and free 15 hours for children aged two that meet certain criteria.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2023), the statutory framework that sets the standards for Learning, Development and Care for children from birth up to 5. It outlines what adults must do to help children learn and develop and be healthy and safe. The EYFS includes seven areas of learning and development, split into three age bands:

- Birth to three
- 3-4
- 4-5 (the reception year in school)

'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage: a guide for parents' is a guide for parents, carers and guardians of children from birth to five years old. In each band there are suggestions about what your child may be doing, and how you can help them. It's important to remember that children develop in different ways and at different rates. After each age band you will find top tips for fun, playful experiences that you and your child can do together at home.

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

### **Attendance and punctuality at Nursery**

Research shows that children with high attendance in Nursery leave with better outcomes and have high levels of school readiness when they start primary school. Encouraging regular attendance provides structure and simple routines that help children's development. Good attendance and punctuality establish good habits from the start. Children settle more quickly into new settings and routines. Attending every session means 100% attendance and ensures your child has full access to our curriculum. Missing 10 sessions per year is 95% attendance. Missing 30 sessions is 85% attendance which means a child has missed 6 weeks or half a term of school by the end of the year. Bring your child on time to enable your child to access our full range of learning opportunities. From 11:00 am children are accessing group time and preparing for a transition down the corridor to the dinner room. To ensure child safety we ask parents to start collecting morning children from 11:20 am only.

The school is fully open to children and parents. Children with runny noses and minor coughs should attend school. If your child has a temperature & does not feel well do not bring your child to school. Following an episode of sickness or diarrhoea do not bring your child to Nursery for 48 hours after the last episode. This is to ensure the health and safety of all the children.

The school has an Outbreak Management Plan to manage infections like COVID 19 & we will introduce additional control measures when coming onto site if required.

Call school on 0121 675 4617 to notify us of any sickness absence. Do ensure that you sign up to receive emergency text messages through our School Life App so that you are kept informed of any changes.

**Settling in period**

As every child is unique we provide personalised settling for each child. Talk with your child's key person to plan and agree the settling process. Your child has a named peg for a coat and bag. Provide spare clothes and personal care items like nappies and wipes in your child's bag and store on your child's peg. If your child is in nappies talk to your key person and agree a care plan. Dress your child in old clothes as children access many messy play experiences. Dress your child in clothes that support independence when toileting eg jogging bottoms rather than clothes with buttons. Ensure your child has a warm coat and hat as we go outside everyday whatever the weather. Write your child's name on clothing, bags and lunch-boxes. Let your key person know if your child has a medical condition or an allergy so we can do a care plan to keep your child safe. Do not send your child to school with any foods that contain nuts as we are a nut free school due to children with allergies.

**Every Child has the Right to be Safe**

At our school, safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone. Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all children and expects our staff, volunteers, students, visitors & parents to share this commitment. Our first priority is your child's welfare. Only named adults can collect children. If your child has a minor accident/injury at nursery we will provide first aid and provide you with a record slip on collection. School will telephone home to notify parents of any head bumps. Let us know if your child has an injury at home or in the wider community so we can monitor your child's health at nursery. We value our close working relationships with parents and are able to offer early help when a need emerges. Speak to your key person if you require any help. Report any safeguarding concerns to our designated safeguarding lead, Sharon Lewis – Executive Headteacher or a member of the Deputy DSL team; Sadia Carter—Mirza (School Business Manager), Yvonne Spoons (SENCO), Alisha Rafiq (Office Manager), Nazmeen Shaffique (Teacher) or Natalie (TA) before leaving site.

**Every Child has the Right to the best possible Health**

Our curriculum promotes active learning. Active children are healthy, happy, school ready & sleep better. At our school our children have access to drinking water and fruit at snack time. Children and parents have regular opportunities to learn about healthy foods, oral health, cooking, gardening and forest school. We complete Development checks for 2 year olds and liaise closely with health visitors to support our children. If you have any concerns about your child's health or development speak to your child's key person. Our Special Educational Needs Teacher (SENCO) is Yvonne Spoons. Our Startwell lead is Nazmeen Shaffique. Startwell promotes healthy lifestyle messages. Please note we have a very limited amount of space for pushchairs. Please encourage children to walk to school. See attached Measles (MMR) vaccine reminder letter.

**Curriculum**

This half term in nursery we will focusing on supporting new children to transition in to nursery and returning children to settle back in to nursery life and learn the new routines. We will focus on building new relationships between children and their peers, staff and parents. All children have been allocated a key person, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning and development whilst at Highfield Nursery School please discuss this with your child's key person. A key part of the curriculum is to teach children about how to keep themselves and others safe and we implement this through rules and boundaries (Kind hands, walking inside), group time discussions (who helps us at nursery, what to do if we hurt ourselves) and daily routines (Self-help skills, snack, handwashing and toileting). We encourage children to talk to staff if they are hurt or unwell and staff are observing children daily to ensure their basic needs are met. Children have a choice of where to play during free flow activities both indoors and outdoors. Our Artist Sally will be supporting us 1 day per fortnight and she offers support to enhance our environments and develop creative spaces for the children to explore and learn. Clay artist Austin will be supporting children to learn about clay in the Autumn term.

