

# Welcome to Nursery at Whittingham C of E Primary School



We welcome you and your child to Nursery and look forward to being part of their learning journey.

We are very proud of our School Brochure which has been updated and you will have been given a copy. This brochure is designed to give you some specific information about what happens in Nursery at Whittingham Primary School and how we can work together to make your child's Nursery experience a happy one. We work in an Early Years Unit. This means that children who are Nursery and Reception age play and learn in the same environment. There may be times when they work together or are in groups working with an adult or playing independently with other 3 year olds. We maintain high staff to pupil ratios of at least 1-13 pupils. Generally we have 1 adult to 5 pupils enabling us to offer outstanding experiences for all children.

#### **Nursery Staff:**

**Belinda Athey —Headteacher and Early Years lead**

**Miss Toni Dick - Early Years class teacher**

**Cheryl Chisholm– HLTA Teaching Assistant**

**Teaching Assistant Mrs Susan Dodds (QTS)**

**Sylvia Weatherburn– Classroom Assistant/ Lunchtime Supervisor.**

Nursery children are very much a part of the school family at Whittingham. When they begin school each child is integrated into the family system we have throughout school– Aidan, Cuthbert and Bartholomew. Nursery children are also invited to join whole school events such as Harvest Festival, Christmas Performance, Class Assemblies and Fundraising events.

We welcome parents and families to join us and work together to make school a positive and happy experience. There is always a member of staff on hand to talk to you at the start and end of the nursery session. We also welcome you to join our Stay and Play sessions every half term.

#### **Admissions**

We admit children to Nursery every term.

Admission to Nursery is the term following your child's 3rd birthday.

For Autumn Term Admissions the child needs to be 3 years old by 31st August.

For the Spring Term Admissions the child needs to be 3 years old by 31st December.

For the Summer Term Admissions the child needs to be 3 years old by 31st March.

We offer 15 hours free entitlement to all pupils. This is organised into 5 mornings 9 a.m. until 12p.m.

If you feel your child is unable to take up a 5 morning place we may be offer a part time place of 9 hours Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In the case of our nursery being full preference will be given to children who take a 5 morning place.

We also offer 30 hour places if your child is eligible 9.00-3.15 p.m.

### Rising Three Year Old Provision

Due to changes in Ofsted Requirements if places are available we are able to provide provision for 'Rising Threes'. This would mean that if you felt that your child was ready your child could start Nursery at the beginning of the term **in which** they turn 3 years old. There are limited places for this option as staffing ratios need to be 1 adult to every 4 children.

If you feel that this would be a suitable option please do not hesitate to contact us.

We will contact you to offer you a Nursery place during the term *before* your child is due to start.

We will arrange to make a home visit and then we will invite you and your child to attend a Nursery taster session the following week.

You will be offered 5 mornings if places are available. The number of children admitted as Rising Three's is reviewed every term and places are allocated once the Nursery 3 year olds have been admitted.

### 30HoursFreeNurseryEntitlement

We are pleased to be one of the schools who are able to offer Northumberland County Council's Pilot for 30 hours entitlement. Our school day for 30 hours provision runs 9.00 - 3.15

Please contact school for further details.

### Community Powers

In addition to our School Nursery which runs every morning. We have been granted Community Powers. This means that in addition to the morning Nursery we can offer additional 3 hour sessions each afternoon. School staff are employed to plan and deliver these sessions providing continuity for children and families. This also means that if your child attends the morning school nursery session they will be collected by our staff after lunch and will begin their session straight away.

The sessions run each day 12p.m. -3.15 p.m. Sessions can be pre-booked. (Please see school office for further details.) Please note these sessions are an optional extra to our morning nursery and cannot be used as part of the free nursery entitlement.

### Early Years Curriculum

We look carefully at individual children as learners when planning our curriculum in Nursery and the curriculum is planned around specific areas so that the children can access learning through many different experiences thus allowing them to develop in all areas whilst being stretched and challenged.

There are seven areas of learning within the Foundation Stage:

**PRIME areas.**

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**

**Communication and Language Development**

**Physical Development.**

**Mathematics.**

**SPECIFIC areas**

**Literacy.**

**Expressive Arts and Design.**

**Understanding of the World.**

A typical session in Nursery. Although we plan according to a timetable as we are keen to reflect on characteristics of effective learning for the children and encourage creative thinking and active learning we may not follow it exactly but this gives you a guide on what generally happens throughout the morning.

### **Nursery Session 9am –Welcome Activities**

**Children hang up their coat and put their bag in their drawer. They will self register and choose an activity.**

**9.20– Welcome and carpet time.**

**9.35– Activities There will be a variety of Indoor/Outdoor activities reflecting the different areas of learning throughout the week.**

**10.15 Snack/Outdoor learning.**

**10.45— 11.15 Activities/Story/Sharing time.**

**12.00-Home time. ( Nursery 15 hour entitlement children). Children who stay with us for an afternoon session go home at 3.15 p.m. and the afternoon is organised into lunchtime break/ indoor and outdoor learning activities.**

### **School Uniform**

We are proud of the inclusive nature of our school and therefore children in Nursery wear a school uniform.

School uniform is burgundy with gold trim jumper or cardigan with Whittingham logo, grey trousers or skirt and black shoes. Please see our main school brochure and school website for further details.

We encourage the children to be active and offer a variety of forms of Physical Development. In addition to this we may offer a more formal PE session where the children change for PE. Each child needs a PE kit consisting of a yellow Whittingham T-shirt and burgandy shorts and trainers. This kit needs to be named and kept in a drawstring bag that can be left in school.

Uniform and burgundy book bags can be ordered through Emblematic. There is a link on our school website.

Book bags are useful for library and reading books as well as for paintings and letters that will be coming home. We look forward to having your child in our Nursery Class.

We want your child to be happy and we work as team with you to ensure they are progressing and enjoying their school experience. For any further questions or queries or to arrange an appointment to look around school please ring 01665574222.