

Strontian Primary School Nursery Handbook



"Where learning is creative, active and inspiring"

Strontian Nursery,
Ardnamurchan High School,
Anaheilt,
Strontian,
Acharacle
Argyll,
Ph36 4JA

Head Teacher: Mr Chris Millar-Craig
Primary Principal Teacher: Rachel Patterson
Early Years Practitioner: Laura Wilson
Early Years Practitioner: Hollie Taylor
Support Worker: Ella Christian

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Introduction

Our staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to Strontian Nursery. We offer a happy, secure, friendly and stimulating environment where children learn and have fun together, supported by an enthusiastic and professional team.

The aim of this booklet is to provide you with all the information you will need while your child is attending nursery. We realise that further questions may arise during the year and you are welcome to speak to the nursery staff on any matter relating to your child's well-being and progress while in our care.

Strontian Nursery serves Strontian and the surrounding area. It is located within the Ardnamurchan High School Building, next to the Primary School.

We have a kitchen area, toilets within the nursery room and disabled access toilet in the cloakroom. We have a large indoor play room, craft area and quiet room. We have free flow access to the outdoor play area with an all-weather surface. The nursery also has access to the school facilities, such as gym hall and primary playground.

We are lucky to be situated within walking distance of woodland, a river, shore and the hills and we take advantage of this as much as possible, accessing these spaces in all weathers.

As of January 2019 we have funded and non-funded places available for 2 year olds as well as funded places for pre-schoolers (3 and 4 year olds).

The information in this brochure is correct as of June 2020.

Visions and Aims

Our Vision: Is to provide a safe and stimulating environment for the children to enable them to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Nursery Aims

- ⇒ To provide a safe, happy and caring environment where children feel secure, to allow them to reach their full potential.
- ⇒ Encourage the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of children by providing a variety of structured and stimulating activities and through play.
- ⇒ To help children gain an understanding about the benefits of a healthy life style.
- ⇒ To encourage children to develop positive attitudes about themselves by building self-esteem, self-confidence, self-motivation and self-discipline.
- ⇒ To establish links with the rest of the school and wider community.
- ⇒ To encourage children to learn Gaelic vocabulary.
- ⇒ To recognise the importance of, and create opportunities for play .
- ⇒ Encourage children to explore, appreciate and respect their Environment. Taking the opportunity to access the outdoors.
- ⇒ Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination, through play and first hand experiences.
- ⇒ To establish a partnership with parents and give them the opportunity to become involved in their child's learning and development and provide regular information about their child's progress and development.
- ⇒ To provide continuing professional development opportunities for staff.

Our Nursery operates an open door policy and our Nursery staff are available before and after each session if you wish to speak to them.

Alternatively, appointments can be made with the Headteacher by contacting 01397 700 105.

We value the help and support of all parents in enabling the nursery to run effectively. You are a key part of your child's learning journey.

The Nursery promotes Equal Opportunities for all.



Nursery Hours

For session 2020-21, nursery children will be offered 30 hours in nursery per week. Please speak to the Headteacher for further information.

Our nursery is open Monday - Thursday - 8.30am until 3pm, and Fridays 8.30am until 12.30pm.

Staff

We have two members of Staff for each session: Laura Wilson and Hollie Taylor are our Early Years Practitioners, and Ella Christian is our Support Worker.

Mr Chris Millar-Craig, the Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the nursery and meets regularly with nursery staff. Mrs Rachel Patterson is the Principal Teacher for the Primary.

All EYPs are trained in first aid.

Enrolment

The nursery has funded places for three and four year olds and has both funded and non-funded places available for 2 year olds.

There is an enrolment week around March each year but please contact the nursery directly for more information.

Collection/ Picking up of Children

Children must always be brought to nursery and collected by a responsible adult. Nursery staff should always be informed who will be collecting your child. Our pickup and drop is at the nursery playground gate.





What should I bring to Nursery?

Daily essentials

- One or two spare pairs of clothes, these can be kept in a bag on their peg
- Packed Lunch if not having a school meal
- Every day we enjoy outdoor fun so waterproofs and wellies would be ideal. Lidl and Aldi supply great value for money options.
- Appropriate footwear/ wellies
- A pair of suitable indoor shoes which can be left in their shoe shelf for the term. Preferably shoes which are easy to get on and off

Colder Weather

- Layers/ thermals - this will keep them cosy when enjoying their outdoor play
- A scarf/ snood or buff
- Gloves, preferably waterproof
- Warm hat which covers their ears
- Thick socks or wellie boot liners

Warmer Weather

- Long trousers (these are still a necessity to prevent scratches and stings)
- Short sleeve top
- Jumper/ cardigan (as it can be cool at the beginning of the day)
- Sun cream (please apply at home we advise "once a day" sun creams there are some good ones available in Boots)
- A sun hat and sunglasses
- Insect repellent please apply at home (we recommend 'Smidge')

Outings

We like to take the children on local nature walks and trips for which you will be asked to sign a consent form at the beginning of term. For longer excursions or ones out with nursery hours individual letters and permission slips will be sent out.



Our Nursery Day

Our day is mostly child-led but some routine helps the children feel secure. A healthy snack is served around 10.00.

After snack, children are encouraged to brush their teeth following procedures according to the Nursery tooth brushing programme - Childsmile

Parents can choose for their child to either bring a healthy packed lunch or order a school meal.

We use a combination of adult-led and child-initiated activities to ensure the needs, interests and developmental stage of each child are recognised.

We have free flow indoor/ outdoor play areas. Within such a magical place that is our natural world, we feel privileged to be able to harness and enhance children's innate curiosity and limitless imaginations. Through the changing of the seasons we embrace each new challenge with a determination to take advantage of all that nature provides.

