

Welcome to Walsgrave Church of England Academy Nursery




 Inspire Education Trust
 Together we achieve, individually we grow

twinkl.co.uk

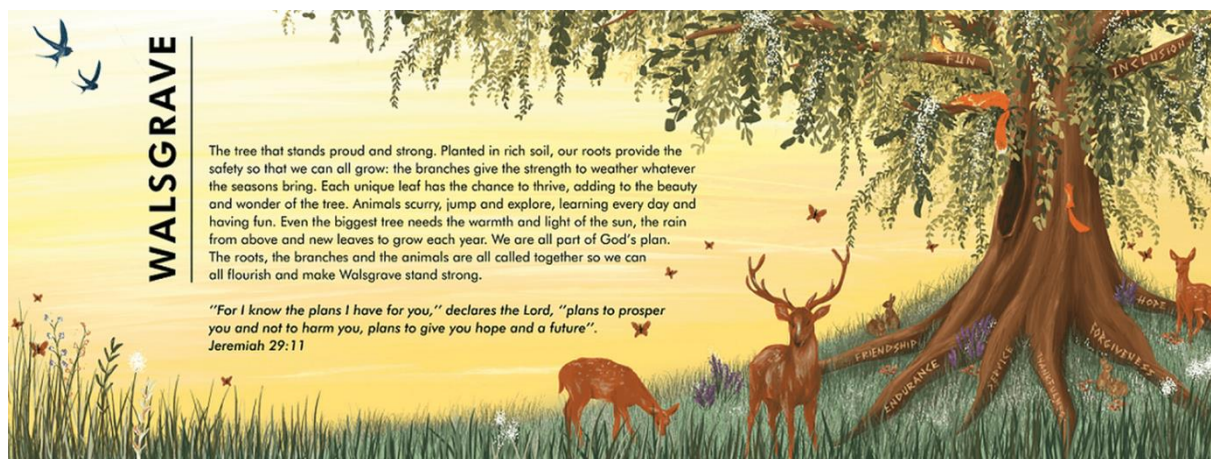


Welcome to Walsgrave Church of England Academy. We are so excited that you are going to be starting Nursery in September and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Nursery is the most wonderful adventure where you will play and learn new skills every day. By the end of the year, you will be able to do so many amazing things. You will have explored the world around and most importantly had the most amazing fun!

This book is to help you understand what being in Nursery will be like. It is written to you (with a few bits of extra information for your grown-ups). We hope you enjoy looking at the pictures and that this helps you to get as excited about school as we all are!

Walsgrave is a very special place.

This is our school vision. It is all about how we want everyone to achieve their full potential while they are with us. We are all part of God's plan.



Together We Thrive

These are the names of some of the teachers who help make sure that everything at school is as brilliant as it can possible be.

CEO of Inspire	-	Mrs L Whitehouse
Head of Primary	-	Mr R Darling
Headteacher	-	Mr S Sowerby
Deputy Headteacher	-	Mr M Woods
Assistant Headteacher	-	Miss A Ginger
Foundation Stage Leader	-	Mrs S Ashworth

These are the grown-ups who will be helping you in
Nursery



Mrs Warde

Nursery Teacher

Miss Dawson

Nursery Nurse

Mrs Ashworth

Nursery Teacher

EYFS Phase Leader

How will we get to know you?

Home Visit

We will arrange a time with your grown-ups when we can come and visit you at home before you start Nursery. You can show us your favourite toys and tell us about what you like to do.

When we come to visit you we will ask you and your grown-up some questions that will help us find out lots of information about you.

At the moment we might have to just come for a quick chat on your doorstep or in your garden. Everything is still a little bit different for all of us at the moment.

First Day

On your first day at Nursery, you will come with your grown up for a short session. You will be able to meet some new friends and explore Nursery together. You will carry on doing shorter sessions for a few days and when you are happy and settled your grown-up will say goodbye and you can stay by yourself for the whole session. Don't worry though your grown-up always come back at the end of Nursery for big cuddles and to find out all that you have been doing up to!

We will send a letter to your grown-ups with the date of your home visit and details about your stay and play sessions before the summer holidays.