In Big nursery children have short adult lead group times each day where they have planned interventions based around the 7 areas of learning and their interests.

### **Supporting your child with Communication, Language and Early Reading**

In nursery we want to promote a language rich environment and a love of books. We aim to develop children's early language and literacy skills through the joy of books and rhymes. Throughout the term we will cover a number of core texts with the children, alongside these we will be teaching them new rhymes. We will send copies of the rhymes home so you can sing along with your children at home too. Ensure your child regularly accesses our school library to share books at home. Big Nursery supports children to select a book to put into their book bags to take home on Wednesdays and Little Nursery on Fridays.

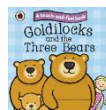
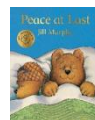
**'Reading gives us somewhere to go, when we have to stay where we are.'**  
Mason Cooley

**'Reading floats on a sea of talk'**  
James Britton

**Please take note of the noticeboards outside your child's classroom to inform you of why we chose these books and how we use them to teach the children.**

**The core books we will be focusing on this term in Big Nursery (3-4 year olds) are:**

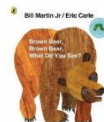
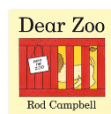
- Goat goes to nursery
- Sometimes I feel Sunny
- Goldilocks and the three bears
- Peace at Last
- Whatever next
- Let's brush our teeth
- Stick Man



In Big Nursery we will be teaching the children the foundations of Literacy. Language is the starting point for all. We promote phonological / sound awareness through a range of planned group times, interventions and spontaneous activities that develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme, singing, alliteration, sound discrimination, voice sounds, listening and attention and oral blending and segmentation.

**The core books we will be focusing on in Little Nursery (2-3 year olds)**

- Dear Zoo
- Farm Babies
- Goat goes to play group
- 5 Little Ducks
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear
- Polar bear, Polar Bear
- Dear Santa
- Spots magical Christmas



In Little Nursery children will have daily singing sessions as well as daily access to stories with an adult to beginning to develop awareness of sound and listening and attention skills. The classroom will be a language rich environment with spontaneous singing, transitional singing and musical activities for the children.

Children will have a termly tapestry observation uploaded (3 times per year) that will provide a range of pictures for you to see and an overview of their time in nursery. We will be hosting parent consultations week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December where you will have an allocated appointment with your child's key person to discuss their progress and development.



**50 Things To Do Before You're Five** is a free app offering a menu of low or no cost exciting activities indoors & outdoors for families with young children in Birmingham, giving great suggestions for how to have fun and learn at the same time. You can find the app in the store on any Android or Apple Device or simply scan the barcode on the posters on display in school.

**Dates for your diary:**

- **Apply for reception 2024** – Online applications open from 1st October 2023 – 15th January 2024
- **Half Term** –30th October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November- Return - Monday 6 November 2023
- **Diwali**- Children to dress up in party clothes Monday 13 November 2023.
- **Sugar awareness day** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November –Wear white to raise awareness for oral health
- **Children in Need** –Friday 17th November – Children to dress up in mismatched clothes
- **Parent Consultation week** –Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Speak to your child's key worker to book a consultation slot.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** - Thursday 7th December
- **Christmas Parties** – Wednesday 20th December– Dress up in party clothes
- **Pyjama and a movie** -Thursday 21<sup>nd</sup> December– Come to nursery in your Pyjamas and favourite story book
- **Last day of term** – Friday 22nd December
- **Christmas Holidays** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 8th January - Return – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**SEN Support**

If your child has Special Educational Needs or a Disability and or you are worried about your child's learning and development please speak to your child's key person, Class teacher, DHT or our SENCO Yvonne Spoons. We provide additional and targeted support for children and ensure the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all children.

If you require advice from outside agencies such as Speech and Language support, Occupational Therapy Support or Child Development Centre please see the advice line numbers as listed below:

**SALT Advice Line – 0121 4666231**

**OT Advice Line – 0121 6832325**

**CDC Advice Line – 0121 4666825.**

Please see our SEND information report on our website for more information on how we support children with SEND and their parents.

**Please familiarise yourself with the local offer website:**

[Local Offer Birmingham | SEND Advice and Information](#)

This website provides families with information and services to support children with SEND and also access to webinars to offer guidance and support around a range of specific subjects that you may find useful.