

Welcome to **Nursery** at Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School



Starting Nursery at Whitley Park

Applying for a nursery place

We warmly welcome children into our Nursery the term after their third birthday.

Every child is entitled to 15 hours of nursery entitlement each week and we offer flexible sessions over either:

- ✓ X5 morning sessions- 8:45-11:45am
- ✓ X5 afternoon sessions 12:30-3:30pm
- ✓ X2.5-day sessions-Monday all day, Tuesday all day and Wednesday morning.
- ✓ X2.5-day sessions- Wednesday afternoon, Thursday all day and Friday all day.
- ✓ We also offer a number of x30 hour places for children eligible to the 30-hour funding (Monday all day, Tuesday all day, Wednesday morning, Thursday all day and Friday all day).

Parents and carers are welcome to register their child on our waiting list after the child's 2nd birthday.

You may indicate which session you would prefer your child to attend and we will endeavour to meet your request subject to the number of places available. Please contact the school office on **0118 9375566** to request to register your child or download a registration form from our website and email to clericalofficer@whitleypark.reading.sch.uk

Visits to our nursery are encouraged and appointments can be made by contacting the school office and asking to speak to Mrs Holland (Assistant Head and Early Years)

The maximum number of places available in our Nursery is 120.
(x 60 children in the morning and x 60 children in the afternoon)

The Nursery team includes an experienced, qualified teacher and a team of early years practitioners (EYP's / keyworkers) and Teaching Assistants.

A place in our Nursery does not automatically give priority to a place in our Primary School, and all nursery leavers will need to apply for a Primary School place through the local authority provider; 'Brighter Futures for Children'. Nursery will give out admissions forms on behalf of Brighter Futures for Children when we receive them annually in the Autumn term. The closing date for applications is usually mid-January. Late applications have to be dealt with through the Local Authority.

The nursery staff will offer help and advice with the admissions process or with help to fill out the application form.

Once your child has been allocated a place at our nursery we will contact you to offer some stay and play sessions prior to your child starting with us. Your child will then be offered some short visits with you before starting nursery independently to become familiar with our nursery setting. During these visits you will meet your child's teacher and Keyworker who will build close relationships with you to gather and share the necessary information needed to ensure a smooth transition for your child starting at our nursery.

Nursery Organisation

The nursery employs a qualified teacher who teaches and manages a team of experienced and passionate Early Years Practitioners (EYP's) and teaching assistants

Our bright and spacious nursery is divided into 'learning zones' to ensure that all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum are fostered and planned for in our indoor and outdoor learning environment.

We recognise and believe that the Three Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning are:

To play and explore - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'



To be engaged in active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

To be creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.



The Nursery Curriculum

We know that children need to build warm, positive relationships with us and to be settled in familiar routines to help them to grow confidence and a passion to learn, develop and to thrive in our setting. We prioritise our children's well-being, involvement and communication skills at nursery to ensure that they are happy and motivated to learn and that we prepare them well for the Reception class and future learning.

Our staff place great emphasis on getting to know all children really well when they start with us and throughout their time in the nursery so that we can provide exciting and challenging experiences to help children reach their full potential. We use observation checkpoints throughout the year to inform our 'next steps' in planning a broad and balanced EYFS curriculum which meets the needs of every child

Children attending our nursery will experience a range of activities set up in the different zones of the nursery to include all areas of the curriculum. Staff will introduce new learning, often in the form of a 'Learning basket' Our Learning Baskets are carefully planned, resourced and modelled by the teacher/keyworker to encourage children's curiosity and interest. Using the baskets, adults will teach new knowledge, vocabulary and skills appropriate to ensure good progress in the Prime and Specific areas of learning outlined in the Statutory framework for the EYFS (Effective from Sep'21) which shape our educational programmes in the nursery. There are 17 Early Learning Goals which children are assessed against at the end of the Foundation stage (The end of the Reception Year) The curriculum is divided into:

Three Prime Areas of Learning;

Communication and Language:

- ✓ Listening, Attention and Understanding
- ✓ Speaking

Personal and Social and Emotional Development

- ✓ Self-regulation
- ✓ Managing self
- ✓ Building relationships

Physical Development

- ✓ Gross Motor skills
- ✓ Fine motor skills

and into the

Four Specific Areas of Learning;

Literacy:

- ✓ Comprehension
- ✓ Word reading (nursery will focus on the pre-requisite skills of word reading and writing)
- ✓ Writing

Mathematics

- ✓ Number
- ✓ Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

- ✓ Past and Present
- ✓ People, Culture and Communities
- ✓ The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design

- ✓ Creating with Materials
- ✓ Being imaginative and Expressive

Our nursery staff seek to provide a strong foundation for children's development and place greater emphasis on the three prime areas of learning. The specific areas of learning provide our children with a broader curriculum with opportunities to strengthen and apply the prime areas of learning. This is particularly important in developing language and extending vocabulary.