Following the initial session if your child is ready, happy and settled you may leave them on their own from the second day. However, if your child is unhappy, please feel free to stay with your child and use the Nursery activities to help him/her to settle.

The first few weeks can be tiring and bewildering even if your child is used to playgroup or a childminder.

DON'T WORRY if your child becomes upset, we are used to dealing with this situation. Children usually stop crying quickly and we will always aim to phone you to reassure you later in the session.

What do I wear to Nursery?

We love to see all of the children in Nursery looking super smart in their school uniform.

School Uniform

Girls:

- Green Sweatshirt
- Green Cardigan
- White Polo Shirt
- Grey skirt / pinafore / trousers / leggings
- Green or Yellow Summer dresses - check or stripe
- Black sensible shoes

Boys:

- Green Sweatshirt
- White Polo Shirt
- Grey trousers / shorts / jogging bottoms
- Black sensible shoes



School Uniform (sweatshirts, cardigans in green with school logo on) can be purchased directly from Cat Balou, 1-3 The Burges, Coventry. CV1 1HN.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of naming everything. It is far easier to locate a missing jumper in the classroom if it is named! Also remember to put a name label in shoes and wellies as many children often have similar ones



What do I need to bring with me?

Lots of the fun activities you will be able to explore are very messy. We do have aprons for you to wear but it's sometimes hard to stay clean when you are having fun. Please can you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in

which included a change of underwear and socks, a top, some bottoms and a jumper or cardigan. These can be your home clothes not school uniform.

Please can you bring your bag to Nursery every day, you will be able to hang it up on your peg just in case we need it.

We play outside in the outdoor area every day. In winter you will need to wear a coat, gloves and a woolly hat.

In the summer you will need to wear a sun hat and clothes that keep your neck and shoulders covered.

What shoes should I wear?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Nursery. To help you do this we would love you to have a pair of shoes that you can put on and off and do up yourself.

We would also like you to have a named pair of wellington boots that you can leave at Nursery and wear every day when we play and explore outside. We go outside everyday even when it is raining and if you don't have wellies at school, you will not be able to jump in puddles!



What should I leave at home?

You don't need to bring any of your own toys to Nursery. We have plenty of fun things to play with here and we don't want your toys to get accidentally lost or broken.

We encourage children not to wear jewellery to Nursery but understand that this may not be possible for all for faith-based reasons.



Where will I put my things?

You will have your own peg in Nursery, this will be your space to hang your bag and coat. You will know which peg is yours because you will be able to find your picture. At Nursery we are very sneaky, and your picture will be in a different place every day!

What will help me be independent in Nursery?

We want you to be as independent as you can in Nursery as you are becoming so grown up. One of the things that will help with this is if you can go to the toilet and wash your hands yourself. We have our own toilets in Nursery, so you won't have far to go.

If you do have a little accident, please do not worry just make sure you bring a named bag with some spare clothes in, and we can help you get changed.



How will I learn by playing?



You are going to be very busy at Nursery and you will spend a lot of your time playing. That is because playing is one of the best ways you can learn! Playing helps you to develop your talking, to manage and understand how you are feeling and to help you make new friends. You will be able to practise new ideas and skills, to take risks, show imagination and solve problems. At Nursery you will get the chance to play inside and outside.



Everything in Nursery is carefully planned and structured to help your child's development. This is undertaken through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised to take care of and develop the whole child and not just their academic learning. The curriculum is split into seven areas of learning. The prime areas begin to

The Prime areas of learning			
Communication and Language	Physical Development	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
Specific areas of learning			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world	Expressive arts and design

develop quickly in response to relationships and experiences and run through and support learning in all other areas. In addition, there are four specific areas of learning. The specific areas include essential skills and knowledge. They grow out of the prime areas and provide important contexts for learning.

There are lots of changes happening from September 2021 to the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We will always keep you informed of any changes that we make in Nursery in the ways in which we support your child to make progress.

Will I start to learn to read and write?

