

Arkholme Church of England Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage unit

Nursery prospectus

Welcome to Nursery. We look forward to your child having an exciting, happy and inspiring time with us.

This brochure should help answer any queries you have as well as give you some insight into what takes place within our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) unit. If you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

Our Nursery is within the EYFS unit which is run from a purpose built 'Eco pod' on the grassed area next to the main school building. We have an excellent outdoor area which all our children love to play in. Our EYFS unit is well resourced with a wide range of play equipment, both indoors and out. The children enjoy exploring and investigating in the large sand pit, playing on the climbing structure, and getting messy in our digging area, amongst many other things. We have beautiful, established trees which the children watch with interest as they change across the seasons. We have easy access onto the school field offering opportunities to explore the Forest School area.



Our sessions are lead by experienced EYFS teachers and supported by trained EYFS practitioners. The EYFS unit is made up of up to 16 Nursery places and up to 14 Reception places. Average class size in the year 2016-2017 was 19.

Each child is designated a member of EYFS staff as their own key person. The key person has special responsibilities for working with a small number of children and building strong relationships with parents and carers. This is to ensure that individual needs are met thoughtfully through reflective practice; however, do feel free to speak to any one of us at any time as we all get to know the children.

Children are funded by the government for 15 hours early years provision per week from the term after their third birthday until they are of school age, this is known as universal funding. From September 2017 some working families will be entitled to a further 15 hours funded child care. Please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to check your eligibility and for further information.

Currently Nursery children may attend the following sessions –

Monday 11.45 – 3.30 (or from 1pm if not having lunch)

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 9.00- 12.45 (or until 12 if not staying for lunch)

The Nursery children take part in many school activities such as special assemblies, nativity play and whole school events.

At Arkholme Church of England Primary School we aim to provide high quality education in a happy, safe, inclusive and caring environment where every individual is valued. The EYFS unit follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Personalised learning is ensured through careful observations and appraisal of each child's on-going development.

Our EYFS unit aims for all children to:

Feel happy, safe and secure

Develop self-esteem and self-confidence

Become interested and inquisitive learners

Develop a sense of independence

Develop positive relationships

Develop the skills to think critically

Develop perseverance



It is recognised that a child's experience in the Early Years has a major impact on their future life chances. At Arkholme we support the children to develop their skills and knowledge through stimulating and challenging activities. The children have opportunities to explore, experiment, express themselves, solve problems, make decisions, collaborate, reflect and negotiate.

The role of parents in their child's development is crucial. The activities and opportunities you give your child at home play a vital role in their learning. We build on this learning through strong home school links.

We value and actively encourage partnership with our parents through a weekly newsletter and our open door policy. We actively encourage home contributions in your child's learning journey through the wow sheets. We also welcome the support of parent helpers, please speak to a member of staff if you are interested in this.

We recommend that the children wear practical clothes and shoes, as the Nursery session is usually very active. Although there is no compulsory uniform in Nursery, sweatshirts are available from the EYFS unit at £10 each.

A change of clothes should be left on your child's peg in case of accidents, although we do keep some spare clothes in the EYFS unit. Please make sure that all bags and belongings are named. We also request that a PE kit is kept at school for Thursday PE sessions. This should include named t shirt, shorts and pumps.

Fruit and milk will be provided each day as part of our rolling snack. Children should bring a named water bottle each day for them to help themselves to throughout the session. It is important we are informed immediately of any allergies or special dietary requirements your child may have.



The children will be given a book bag for their time in Nursery, this should be sent everyday. The children will be able to take home a book from the EYFS unit to enjoy at home. Sharing books with children is very important in creating a positive attitude towards reading. We share a varied range of books with the children as often as possible and encourage you to do so at home too.

Please check the notice board in the cloakroom regularly. Many articles, leaflets and information are displayed which we think may be of interest to you. We also display the weekly continuous provision planning.

If you have a free morning or afternoon, please let us know. Your help is always very much valued and appreciated. Please note that it is a legal requirement that all volunteers are checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service.

We value and recognise the importance of on-going discussions about your child's progress. There are also opportunities for more formal discussions with the EYFS team in the Summer term. Each child receives an end of year report in July.

Children learn best through play, first-hand experience and exploration. The classroom is divided into different areas: for example a construction area and an art area. In each session the children are given time to choose activities they would like to explore, as well as focused phonics sessions. We allow time each day for children to discuss their own particular interests, observations and ideas; and these inform our planning and activities on both a daily and weekly basis.



The EYFS curriculum is followed by all young children in England.

The EYFS has three prime areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

and four specific areas of learning:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

It is through these areas that we plan and assess what our children do. These areas do not happen in isolation and it is very likely that, in their play, children may be exploring learning in several different areas at any one time!

Children develop their speaking, understanding, listening and attention skills. They take part in role play situations and develop imaginative play. They develop early literacy skills such as retelling events, engaging with the characters and thinking about what may happen next in a story. During the children's time in the EYFS unit they will be provided with broad and rich language experiences, be encouraged to talk, expand their vocabulary and practise speaking and listening through a variety of contexts.

