

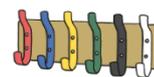
Welcome to Walsgrave Church of England Academy Nursery



Inspire Education Trust
Together we achieve, individually we grow



twinkl.co.uk

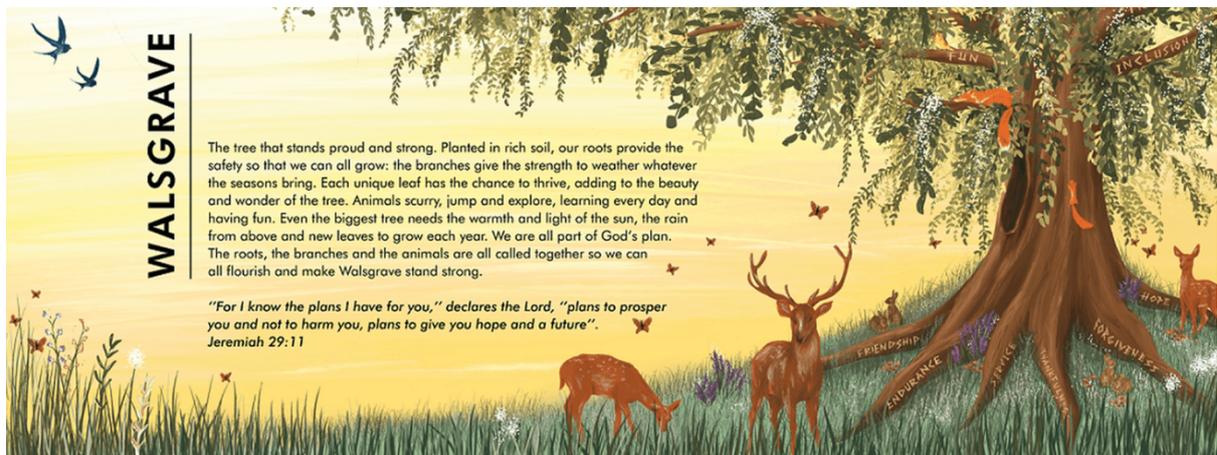


Welcome to Walsgrave Church of England Academy. We are so excited that you are going to be starting Nursery in September and cannot wait to get to know you and to help you make lots of new friends. Being in Nursery is the most wonderful adventure where you will play and learn new skills every day. By 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

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.

Visiting Your New Classroom

Before you start Nursery in September, we will invite you in to meet us and to see your new classroom. There will be lots of toys out that you can play with and lots of new friends that you will get to meet. We will invite your grown-ups in on this day too so they will be able to see your classroom as well.

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.

Home visits will take place during July. We will be in touch with you to arrange a suitable time that we can come and meet you and your child.

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

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



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. Velcro straps are a great choice!

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!

School Uniform (sweatshirts, cardigans in green with school logo on) can be purchased directly from Cat Balou, 1-3 The Burges, Coventry. CV1 1HN. . Cat Balou are selling some uniform at a discount price on line until the 31st July with the code CAT24.

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 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 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.

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!

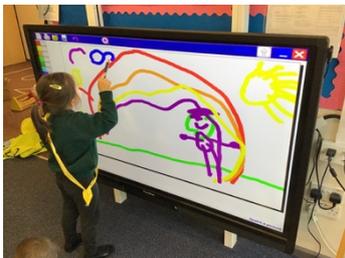
What will help me be independent in Nursery?

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.



Will I start to learn to read and write?