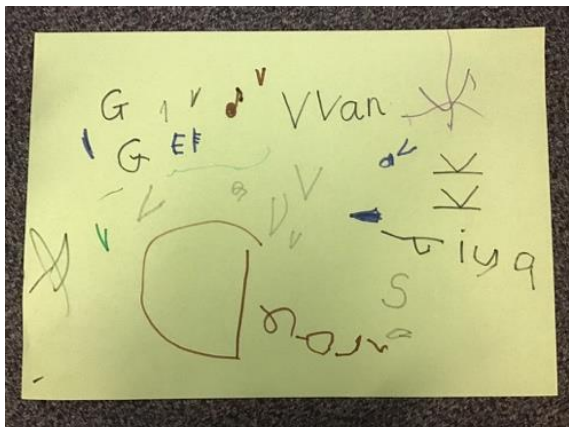


Phonics

In Nursery we are always learning and using lots of new and interesting words and listening to the sounds and rhymes in them. In the Spring Term, we will start to learn some of the letter sounds and how to form the letters. To do this we use a phonics and reading scheme called Read, Write Inc which is packed full of rhymes, movement and sound games.

Recognising and writing my name

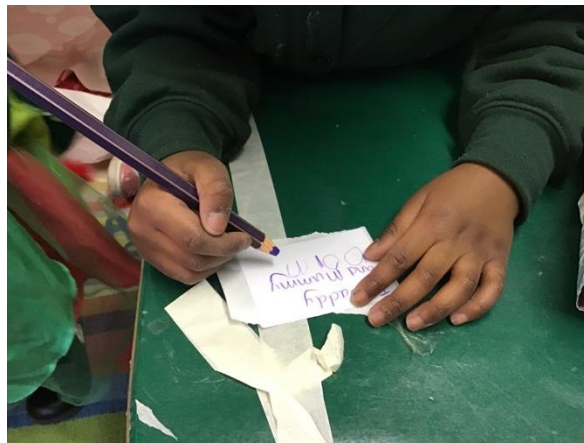
Every time you come in to Nursery you will have to find your name card. You will then stick this up on our registration board - this lets us know who is in Nursery. From January we will start putting big pieces of paper out along side your name cards. This is so you can practise writing your name as well as recognising it This can be quite tricky at first - this is why we will practise it everyday.



When you are helping your child to write their name at home please encourage them to use a capital letter for the first letter of their name and to write the remaining letters in lower case.

Writing and Mark Making

You will have lots of opportunities to develop your writing skills in Nursery. Using a variety of writing equipment, you will be able to make marks and symbols and tell us what they say.



What is Carpet Time?

In Nursery we have carpet time every day. During carpet time we do lots of fun things such as reading a story, singing Nursery Rhymes to learning about our topic. During the first few weeks, carpet time will be very short. As you get more and more grown-up, we will start to make carpet time a little bit longer. This will help you get ready for when you start Reception.



In Nursery we have a special mat which has a space for everyone sit on. You might sit on a picture of a butterfly or a ladybird. When you sit on the mat you will try to sit on your bottom, with your legs crossed and your hands in your lap. Maybe you can practise that at home before your start Nursery.

What will I do at Nursery?

We will play inside and outside at Nursery every day. There are so many fun activities for you to explore. Here are a few ...

Inside

Small world toys



Painting and making



Fun with numbers and shapes



Making models



Water play



Imaginative play



Playdough



Cooking



Building and constructing



Outside

Mud kitchen



Fun on the field



Planting and growing



Bike and scooter fun



Moving and balancing



Working together



Sand play



Clean and messy fun!



Music and dance



Learning about the world around us



Nursery Allotment



We are so lucky in Nursery. We have our very own allotment that we use to grow all sorts of delicious vegetables. You will be able to help us dig up potatoes, onions and even pumpkins!

How will my grown-ups know about all the fun I have been having in Nursery?



The adults in Nursery will record the amazing learning you do on an online Learning Journal called Tapestry. Your grown-ups will be given a secure log in which will enable them to access Tapestry and see all the fun you have had in Nursery. Your parents will also be able to add their own photos or comments about the adventures and achievements you have outside school, we can't wait to see them.