Please refer to the planning section on the website for further detail.

We strongly believe that learning through play is vital to the growth and development of the whole child. We also believe in developing children's own interests and ensuring that our children are given time to explore the continuous provision both inside and outside. Adults will play alongside children and will engage in back and forth conversations with them, to interact and to support them to develop their characteristics for effective learning. Adults will scaffold learning and will intervene with "planning in the moment"

enhancements, challenges and next steps to ensure that children make good progress in their learning and development.

We place great emphasis on the development of children's spoken language and ensure that we promote and provide a language rich provision that underpins all our planning for the seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions with us and their peers form the foundations for language and cognitive development. We know that the number and quality of the conversations they have throughout the nursery session is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, we will build children's language effectively.



The Nursery provision has been carefully designed to ensure coverage and sequence of Knowledge and skills across the seven areas of learning. We choose a different well-known story each term as a starting point to engage interest, curiosity and motivation for children to learn about the world around them. We endeavour to provide our children with memorable experiences and rich opportunities to build knowledge, vocabulary and early skills.

We seek to utilise every opportunity to help expand and embed new vocabulary and language through reading, playing and learning together and by planning lots of imaginative play and small group activities to promote communication and language





Concerns with your child's development?

If you or the nursery staff have any concerns, regarding your child's speech or communication skills, we will support and signpost you to make a Speech and Language referral to the Speech Therapy service. We will then be able to work together to put any suggested Speech and Language therapy targets in place to help your child to communicate more effectively. We also employ a Speech and Language therapist at school who will be able to support the team to deliver appropriate strategies to help all children.

If you have any other concerns regarding your child's development, please arrange an appointment with your Health visitor or GP and speak to your child's teacher so that we can arrange a meeting with our school's SENCO; Dr Lynch to ensure that we can signpost you to relevant services and provide any additional support needed.

It is important that we seek early intervention to get the right support for your child

If you are unsure about what to expect when in terms of your child's learning and development, our nursery staff are always on hand to guide you.

Information Sharing and Celebrations



All children attending Nursery and Reception at Whitley Park Primary will have a personal online Learning Journal which records photos, videos, observations and comments in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This enables staff to build up a record to help assess your child's progress and their learning and achievements during their time with us. It will also allow us to communicate effectively with you and will allow you to provide us

with any special achievements, family customs and traditions or celebrations your child experiences.

We invite parents into nursery each term for a coffee morning/afternoon session to celebrate learning and to share any upcoming events, celebrations and information.



We also enjoy inviting parents/carers into nursery to join us for various celebrations such as "The Nursery Nativity" and to help us to celebrate other events. We welcome parental support in helping us to fundraise for other events such as "The Big Toddle" "Children in Need" and "Comic Relief" We also invite parents and welcome their support to help us to keep children safe when going out on visits or walks around the local community.



[Further Information](#)

[Clothing](#)

Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for nursery. They are likely to get messy, so save 'special' clothes for at home. Children will learn to be independent with their personal care, so please be mindful when dressing your child and make sure they are able to manage fastenings or layers when using the toilet. Please name clothing, especially coats, cardigans and jumpers!

Please provide your child with a bag of spare clothes

[Snack time](#)

All nursery children are entitled to a healthy daily snack of fruit and milk. Please encourage your child to have snack with us and to encourage them to say please and thank you. We place great importance on promoting healthy eating and good hygiene practices including handwashing, sanitising and promoting good oral health.

[Lunchtime](#)

If your child stays with us for lunch and you are providing a packed lunch for your them, please ensure that it is healthy and does **not contain any nuts, sweets or fizzy drinks**. Hot dinners can be ordered via parent pay.

[Borrowing books and reading stories](#)

One of the most important things you can do, as a parent is to read to your child as often as possible. This will help to establish a love of books and will support and motivate children to want to become readers themselves. It will also help to build children's knowledge of the world around them and will develop their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Children in the nursery can borrow a book to share with you at home as often as they like. Please try to find time to read this to your child over and over and please return regularly so that they can choose a new book from us.

Reading regularly to your child for enjoyment, to learn new vocabulary and to 'find out' new information really will make a difference to their learning and development.

Each term your child will also be learning new nursery rhymes which we encourage you to practise these at home too.

[Hints and tips for encouraging your child to develop a passion for reading](#)

Advice from The Book Trust, demonstrates reading books with children is a great way to spend family time. Research shows that exploring books will have vital benefits for children, and it's also the best way to develop children's vocabulary and imagination

We understand that not everyone feels comfortable about reading aloud or sharing stories. Take a look at the link below; The Book Trust have put together some helpful hints for parents and carers.

Here you'll find advice about reading as a family, including video examples of enjoying books with children and a guide to what makes a good storyteller. You can also find top tips for engaging reluctant readers and encouraging older children to read;

[Reading stories](#)



There are Whitley Park Bedtime stories on YouTube too!

We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Whitley Park Nursery