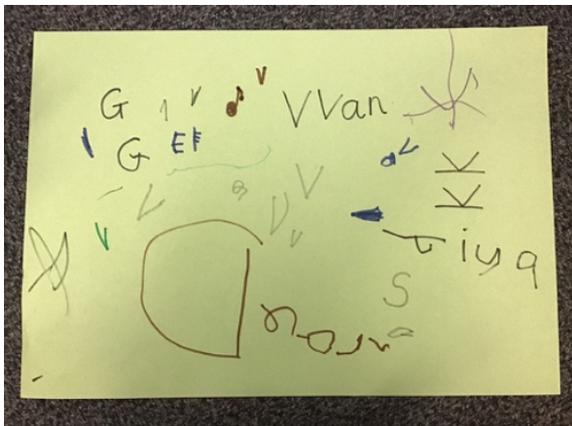


Phonics

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

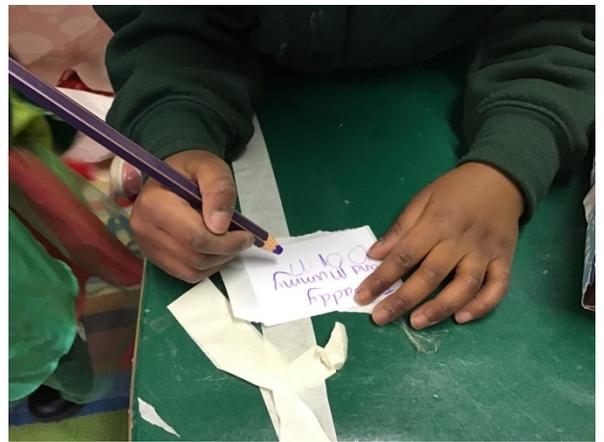
Every time you come in to Nursery you will have to find your name card. You will then stick this up on our registration board – this lets us know who is in Nursery. From January we will start putting big pieces of paper out along side your name cards. This is so you can practise writing your name as 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.



Maths

We will be teaching you lots of maths in Nursery. You will learn about numbers, shapes, how to count and learn how to compare objects by size or length. We will learn lots of songs, play lots of games and even use our big TV board to play maths games.

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



Clean and messy fun!



Sand play



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



Story time with older children



Nursery Pets



We are so lucky in Nursery we have two lovely Nursery Guinea Pigs that we look after. Every year they get new names – I wonder what they will be called? Can you think of some names?



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
Date: 13.03.20

Useful Reminders

Corona Virus
We know that lots of you will be concerned about the spread of the corona virus. In Nursery we are talking about how important it is to wash your hands regularly and as a school we are keeping up-to-date with any new advice and guidance from the Government. Please talk to a member of the Nursery team if you are worried and if you or some one you know has symptoms please follow the NHS guidance.

Lost Property
There is lots of lost property at the moment including lots of hats and gloves. Please check the lost property box in case there is anything belonging to your child in there.

Chicken Pox
There have been a number of cases of chicken pox in Nursery and throughout school this week. If your child is feeling unwell you may want to check for some spots.

What a brilliant week. The children have loved learning the story of The Three Little Pigs. They have been busy building houses out of different materials, looking at shapes in houses and also learning all about windy days. We have made kites and looked at what happens to ribbons that we hold when it is really windy. Mrs Doyle did a fantastic experiment this week where the children had to go at making objects move by blowing through straws. Make sure you check Tapestry to see all the amazing things we have done. It has been a busy week!

Next Week:
We will be very busy creating all sorts of amazing crafts ready to celebrate Mother's Day.

Sound of the week
Our next sound of the week will be 'o'. Here is the little rhyme to help you remember how to write it, 'All the way around the orange.'

Home Learning challenge
This week we have been talking about and making houses. We would love for you to talk to your child about what number house they live at. Maybe you could take a picture of them next to your house number and upload to Tapestry.

Thank you to all the parents and carers that came to Parents Evening and for supporting Sport Relief again this year.

This week in pictures...

Let's go fly a kite...

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 will upload the newsletter to Tapestry each Friday.

What happens if I get hungry and thirsty?



We have fruit, milk and water available all the time throughout the day and you can help yourself. We will ask you not to eat too many bits of fruit or drink too much milk because their needs to be enough for everyone. We often have a special treat for snack too and will sometimes have porridge, toast or biscuits. When it is hot, we even sometimes have ice lollies!

Nursery sessions

We have 3 different sessions at Nursery. Some children just come in the morning, some children just come in the afternoon and some children stay all day. If you stay all day you will stay for lunch at Nursery. You can choose to bring a pack lunch with you, or you can have a school dinner.

You will have a special dinner supervisor who will look after you at lunch time. They will help you to carry your plate, chop up your food and help you with where you go when you are finished.



If you would like your child to have a school dinner, it will cost £2.30 per day. You will be able to choose what your child would like for lunch once we have you all set up on Arbor. Every day you will be able to choose either a vegetarian option, a meat option or a jacket potato.

If your child decided to have a packed lunch you must ensure that there are no nuts. We are a nut free school and have several children with severe allergies.

We know that for lots of children and parents that school dinners can be a source of worry and anxiety. We will support you in any way that we can to ease these worries and will also be there to support your child eating their lunch for the first few weeks that they are at school. Any messages that we get from the dinner staff will be passed on to you so you can have a clear picture of what your child has eaten that day.