Staff observe each child at play because it helps us to understand and support their individual wellbeing and development. We really get to know the children as unique people with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your special child, the better we can support them in the way that is right for them. We hope that we can work together to build this Learning Journal as a record of your child's Early Years. Once you have completed your Tapestry Online User Agreement you will be emailed with a log on. You will then be able to access your child's learning journal whenever you would like to. Separate accounts can also be created for grandparents or parents living away from home or overseas.

We strongly encourage you to contribute and look through your child's Journal on a regular basis. We also encourage you to talk with your child about their Learning Journal and feel free to add special events or other things of significance for your child.

If you have any questions about Tapestry or need any support accessing your account, please speak to a member of the Nursery team.

Do we do any special events in Nursery?

We love having visitors in Nursery and joining in events and celebrations.

If your grown up has a special skill such as cooking, dancing, playing an instrument, or a does a job that could help teach us about our world and community, we would love them to come in and share it with us.

Here is an example of some of the special events we have had in Nursery:

Dressing up for World Book day



A visit by the Nurse



Christmas fun with Jolly Jester Jingles



Reptile party



Will my grown-ups be able to come and share some fun with me in Nursery?

Stay and Play

We love it when your grown-ups come into Nursery, and we invite them in lots to look at all of the amazing things you have been up to and to share some special fun.

Nursery News



Every week we send out a Nursery newsletter. This lets your grown-ups know everything that you have been doing in Nursery. Look out for some useful reminders and important dates - we put everything that you all need to know on here. We send out a paper copy and also put a copy on tapestry.

As you can imagine it has been particularly difficult the past 2 years to invite you into Nursery with your children and to hold special events. We are hopeful that as the Covid-19 restrictions continue to lift that this is something we will be able to do again. We will be carefully following Government guidelines as well as following advice from Coventry Local Authority on what we can and cannot do.

What happens if I am poorly?

You will probably get a cold at some point when you are in Nursery, and we are happy to have you here on those days. We always have a big box of tissues ready to wipe noses, but if you are really poorly, we ask that you stay at home until you feel better.

If you become poorly whilst at Nursery, we will contact your grownups and arrange for them to come and collect you.

INFECTION

PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO NURSERY IF THEY HAVE:

1. **COVID-19** - *If your child develops a temperature, a new continuous cough and any changes to their taste or smell you MUST keep them home and get a full PCR Covid test. You will need to show the school the negative test result before coming back to Nursery.*

2. **Sickness** - *Please keep your child at home for at least 48 hours following their final episode of sickness.*

3. **Diarrhoea** - *Please keep your child at home for at least 48 hours following their final episode of diarrhoea.*

4. **A high temperature**

5. **Infectious illness** eg chicken-pox, mumps, German measles etc

6. **Untreated Headlice**

If you child is absent for any reason, please contact the school by phone or by email - admin@walsgrave.coventry.sch.uk

It is important that we can always contact parents in cases of emergency.

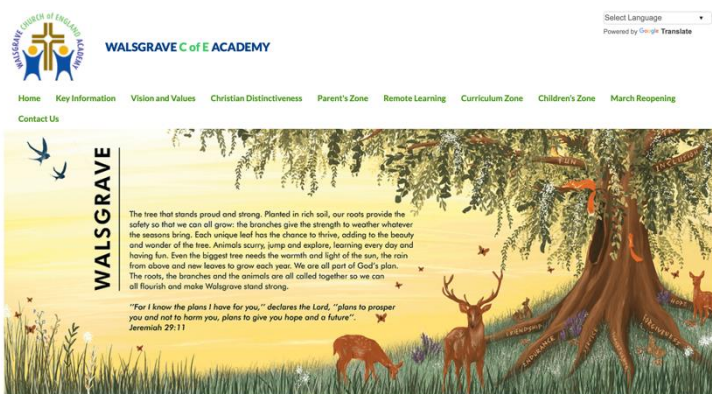
Please inform school immediately if your telephone number changes.

Parents/Carers the last few pages are just for you.