Children extend and improve their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. They develop confidence and control in their small and large movements, by using, for example, painting equipment or exploring the large play equipment. Children are supported to gain self-assurance in what they do and to feel positive about being healthy and active.

We support and encourage our children to be confident individuals, take an interest in the world around them and to be able to describe their own needs and feelings. They begin to understand the difference between right and wrong, to get along with others in the group and develop empathy for each other. They learn to respond to instructions and develop an interest in all aspects of Nursery life and their learning. They develop their ability to concentrate and work independently and extend their 'self-help' skills.

The children are encouraged to make marks which convey meaning to themselves and sometimes to others and to develop their independence in this. They experience a broad array of books engaging them in storytelling, discussion and role play. In addition they have daily phonics sessions to develop their skills in relation to the world of sound.

Children undertake activities that will develop their mathematical understanding and problem solving skills. They begin to use and understand mathematical language. Children are encouraged to take part in practical and engaging activities including number songs, number detective games, counting rhymes. All of these number skills are best developed when experienced in everyday contexts and situations.

Children are encouraged to take an interest in different places and various events in theirs and other people's lives. They develop their control of tools and understanding of different materials and are encouraged to make purposeful choices. They explore living and non-living things and talk about what they see, hear, feel, smell and taste. They experience ICT through the use of computers and other systems e.g. digital cameras, interactive white boards and iPads, developing their independent use of these. They learn about their own culture and how this may differ to others.

We aim to provide the children with a stimulating environment and activities that develop all of their senses, together with a range of resources enabling the children to express and explore their own ideas. Children work with a range of materials to broaden their experiences and to develop expression. They listen and respond to music and explore a range of musical instruments. They take part in dance, role play, drama and imaginative play. The children have plenty of opportunity to work independently as well as with the support of adults.



We are very fortunate that Mrs Muckalt and Mrs Ingram are both level 3 forest school leaders and this allows the children to access forest school sessions on a regular basis.

The role of the adult is crucial in Nursery. They play a key role in supporting, engaging and extending the children's development and learning. We create interesting and purposeful opportunities, in an exciting environment. We value working collaboratively with parents.

Children's interests, development and next steps will be recorded through 2Simple, our Early Years assessment tool. This captures on-going observations of children's learning in the EYFS unit. Parents receive a written report of their child's progress at the end of their final term in Nursery.

'Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support' (EYFS Statutory Framework 2014). The records we keep are based on observations of children undertaking a variety of activities, either individually or in groups, over a period of time. Staff regularly exchange information so that a balanced picture of the child's achievements and needs can be reached, and appropriate provision made.

At the beginning of the year you will be asked to complete forms about your child for our school records. These are confidential. It is very important that we have a day time telephone contact number in case of emergency.

During the first weeks of Nursery we will work closely with you to support your child's transition into Nursery. Our aim is of course to establish warm relationships with the children and their families so that you feel at ease, and your children can enjoy their Nursery experience. We work with families on an individual basis to ensure your child settles well into the EYFS unit. If you have any concerns at all please speak to a member of EYFS staff.



We aim to promote positive attitudes in pupils, staff, governors and parents. The school follows the guidelines issued by the LA in promoting equal opportunities for all, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, religion, disability or background.

In Nursery rules are kept to a minimum and those we have are there to make life at Nursery safe and enjoyable for everyone. We plan and agree a few basic rules with the children at the beginning of the year. We place emphasis on the development of self-discipline and believe that it is best developed by positive attitude and example. If concern is felt about your child's behaviour, we will discuss this with you. Similarly, if you have any cause for concern, do not hesitate to speak to us.

We hope that this booklet will have answered some of your questions regarding your child's time in the Nursery and will be useful to keep for future reference.

If you wish to visit the EYFS unit, or have any questions, please telephone to arrange an appointment by calling 015242 21418

Parents Comments:

“ It's really lovely that the children spend so much time using their imaginations in the outdoor space as well as indoor because of the large side doors - it's a great space for them to be in! The reception children are also in the same classroom, so when it was time for my daughter to start school, it was seamless as she knew the space and the teachers so well already. “

“My son has always been very shy around unfamiliar adults. However, he responded very well to the warmth and encouragement of the wonderful staff. It was such a relief to see him so happy and confidently engaging with the teachers and the other children.”

“I just love that the nursery hours include lunchtime. To give our little people the opportunity to sit around a table together to eat and chat is a priceless lesson in social skills.”

“Having nursery and reception in one class is super. They play and learn together so well. The transition from nursery into compulsory education is seamless as the nursery children cannot wait to swap their red jumpers for a blue one!”

“All three of my boys loved every minute of their time in nursery. The wonderful continuous provision gave them the freedom to explore, and their love of being outside was satisfied by the fantastic outdoor areas.”