

Portswood Primary School Nursery Parent Information Booklet

Pride, Passion & Success



September 2023

Welcome

Portswood Primary School Nursery is located in a fantastic purpose-built building, which is part of Portswood Primary School. This ensures a smooth transition for the children into the Primary School but also, they feel part of the wider school community from a young age.

We are delighted to have a large bright and airy environment, with direct access to its own covered outside play area. We are also fortunate to have direct access to the environmental area which we share with the rest of the school. There is a large variety of toys and equipment for the children to play with, both inside and outside.

Our Aims and Values

At Portswood Primary School Nursery we believe strongly in a safe, nurturing environment, where each child is able to feel happy and secure. We believe that learning should be an enjoyable, varied experience that takes place both indoors and outdoors. At Portswood Primary School Nursery we believe that it is important to give your child the best start to their development and education and therefore believe that as parents and guardians you play a vital role alongside us in this.

Successful personal, social, and emotional development is critical for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning.

We provide our children with the lifelong skills and essential tools needed to grow and prosper in the future.

The children will be treated as individuals and will be given the opportunity to develop important social skills such as co-operation, sharing and socialising with other children and adults.



The Early Years Curriculum

We work within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum to ensure all children learn and develop towards their potential. These relate to nursery children and also continue into the reception year in school. The areas cover the following three 'prime areas' of:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

and the four 'specific areas' of:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



We continually assess the children and use this information to inform our planning to help your child develop across all the areas of learning. The staff plan activities that cover a broad and balanced curriculum within a range of opportunities. We have a topic-based curriculum and try and include interests of the children within this.

We record your child's 'wow' moments in their own individual Learning Journey. They are updated on a weekly basis and are always available to look at to see what experiences your child is having in the nursery. We also actively encourage parents to leave comments and experiences they have outside the nursery.

Groups

We operate a system where your child will be allocated into a group with a named member of the nursery team attached to it. Each child deserves to have a special relationship with someone within the nursery and this approach supports that. It helps provide your child with a sense of security whilst in the setting.

Having a named member of the nursery team linked to your child also helps us support the development and care needs of your child. They will have activities and quality learning experiences planned for them based on their individual needs.

This gives you the confidence to leave your child at the nursery knowing they will be cared for in a way that is tailored to the information that you provide. Sharing of information allows us to maintain a continuity of care and ensure collaborate partnership working between home and the nursery setting.

We have three groups in our sessions which are Caterpillars, Ladybirds and Butterflies.

A Typical Day

Morning Session:

8:00-9:00 Settling in activities for 30 hour funded children.

9:00- Arrival of 15 hour per week children

9:15- Hello Time in Groups

9:25- Discovery Time, child-initiated learning

10:25- Rainbow Time in Groups, adult-initiated session

10:40- Continuation of Discovery Time

11:45-12:00- Storytime and getting ready for home.

11:45-12:30- Lunch Club

Afternoon Session:

12:30- Arrival of afternoon children

12:45- Hello Time in Groups

12:55- Discovery Time, child-initiated learning

2:25- Rainbow Time in Groups, adult-initiated session

2:40- Continuation of Discovery Time

3:00- 2.5 day a week children go home

3:15-3:30 Storytime and getting ready for home for the remaining children.



All children are offered milk or water and fruit during the session. We make snack time a social time during which children eat together alongside a member of staff who aids in the promotion of a good role model. Please ensure nursery staff are aware of any food allergies your child may have.

Activities

The staff will plan for each week to include various activities based around a theme such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Bake-off Week.' The nursery also greatly values the input of parents/carers such as knowing children's current interests so that we can plan these ideas into the continuous provision.



Adult initiated

This is an activity that has been planned and set out by an adult based on the children's next steps and interests during our Rainbow Time session. We also have Hello Time at the beginning of each session as a sociable activity where children talk about the day, what the weather is like, how many children are in the group and share any exciting news with each other.



Child initiated

This is play in which children choose what and how to play and who to play with. Adults plan a variety of activities across the early years curriculum, based upon the theme of the week. Children really enjoy these activities. Children can also access the other resources within the setting if they wish. We train the children to become independent in selecting and tidying away the resources that they use. Both the indoor and outdoor setting are available to the children throughout this time, regardless of the weather.



