

Your Guide to Starting Nursery



**Nantwich Primary Academy and Nursery
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Introduction

This leaflet is written by teachers and a school Mum, for parents and carers who are new to school life.

It aims to give useful information about the practicalities of having a child in Nursery and also some understanding of what goes on during the session.

Sometimes you find that when you ask how your child's day was, the instant response is 'I can't remember' or if you ask what he/she has done the response is, 'Nothing!' or 'Play!'.

This booklet will hopefully give you a little insight into what goes on in the Nursery class in the first few weeks of starting school.

Contacting Nursery and Reception Staff

If you wish to speak to a member of the EYFS team prior to starting in Nursery, please ring or email school.

Once your child starts Nursery you will have access to ClassDojo which has a messaging service for contacting staff.

Early Years Staff



Mrs E Turner
EYFS Teacher



Mrs E Bird
Teaching Assistant



Miss J Foster
Teaching Assistant



Miss C Alcott
Teaching Assistant

Things to know before starting Nursery (preparation)

Before your child starts at Nantwich Primary Academy, there are a few things they need to be able to do for themselves. This will help them in the first few weeks and will enable them to feel more independent and in control in the new environment. With many children to teach, the staff are not in a position to be able to give your child the attention they may be used to from being at home. It will help your child towards independence if you can start practising certain things well before they start in Nursery, even if this means getting up a little earlier than usual.

Getting dressed/undressed

Help your child to learn to dress and undress. This includes taking clothes and coats off the right way round so that they can easily put it back on themselves. Children should also know which feet their shoes go on. Try to find items of clothing that are easy to put on and take off: easy buttons, looser fittings, simple black school shoes with velcro rather than laces, coats that have simple fastenings that a child can do up quickly before playtime. If, for instance, your child cannot do up buttons, it would be easier for everyone if their clothing did not have any. If your child cannot manage gloves, buy them some mittens instead so they don't get cold hands.

TIP: Putting half a picture in one shoe with the other half in the other shoe may help with getting them the right way around!

TIP: Make sure there is a loop on your child's coat and teach them to use it. Then it will stay securely on the peg and spend less time on the floor!

Personal Care

Children should be able to take themselves to the toilet when they need to without assistance and wash and dry their hands afterwards. There are three toilets shared by Nursery and Reception. The toilets, sinks, soap and hand towels are all at child height.

A member of staff will deal with toilet accidents. If your child is likely to have an accident, it is useful to discuss this with us in advance and to include some spare named school uniform in a named carrier bag (not a rucksack) to keep in school. Your child will be given some clean clothes to put on from their own bag. Your child's own clothes will be returned to you for washing and returning.

If your child is still wearing pull-ups. Please speak to a member of our team before starting Nursery and we will arrange for you to complete a 'Personal Care' permission form. You will need to provide spare pull-ups and wet wipes.

Remember that there can be a huge difference between a child born in September and one born the following August. Don't compare your child with others!

The first day

Explain to your child what will happen on the first day. They need to know that you will not be staying in Nursery with them and they need to know who to ask if they have a problem.

If you do feel that you or your child would like a more gradual transition, you would be more than welcome to come into school and discuss this with the staff so that you can both work out the best way to help your child settle. If you are concerned about your child, a call to the school later that morning can reassure you that they have settled well and are no longer upset.

While telling your child that you will miss them loads may well be true, it can pile on added pressure of thinking that you don't want them to go either. Instead try 'Wow, this is so exciting! You will have so much fun. I will see you later'.

TIP: The teachers have done this many times before. If your child gets upset, don't let them see you getting upset too. Leave them with the teacher and walk away! More often than not your child will have settled before you have arrived home!

Uniform

Details of the school uniform can be found within this pack. Jumpers and cardigans can be ordered through the school office and the rest can be bought from local supermarkets or shops.

Coats

Coats should be zip fastening, warm, hard wearing, waterproof and with hoods when required. This will save bringing in a separate waterproof jacket for wet weather play. The school follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum, so children will be allowed outside in all weather!

TIP: In the winter when hats and gloves are worn, tell your child to put the gloves in the hat and then put the hat down one of the coat sleeves so they are not mislaid.

Shoes

Shoes should be black, easy to fasten (Velcro) and hard wearing. Children **should not** wear trainers or lace-up shoes to school. Named wellingtons should be brought into school and left so that they can be worn during wet weather and snow in the winter months.

TIP: Label everything, even shirts, pants, socks and tights!

Socks and tights

Socks should be plain white, grey or black, multi-coloured or patterned socks are not part of our school uniform. Tights should be plain white, grey or black too.

TIP: Long sleeved shirts are hard to roll up and keep clean and dry.

Hair

If you have a child with long hair, it is much easier for everyone if it is tied up. This should be a simple hair tie rather than large bows or accessories. This is more hygienic and keeps the hair cleaner and more tangle free. It also decreases the chances of head lice. If your child is reluctant, try explaining about head lice visiting them! If your child wears a headband, it should be plain, navy blue and without any gripper teeth. Boys should not have lines or patterns shaved into their hair.

