

Introduction

Welcome to our Early Years Unit. At Dinnington First School we believe that a caring and stimulating environment is essential to the development of your children. Through the activities provided we aim to develop self-esteem, personal responsibility and a commitment to learning. The education of your child is something we do in partnership.

In this booklet we hope to give you some idea of our approach.

Allyson E. Farrar

Headteacher

Staff

Mrs. C. Parker	- Early Years Co-ordinator, Nursery Teacher
Mrs. C. Ward	- Deputy Head Teacher, SENCO, Reception Teacher
Mrs. J. Fryer	- Nursery Nurse
Mrs. A. McNab	- Nursery Nurse
Mrs. A. Adcock	- Support Assistant

Opening Times

Nursery from September 2012

Morning Session: 8.55am-11.55am

Nursery closed for last day of each term.

Reception 8:50am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Settling In

Nursery

Children are admitted gradually during the Autumn Term to ensure that each child settles in happily. Initially the children attend for part of the session.

Our aim is to encourage the children to become independent, but this process varies from one child to another. Some can accept their parents leaving quite happily, others may need a more familiar face with them for a week or so.

Reception

Children start with a slightly shortened day for the first two weeks of term. This helps them to settle easily into the reception class routines.

Initially the children will attend from:

8:50am – 1:30pm

and then

8:50am – 3:00pm

Curriculum General

From September 2012 children in the nursery and reception class will follow the revised Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. This lays a secure foundation for future learning through learning and development that is planned around the individual needs and interests of the child. Early Years Education is a most valuable introduction to school life and is of the utmost importance. It welcomes, settles, nurtures, challenges and prepares your children for the following years.

Foundation Stage Curriculum

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outdoors. At each session, paints, dough, sand, water, home corner, book corner, drawing, colouring, singing, group games and a variety of outdoor activities are available.

Every child is taught the social skills of sharing and caring, following simple instructions and helped to develop speaking and listening skills.

Following the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through areas of learning and development.

The first three Prime Areas are:

- Communications 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 four specific areas which are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At the end of Early Years Foundation Stage – in the Summer term of Reception an assessment will be completed on each child known as the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile which is based on observations.

Learning is planned around various themes that are based on the children's interests. The activities that the children will be involved in maybe adult led or child initiated. Each day we have a phonics focus based on the Letters and Sounds programme which you will be asked to practice at home and support your children's progress.

Each half term you will receive a newsletter which informs you of activities based on the current theme that your child is taking part in.

Practical Considerations

Nursery

Clothing

The school sweatshirt (or a jumper) teamed with practical polo shirts and leggings or tracksuit bottoms, **all named please**. This gives young children the freedom to participate in all activities safely. Long frilly dresses and tight jeans with belts hinder climbing activities and often prevent the children being independent in the bathroom. As children take part in 'Action kids' in the hall all shoes need to have Velcro or buckle fasteners – NO LACES PLEASE – imagine fastening 26 pairs of laces after soft play! No jewellery for safety reasons. Earrings should be removed before coming into nursery. Please provide a named bag of spare clothes to leave in the cloakroom so we may easily change your child in case of accidents.

Visits/Outings

Throughout the year we have various trips related to our themes. We need your permission for these outings and as far as possible we would like all nursery children to be accompanied by a parent or other relative.

Refreshments

Milk is provided free for Nursery children. The children have a mid morning snack of fruit and milk/water. Drinking water is available at all times and children are provided with their own water bottle which must be brought into school everyday.

Sweets

It is our policy that children do not bring sweets to School, but contributions of fruit to share at milk time are much appreciated.

Reception

Clothing

Grey trousers – long or short

Grey skirt / pinafore

Royal Blue sweatshirt / cardigan

White polo shirt / polo-neck top / blouse / shirt

Royal Blue/white check or strip summer dress

Sensible wide fitting black shoes, not trainers

P.E. shorts, P.E. shirt and sandshoes

When the children are approaching their 6th birthday an inexpensive analogue watch is useful for learning.

No other jewellery should be worn for safety.

Please ensure that all clothing is named.

Visits/Outings

Throughout the year we have various outings related to the children's interests we need your permission for these.

Milk

Milk is provided for Reception children at a small cost which needs to be paid termly in advance. Again, water is available at all times and children are provided with their own water bottle which must be brought into school everyday.

Sweets

It is our policy that children should not bring sweets to school. The school is part of the national fruit in school scheme and children are given a piece of fruit to eat every morning.

How You Can Help Your Child

Physical Development

Encourage your child:

1. To hold a pencil correctly
2. To build
3. To do jigsaws
4. To use scissors
5. To use a knife and fork
6. To paint

Social Development

Encourage your child:

1. To go to the toilet independently
2. To dress/undress him/herself
3. To fasten/unfasten shoes and coat (Velcro not laces)
4. To look after their own belongings
5. To mix with other children at every opportunity

Mathematical Development

Encourage your child:

1. To recognise and name colours
2. To sort everyday objects into sets
3. To count sets of objects
4. To help in cooking activities

Language Development

Encourage your child:

1. To develop a love of books.
2. To share books in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.
3. To join/visit the local library.
4. To use letter sounds
5. Please support our Story Sack scheme and Record of Achievement Book and return these things at the appropriate time.
6. When your child reaches Reception, please practice sound cards as much as possible, listen to the words in his/her word tin, read and discuss reading books at least three times a week and fill in their Reception Pathway to Achievement book at all times.

How You Can Help The Staff

PLEASE:

Let us know if you or your child has any problems, worries or fears.

Let us know if your child has any health problems and allergies e.g. elastoplasts.

Let us know of any dietary requirements e.g. vegetarian.

Do not allow your child to wear jewellery. This is not permitted because of the safety aspect.

Please supervise your child carefully before and after nursery sessions. Your child should be kept away from the car park area and should not use any equipment set up in the Early Years play area. You and your child are welcome to look at the garden areas but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

When in reception please make sure your child is punctual. If your child is ill please telephone school to let us know and send a letter of explanation when they return. If you have the time, then please volunteer your services for school trips or offer help within the classroom. You must have a Criminal Records Bureau check from Newcastle City Council to help with the children.

Make sure school books and games are looked after and returned regularly.

If you have any problems or concerns which might affect your child in any way, come and talk to us.

Please read books with your child in the Pathway to Reading booklet.

and finally.....

We look forward to working with you and your child.

We hope these years will be a happy time for everyone and that your child will flourish in the environment we provide.

If you have any problems or worries, please do not hesitate to come and see us so that we can sort them out together.