Strontian Nursery provides a safe, secure and happy environment where children can become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

Some of our regular social activities include:

- Meeting up with other local nurseries. Ardgour, Lochaline, Acharacle and Kilchoan.
- BookBug Rhymes and Songs at the library
- P.E. with P1-4 in the Games Hall
- Regular Joint activities with the Primary School
- Visits to the library more than once a week
- Visits to our local care home
- Visits from/ to People who help us in our community, e.g. Police Station, Fire Station, Paramedics, etc.
- 'A Walk into Nature' with our local countryside ranger and her walking group.
- Yearly Peninsula Sports Day





Staff support children in their play so that they learn to:

- Enhance language skills
- Cooperate with one another in the nursery setting
- Listening and take turns
- Develop their physical abilities
- Taking risks and know their boundaries
- Develop self-confidence and self-esteem
- Develop their creative skills

Children will be given opportunities to:

- Listen and respond to stories
- Learn nursery rhymes
- Visit places in our local community
- Care for plants and learn what living things need to survive and grow.
- Joint working with primary classes
- Mix with primary pupils at lunch break
- Sing and take part in a range of musical activities
- Take part in a wide range of art and crafts activities
- Learn to safely use real tools with supervision



Snack

We gather together mid-morning for a snack and to reflect on the morning so far. The children will be given free milk and fruit and we also offer a variety of different sugar free snacks, e.g. sandwiches, scones, cheese, yogurt, etc.

The main purpose of this activity is to develop a range of social skills associated with eating and to promote healthy eating. The emphasis is on speaking, listening and taking turns during conversation, also developing an understanding of the importance of valuing other people's ideas.

The children are encouraged to prepare some of the snacks themselves under adult supervision. Setting the table, preparing food, etc.

Parents who wish to supply their own snack due to food allergy etc should be aware we encourage low sugar products.

Using our nursery raised bed and our spot in the primary poly tunnel, we try to grow our own food too.



Planning, Record Keeping and Assessment

The Curriculum for Excellence begins in the nursery. The Early level is the starting point. During the day, we make observations of each child's learning and development, which is later used to plan future learning opportunities. These observations are recorded in the children's individual Learning Journey which tracks their progress and development in different areas with crafts, photos and observations for evidence. Parents are invited to contribute to their child's Learning Journey.

Developmental Overviews are also produced by nursery staff and parents.

Stay and Play Days

The nursery holds parents' Stay and Play sessions once a term when parents are invited to come along and see their children interact with the other children and join in with the activities. The nursery staff meet with parents once a year in June on a more formal basis.

We always welcome parents to come in and show them a skill, hobby, job role, etc. Please speak to Hollie or Laura if this is something you would like to do.

Transition

The nursery pupils visit the P1-4 class regularly for joint activities. The preschool children take part in transition activities throughout the summer term. Please discuss with Nursery staff any concerns or questions you may have about your child going up to the P1 Class.



Toileting

Should your child need help with toileting, please speak to the Nursery staff. We are happy to help with this.

Attendance and absences

Regular attendance offers children benefits from the continuity of activities and experiences in their pre-school year.

If a child is unable to attend due to illness, holiday or family circumstances, please contact us to let us know on 01397709223 or the Primary Office on 01967 402 363.

It is helpful if you could phone before 9am. If we do not hear from you, we will contact you to ensure your child is safe at home with you.

Safe, Strong and Free Workshops

These workshops are run annually for children in their pre-school year.

Children attend a programme of interactive puppet workshops to teach them strategies to use which will help them stay safe if they encounter bullying, an approach from a stranger or an unwanted/inappropriate approach from an adult they know. They are then given short story books that reinforce the messages.

Parents will be informed of dates and will be invited to a parents' workshop.



Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS)

Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland, (SCSWIS), are a regulating body which ensures National Care Standards are being met.

They are also known as the Care Inspectorate.

Our Nursery is inspected regularly. A copy of inspection reports may be viewed or downloaded online at www.scswis.com or you may request a copy by telephoning 0845 600 9527

EMERGENCIES

Illness

If your child becomes ill or has an accident while attending Nursery we will contact you or the person you have nominated as the emergency contact by telephone.

The Head teacher may also contact Pines Medical Practice, Acharacle to seek medical advice.

If your child is going to be absent from nursery please let the staff know by ringing 01397709223. Please keep your child at home if they have an infectious illness. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea they should not return to nursery until 48 hours after the vomiting/diarrhoea has stopped.

Hand washing and tooth brushing are part of the regular nursery routine. Children learn to wash their hands well after going to the toilet, after playing outside and gardening, and before eating and drinking.

If your child needs help with toileting routines or nappy changing, please inform staff we have an intimate care protocol we can tailor to your child's individual needs.

COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS POLICY - STRONTIAN NURSERY

We feel confident that your child will enjoy his/her time at our Nursery and we welcome comments or suggestions which could help us to improve our service. However, we are aware that difficulties can occur from time to time and if you feel you have reason to complain then, please, follow the procedure below.

Please use the open door policy and speak to a member of nursery staff, either at the beginning or end of a session. If you prefer, an appointment can be made to speak to the Headteacher, Chris Millar Craig. We endeavour to respond to any complaint within two weeks.

Parents/carers are also able to contact the Care Inspectorate directly with a complaint, if they so wish. The local address and telephone number of our centre is:

Care Inspectorate
1 st Floor Castle House
Fairways Business Park
Inverness
IV2 6AA
Tel: 01463 227630

The Care Commission publication: "How to use the Care Commission Complaints Procedure" is also available. You will find a copy of this displayed on our Nursery Notice Board.

Useful Websites

www.bumps2bairns.com

www.highlandliteracy.com

www.education.gov.scot/parentzone

