



## A Great Start to the Nursery Year

We are really pleased with how all of the children have settled in over the first half in nursery and would like to thank all of the families for their support over this time.

For our new families, we like to keep you updated with information in the way of a newsletter. These newsletters are also posted on to our website.

## Half Term Holiday

**School will close on Friday 19th October and re-open on Monday 29th October.** We hope you have a lovely week off.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

In Nursery we follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. It includes welfare requirements that support us in keeping your child safe and also sets out 7 areas of learning and development that help us to plan activities and experiences.

The website– [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk) has a wealth of information about the Early Years including 'What to expect, when' and 'A Parents guide to the EYFS'. Both of these publications are well worth looking at and are available to borrow from the Cloakroom area.

## Keeping Our Children Safe

Our nursery is committed to ensuring that all children are safe and kept from harm – this is called Safeguarding. Safeguarding children is the responsibility of everyone, however we have particular people who are Designated Safeguarding Leads in our nursery.

Our Safeguarding Leads are **Natalie Parkinson**, the Headteacher, and **Lindsey Johnson**, the Assistant Headteacher. We also have a Governor who supports us in this role called Jane Long.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of any child, you are able to speak to them at any time.

We have recently updated our Child Protection Policy and a copy is available on our website.

## School Fund



In order to provide daily snacks for children and to assist with the cost of play dough and baking ingredients we ask for a weekly contribution of **£1**.

This can be brought to nursery on your child's first session of the week and handed to their key person.

Can we apologise if our new parents did not receive this information during their child's visit sessions.

## School Calendar

Please find attached a copy of our school calendar with the dates of school holidays and staff training days highlighted.

It is a statutory requirement for staff to attend a number of professional development days (PD Days) throughout the school year.

Our school will be closed on these days.

## Names in belongings

Please could you ensure that your child's name is written inside their clothes, especially in jumpers and cardigans. As you can appreciate it can be very difficult to locate a lost item of clothing if it is not labelled.

## School website and Facebook page



Our nursery has a Facebook page and website with lots of helpful information on. [www.hordennursery.sch.uk](http://www.hordennursery.sch.uk)

Please like and share our Facebook page

## Our School App

Please download our App on to your smartphone. You can keep up to date with news and events and reminders and notifications can be sent to you.

## Children's Clothing

Please can we ask that your child's name is put into all items of their clothing. As you can appreciate it is very busy in nursery and it can be hard to locate an item of clothing without a name.

## Children in nappies/toilet training

If your child wears a nappy to nursery, please could you bring some nappies, wipes and cream in a bag labelled with their name. Although we have a small number of spares, these do get used quite quickly.

If your child is just beginning to be toilet trained, please let the key person know so we can support you. It would be helpful if you could send in some spare pants, socks and clothes.

Please do not worry if they have a number of accidents at nursery, there are lots of lovely, distracting things to do and children can sometimes wait a little too long before going to the toilet.

If your child has borrowed nursery clothes, please could you wash and return them.

### Our Governing Body

Our nursery has a Governing body who support the Head teacher and staff in managing and developing our school. This group is made up of members of the local community, parents, staff and representatives from the Local Authority. The Governors visit our school and you may see them across this half term.

We currently have some vacancies for Parent Governors and would like to invite any interested family members to speak to Natalie to find out more about the role. Please be aware that any suggestions, questions or comments from parents can be brought to the Governing body through speaking to Natalie the Head teacher or to one of the other Governors.

#### Chair of Governors

Jane Long

#### Vice Chair of Governors

Stuart Gibson

### Packed Lunches

We have recently updated our Packed Lunch policy which has been written using guidelines from Durham County Council. If your child attends across a lunchtime you should have received a copy of this policy. It can also be viewed on our website. If you would like any further information around packed lunches, please speak to a member of staff.

### Children's Absences

We realise that there have been many bugs and viruses going around and at times when children are poorly it is sometimes better that they remain at home.

Although this is the case our Attendance figures are poor at the moment, with many children missing a number of days each week. We actively promote good attendance, ready for when children begin statutory education and hope that you will support us with this.

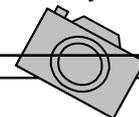
Please let us know as soon as possible if your child is poorly on 0191 5865415. If the school does not receive a phone call, the secretary will ring to make sure everything is ok.

### Extended Services Agreement

As you are aware, we are able to offer extended services such as breakfast club, lunch club and extra morning or afternoon sessions.

We are in the process of sending out information to parents about these services, including changes that we have had to make.

Please speak to Natalie or Christine if you have any questions regarding this.



### School Photographer

Our school photographer, will be in school on **Thursday 15th November** to take individual photographs of children. Proofs will then be given to parents along with ordering details.

Please speak to your child's key person if you do not want your child to have their photograph taken, or if you would like your child to be photographed with a younger sibling.

### Parents Meetings

We would like to invite parents to meet with their child's key person to talk about how they have settled into nursery and the interests they have demonstrated.

Please find the dates below for your child's key group-

**Tuesday 6th Nov- Purple Group Meetings**

**Wednesday 7th Nov – Blue Group Meetings**

**Thursday 8th Nov – Green Group Meetings**

**Monday 19th November - 2 Year Old Meetings**

Please look out for the time sheet on your child's key room and sign up for a slot.

If parents are unable to attend and would like to organise an alternative time to speak to their child's key person, please mention it to a member of staff who will be happy to help.

### Durham County Council Parent Declaration Form

We will be sending out a form shortly which will need to be completed and returned to nursery. Please can we ask that in a two parent family, details and signatures for both parents are provided.

### Admission to Primary School

You are now able to apply for a place for children entering Primary School in September 2018. Please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) to complete an online admission.

### Children Being Picked Up

If your child needs to be picked up by someone different to usual, please ensure that you ring the school and let them know. This person will need to know the password that you provided on the admission form.

### Macmillan Coffee Morning and Afternoon



We would like to thank all of our families who supported our Macmillan Coffee Day. We raised a fantastic total of £270.00 for this very worthwhile charity.