September Starting Arrangements

Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th
INSET	Home Visit catch up	Stay and Play sessions in small groups	Stay and Play sessions in small groups	Stay and Play sessions in small groups
Monday 13th	Tuesday 14th	Wednesday 15th	Thursday 16th	Friday 17th
1-hour sessions 1. 8:30-9:30 2. 10:00-11:00 3. 12:30-1:30 4. 2:00-3:00 Children staying on their own	2-hour session 1. 8:30-10:30 2. 12:30-2:30 Children staying on their own	Full Nursery sessions		

This is what we currently have planned for September. Providing that the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 Pandemic continue to stay under control there is no reason why these should change. We will continue to follow the Government and Coventry Local Authority advice on what we can and cannot do. As a school we will send out regular correspondence which will detail what you will need to do to comply with any guidance that we receive.



Our School Website

We will be posting lots of videos and pictures on our school website for you to watch and look at with your children. These are all to help support you talking to your child about starting Nursery

as well as introducing them to the Nursery team. You will also find the recorded Virtual Meeting from the 23rd June if you were unable to attend this.

Moving on

When the children leave the Nursery Unit they will move to Reception. **Unfortunately, a place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our main school.** Nursery admissions are not based on catchment criteria where Reception is. You can find out what your catchment school is by looking at the Coventry Council website. During the Autumn Term we will send out a booklet from the Local Education Authority. This will give you all the details you need to apply for a place at any school in Coventry. The deadline to apply for a school place is in January. We will send out lots of reminders, so you have the best chance of securing a place for your child at your school of your choice. Around the beginning of April, you will receive an email from Coventry Admissions detailing your child's school place.

What can you do to make sure that your child is ready for Nursery?

There are also lots of other things that you can do to support your child with the transition to Nursery. Here are a few ideas...

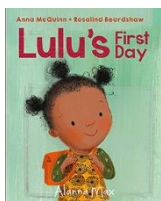
- Talk to them and listen to them
- Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together
- Play games with them - practise taking turns
- Read books to them
- Visit your local library.
- Teach them to take care of books - how do you turn pages carefully?
- Count regularly
E.g. How many buttons on this dress?
How many cups on the table?
- Recognise different sizes
E.g. Large/small
Thick/thin
- Talk about shapes and colours.
E.g. Sort and match objects.
- Give your child the opportunity to write and draw and scribble using pens, crayons, felt tips and pencils.
- Practise self-care skills
 - Go to the toilet and wash and dry hands?
 - Put on/take off coats?
 - Put on/take off shoes?
 - Hold and use scissors?

There are some fantastic books and resources that you can use with your child to begin talking about starting school.

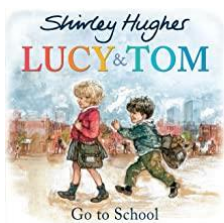


This is a lovely game that can be found on the BBC Bitesize website. You can create your own character and choose what school uniform they are going to wear.

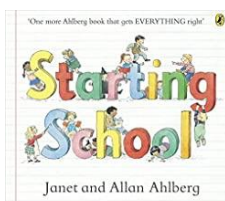
Below are some lovely books that you could use to start talking about starting school.



Lulu's First Day by Anna McQuinn



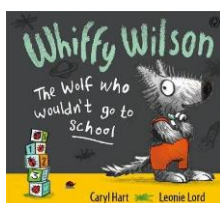
Lucy and Tom go to School by Shirley Hughes



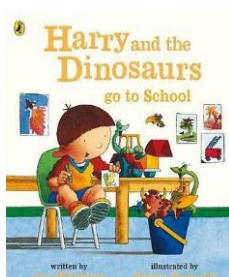
Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg



We are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold



Wiffy Wilson: The Wolf who wouldn't go to School by Caryl Hart



Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School by Ian Whybrow

It is good to talk...

For some of you September cannot come soon enough! For others the thought of your child starting Nursery may make you feel worried and anxious. Whichever camp you may fall into one thing that we ask of you is that you talk to your child about starting school. Let them talk to you about any worries that they may have or what they are looking forward to. Show them that you are excited about the new adventure that they are about to start and use this booklet to talk about what the school day will look like for them.



Thank you for reading our Nursery booklet. We hope it has given you all the information you will need before your child starts. If there is anything else you need to know, please do not hesitate to ask.

We cannot wait to see you all in September!

Mrs Ashworth, Mrs Warde and Miss Dawson