Jewellery

Jewellery is discouraged in school as it might get caught on our outside equipment or clothing.



Format of the Nursery morning

8.30 - 8:40am Arrive for the day, coats on pegs and children into classroom.

8.55am Toast and registration.

9.00am Literacy, reading, teacher-led and child-initiated activities.

Daily activities are based on the EYFS curriculum and are set out in areas of learning.

10.00am Teacher-led maths activities

10.25am Snack and child initiated play

10.45am Teacher-led early phonics activities

11.00am Teacher led and child initiated activities indoors and outdoors.

11:30am Parents/guardians collect from Nursery and Reception entrance/exit.

If your child is entitled to 30 hours funding, then your child will stay in school until 3.15 pm.

Your child can either bring a healthy packed lunch from home or you can pay for school meals through the school payment system.

30 hours funding codes can be applied for through the Childcare Choices Website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Milk and Snack

Your child will be provided with fruit and milk at snack time. There is usually a selection of fruit to choose from and this changes seasonally between oranges, bananas, carrots, raisins, apples, pears, tomatoes and strawberries.

In this starter pack there is a permission form from our milk supplier, 'Cool Milk'. This needs to be completed and returned with your other forms as soon as possible please.

Your child will receive free milk until they are five through the UK Government's Milk Scheme.

Once your child has had their fifth birthday, milk continues to be available from 'Cool Milk' at a subsidised cost of 22p per day. There is a document in this pack that explains how you register and set up a payment account with 'Cool Milk' to pay them directly.



Assemblies

These take place throughout the week and last around 15 minutes. If your child has a recent certificate for an external activity (e.g. swimming badge) they may bring it into school on a Thursday for the Celebration Assembly.

On a Thursday Celebration Assembly certificates are awarded to children who have excelled at something (not necessarily academic). The whole school attends assembly.

Security

EYFS staff will not let your child leave at home time until they see you waiting. If there is somebody else collecting your child, please let your teacher know in the morning or ring the school during the day.

If you have any issues with people who can or cannot collect your children, please let staff know immediately.

Accidents, illness, medication and upsets

If your child is injured during the school day, they will be taken care of by one of the first aiders. Cold compresses and plasters are applied when required.

If your child has had a minor bump, the first you may know about it is when you collect your child as a 'medical form' is sent home with them. Obviously, if it is more serious, the staff will tell whoever is collecting your child that day or you will already have received a phone call.

If your child needs **prescribed medication** during the school day, a form with instructions for dosage and frequency will need to be completed. Just ask staff for a copy. We cannot give non-prescribed medicine like Calpol to your child.

Asthma

All children who have asthma should have a GP/Nurse formulated asthma plan and a duplicate of their asthma medication in school. Please speak to us if your child is asthmatic and we will ask you to complete our asthma forms.

TIP: You will need to inform school if your child has any illnesses such as chickenpox, head lice, impetigo etc. as these are contagious and school may send a letter home to other

What if I have a problem?

Your child will occasionally have fallings out with friends or perhaps trip, bump themselves and become upset. The teachers and staff are very professional and will deal with the situation as appropriate.

If there is something which will be affecting your child that day, for example, a disrupted night's sleep, or anything else you need us to know urgently, you can always send a message through our class messaging system 'Class Dojo' which we will see straight away. Alternatively, you can ask after school to book an appointment.

Reading

A big emphasis is put on sharing books in Nursery and Reception. Each child will do phonics with an adult every day providing the children with a flying start in this area.

In the summer term, children who are ready will bring home a simple school reading book or a story book to share together. They will also start to bring home some sounds cards to learn. Children should read at home or share a story almost every night with a parent or carer.

Behaviour

Nantwich Primary Academy has a whole school approach to positive behaviour. The children start out each day in the yellow zone. They may also move down zones where consequences of the wrong kind of behaviour are dealt with appropriately. The children can move up into the blue, green or even gold zones and receive 'Dojo points' where children can earn positive points for different things. Parents can also log onto this system to view your child's points, send messages to staff and view our class story to see what we have been learning each week.

Topics

There is generally a topic for the class each half term. This year the topics will be:

999 Emergency, Winter Wonderland and The Secret Garden—
Minibeasts

You will be able to find out what is included in the topics from the newsletters we send out

Parking

Many parents and children walk and cycle to school, as it's often quicker than driving. Unfortunately, there is no parking on site.

Dogs

No dogs (apart from guide dogs) are allowed on our school site.

Smoking

The whole school is a no-smoking area.

TIP: Do not be surprised to find that if you ask your child what they have done all day, they may well simply say "nothing". Apparently this is particularly true of boys. Try a different line of questioning and ask, for example, what was their favourite thing about the day, as this often gets a better response. You can also look on your child's digital learning journey or ClassDojo as these are updated regularly!

And, of course, we couldn't leave out what the most important people of all have to say ...

I like school because we do good things and I make things.

I like my teachers, because they help me with my work.

I like school because I like the role-play and I like all my new friends.

I like playing outside and I like the football.

I like playing outside with my friends and I like doing reading, writing and phonics.

I like the teachers. I like everything!

I love the bike track!