Grown-ups, it is so important that you let us know if your child has any food allergies so we can make sure that they are always safe in Nursery.

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. **A high temperature** - If your child develops a temperature please keep them off until their temperature has returned to normal.*
- 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. **Infectious illness** eg chicken-pox, mumps, German measles etc*
- 5. **Untreated Headlice***

If your child is absent from school, please call the school office by 9:00 am Tel: 024 76 612161. Alternatively, if your child is ill, you can use the Study Bugs app which you will have access to from September using the QR code.



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.

The Early Years Curriculum

Our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is organised to take care of and develop the whole child and not just their academic learning. Our EYFS curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning, 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

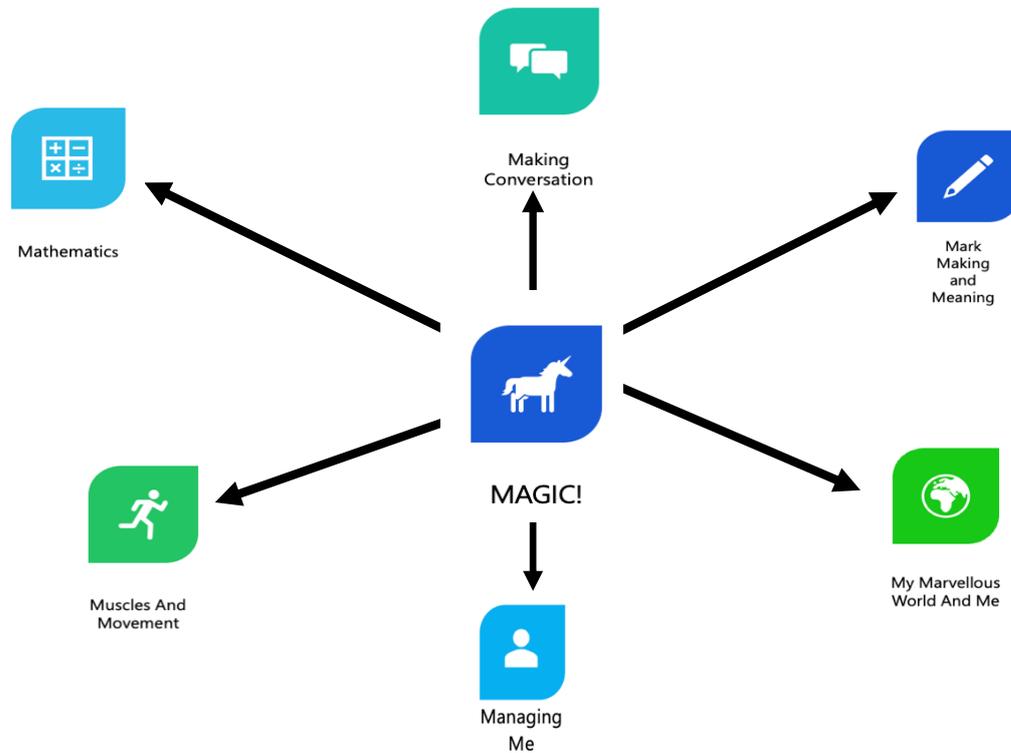
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Our EYFS curriculum also includes the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**. These focus not on what children know but **how** children learn.

- **Playing and Exploring** – our children investigate and experience things and events around them and ‘have a go.’
- **Active Learning** – our children concentrate and keep trying if they experience difficulties, as well as enjoying what they achieve.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – our children have and develop their own ideas, make links between different and experiences and develop strategies for doing things.

The Ms

At Walsgrave this is just the start. We have designed our own bespoke curriculum that encompasses the 7 areas of learning and the characteristics of learning in an engaging and exciting curriculum that we call **The Ms**.



We prioritise **making conversations** and learning to communicate, teaching and supporting children to **manage** themselves and their friendships, **mark making** and understanding the **meaning** of marks, developing secure early **mathematical** skills, exploring the **marvellous world** around them, and giving children the opportunities to use and develop their **muscles and movement**.

Magic is at the heart of all we do, making sure that our children are engaged and excited in all their learning. This does not mean we will be teaching your children card tricks but that we find engaging and exciting ways to introduce topics and themes to your children. This could be anything from building Superhero dens in Nursery to finding a beanstalk has grown in one of the Reception classrooms as part of their learning about Jack and the Beanstalk.