Getting my child ready for Nursery

We recognise that this is a big transition for both parents and child with mixed emotions. Therefore, we encourage you to start thinking about coming to Nursery, here are a list of activities that you could do in preparation with your child.

1. Role-play to explore the idea of Nursery.

Children learn best through play so take turns in being parent, child and key person. Act out common daily routines, such as saying good-bye to mummy and/or daddy, taking off your coat, singing songs, reading stories, having Circle Time and playing outside. Reassure your child that Nursery is a good place where they will have fun and learn. Answer any questions patiently. This helps children feel more in control which reduces their anxiety.

2. Read books about Nursery.

There are many books about going to Nursery. Choose several to share with your child over the summer before school starts. Talk about the story and how the characters are feeling. Ask how your child is feeling.

3. Make games out of practising independence skills.

These skills include unzipping a coat, hanging up a coat on a hook, putting on a backpack, fastening up shoes. For example, you might want to have a “race” with your child to see how quickly they can put on their shoes. When you play school together, you can give your child the chance to practice taking off their coat and sitting cross-legged on the carpet. If your child will be bringing lunch, pack it up one day before school starts and have a picnic together. This will give them the chance to practice unzipping their lunch box and unwrapping the sandwich—important skills for the first day!



What is expected of my child?

1. Toilet trained

Please see our toileting policy. Please provide a spare set of clothes just in case your child has an accident. If your child comes home in Nursery clothes, please could you wash and return them.

2. Drink from an open cup

Drinks at snack time are supplied in open cups it is therefore necessary for your child to be used to drinking from these before they start Nursery. They will be offered water and milk.

3. What clothes should my child wear?

As we are part of the school, we encourage children to wear our school uniform in order to feel part of our school community. Our play is often messy, so it also saves clothing from home getting dirty. Our school uniform is navy blue, grey and white as follows:

- White shirts, t-shirts and blouses
- Navy blue or grey trousers or shorts
- Navy blue or grey skirts and pinafore dresses
- Navy blue tunics

- Blue and white candy stripe or check summer dresses
- Navy blue sweatshirts/cardigans (with school logo)
- Navy blue or white socks/tights
- Black or brown shoes

Official school jumpers or cardigans can be purchased from Skoolkit in Eastleigh; however, many local shops also sell these colours.

Outdoor play is an important part of the curriculum throughout the year so please make sure your child has a coat or jacket every day as we go outside whatever the weather!

For safety reasons, please make sure your child does not wear any jewellery to school (small stud earrings and Sikh Kara's are acceptable).

PLEASE NAME ALL YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES as every school jumper looks exactly the same!

Early Years activities are often messy. We provide overalls for water, painting and gluing activities, but it is inevitable that young children will sometimes get marks on their clothes.

4. Attendance

We require a high level of attendance and punctuality at Portswood Primary School Nursery. This is important for your child to settle in well to nursery and make secure relationships with other adults and their peers. If your child is going to be late for any reason e.g., dental appointment, please inform the school office.

- We do not authorise leave of absence for holidays in line with Government policy.
- If your child is absent for 6 sessions without notice, your child could be removed from the Nursery School roll.
- Written notice of 2 weeks is required should you wish your child to leave Portswood Primary School Nursery. If 2 weeks' notice of leaving is not given, Portswood Primary School will claim an additional 2 weeks' funding from Southampton City Council. You will not be able to claim funding at an alternative setting during this 2-week period. If Southampton City Council are unable to pay for this period, Portswood Primary School will invoice you directly for the equivalent amount.

Some of the important policies are summarised below:

Safeguarding: It is our duty to protect children in our care. We will contact the safeguarding authorities if we are concerned for the welfare of a child.

Equal opportunities: We accept all children and their families no matter what their background.

Special needs: We will do all we can to accommodate children with special needs.

Policies continued

Also please note we have a strict no smoking policy on the school site.

We are a nut free school as we have children in school who have a severe nut allergy.

Please see our school website for all our early years' policies