September Starting Arrangements

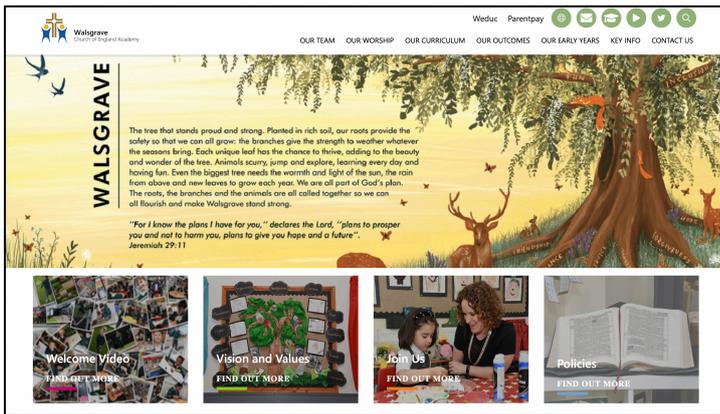
Monday 2nd	Tuesday 3rd	Wednesday 4th	Thursday 5th	Friday 6th
INSET No children in school	INSET No children in school	INSET No children in school	INSET No children in school	INSET No children in school
Monday 9th	Tuesday 10th	Wednesday 11th	Thursday 12th	Friday 13th
Stay and Play sessions in small groups	Stay and Play sessions in small groups	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	3-hour session 1. 8.30 -11.30 2. 12.30 – 3.30 Children staying on their own
Monday 16th	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th	Friday 20th
Children in for their full session. am: 9.30-11.30 pm: 12.30 – 3.30 30hr 8.30 – 2.30 (optional hour added on to finish at 3.30)				

We will be writing to you nearer the time to give you the exact times and session that your child will be in Nursery for and to also invite you all for a stay and play session in your new classrooms.

What if my child needs extra support?

Please do not worry if you think that your child may need extra support either in the transition phase or once they have started Nursery. There are lots of things that we can do to help. We have a fantastic team of teachers and TAs from the Early Years SEND team that support us as well as our own fantastic SENDCO Miss Charles. Our staff have many years of experience of working with children with lots of different needs. Please come and talk to any member of the Nursery team if you have any concerns.

Please tell us if your child is receipt of Disability Allowance Funding (DAF) as we can also claim to get some resources to support your child with their specific area of need.



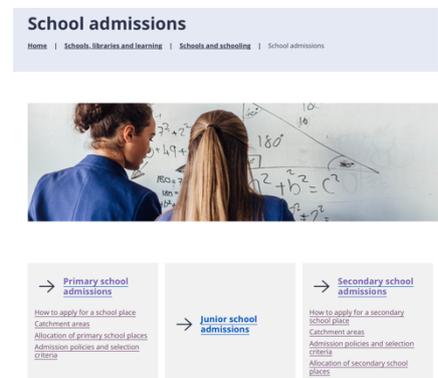
Our School Website

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.

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.

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions>



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...

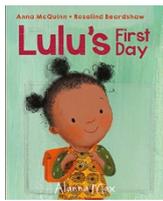
- Talk to them and listen to them
- Sing songs and Nursery rhymes together
- Play games with them – practise taking turns
- Read books to them
- Visit your local library.
- Teach them to take care of books – how do you turn pages carefully?
- Count regularly
E.g. How many buttons on this dress?
How many 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.

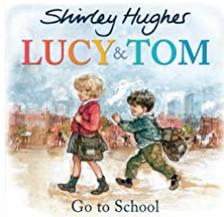


This is a lovely game that can be found on the BBC Bitesize website. You can create your own character and choose what school uniform they are going to wear.

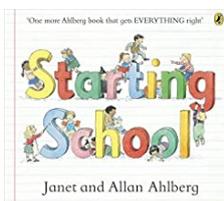
Below are some lovely books that you could use to start talking about starting school.



Lulu's First Day by Anna McQuinn



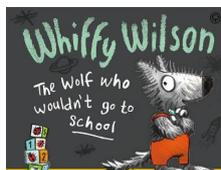
Lucy and Tom go to School by Shirley Hughes



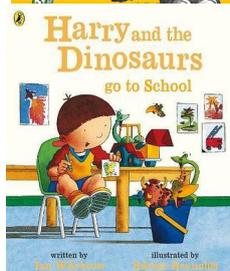
Starting School by Janet and Allan Ahlberg



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!