



# Nursery School Brochure

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Riverdale Primary School. Soon we will be able to offer your child a place in our Foundation Stage. We hope this booklet will help to answer some of the questions you may have, and tell you something about our Foundation Stage.

There are two members of staff in our Nursery:

Mrs C McManus - Nursery Teacher

Mrs C Wales - Teaching Assistant

There are two members of staff in our Reception class:

Mrs Coldwell - Reception Teacher

Miss Hall - Teaching Assistant

Our Foundation Stage is part of Riverdale Primary School and the Head teacher is Mrs K Reilly.

If you telephone the school you will usually speak to Miss Reilly, who will transfer your call to the Foundation Stage if necessary. Messages can be given to the office to be passed on.

The chair of Governors, Mrs S Atkinson, can be contacted through school.

The school telephone number is 01642 471298

Sometimes we may have additional people working with us in Foundation Stage. These people are students from local secondary schools and colleges and always work under our direct supervision.

## **Nursery Admission**

The nursery has places for 52 children (26 morning and afternoon). Children are admitted as soon as a place is available after their third birthday. This is to ensure they benefit from having as much Nursery education as possible. There is a waiting list of children from both in and

out of area. Places are offered strictly on an age basis using the LEA recommended criteria: -

- i. The child lives in the catchment area of the school
- ii. The child has siblings already in the school
- iii. The child lives out of area

Before your child starts Nursery, you will be contacted by us to arrange a pre start visit.

At Riverdale we separate our younger and older children into the afternoon and morning sessions. If your child does not start nursery until the September before they start school (if their 3rd birthday is in July/August), they will start in morning nursery. In the event that there are more than 26 children in a cohort, the children who are youngest will attend the afternoon session until they start school or until a morning place becomes available.

### **Starting Nursery**

When your child first starts Nursery they will have a graduated start. They stay for a short period then increase the time as they settle.

On your child's first day at our Nursery, please access school by the main entrance, where you will be asked to read some notes about your child's time at Nursery, before being brought down to our Nursery by a member of the office staff.

Please feel free to discuss any concerns you have with us. We believe firmly that we are partners with you in your child's learning. We welcome your participation and dialogue with us.

### **Riverdale Primary School Mission Statement**

At Riverdale Primary School we strive to nurture each child's academic, social, creative, physical, emotional and spiritual needs to ensure our children are given the best opportunity in preparation for their future adult life.

We aim to do this by:

1. Providing a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which everyone can learn with confidence and enthusiasm.
2. Encouraging a caring attitude towards each other.
3. Ensuring all children experience a challenging, appropriate curriculum, which meets their needs.
4. Using a variety of teaching methods and strategies, which engage the children and reflect a variety of learning styles.
5. Providing activities, which encourage children to develop lively and enquiring minds capable of independent thought. Whilst developing social skills of co-operation, tolerance and perseverance.
6. Providing appropriate physical challenges both in and out of school, and encouraging all children to be aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
7. Fostering a creative, aesthetic and spiritual awareness.
8. Providing support and opportunities for the children to succeed in all aspects of school life whatever their ability.
9. Sharing an enthusiasm for life long learning and an enjoyment of school life.

## **Attendance at Nursery**

In order to benefit fully from the curriculum offered, we expect children to attend regularly. As we are limited to the number of children we are allowed to take in a session, if you take a place, but fail to attend regularly another child will be prevented from receiving their nursery education.

Ironstone Academy Trust is committed to promoting good attendance and reducing absence, including persistent absence and to act early to address patterns of absence. Your child's attendance at Nursery will be closely monitored and if your child's attendance falls below 97%, Early Years Action will intervene and you will be informed by letter of what action will be taken. If your child's absence were to fall below 93%, their place at Nursery may be jeopardised.

The expectation is that your child attends Nursery every day. If your child is going to be absent please inform the school immediately. Failure to inform school, will result in your child's absence being marked on their attendance record as 'unauthorised'. If your child has a sickness bug, please keep them off school for at least 48 hours after the last episode.

Holiday forms are available on request from the office. Please bear in mind when booking a holiday in the summer term that if your child is going to be starting school in the September that they will be spending time in the Reception class, having school lunches and becoming familiar with new routines. This is an important part of starting school and we would like all our children to attend where possible.

## **Session Times**

Each session lasts for 3 hours. New starters will have shorter than this initially. Please ensure that your child arrives at nursery no later than 8.45a.m or 12.30 p.m. and that you collect them no later than 11.30a.m and 3.15p.m.

Morning :     - arrival - between 8.30am - 8.45am  
                  - collection - between 11.15am - 11.30am.

Afternoon :   - arrival - between 12.15pm - 12.30pm  
                  - collection - between 3.00pm - 3.15pm.

## Collection of children

In the admission literature you will find a form to complete which informs Nursery staff of the names of the adults who have your permission to collect your child from Nursery. For the safety of your child and for your peace of mind, he /she will not be handed over to anyone else. For similar reasons we also ask that only an adult, that is, a person over 18 years of age, bring and collect your child from Nursery. If you are unable to collect your child due to unforeseen circumstances please inform the school office that someone else will be collecting them.

## Information from school

We regularly need to give you information and can do so by either text or e-mail through Schoolcomms. Please keep us informed of any changes to your e-mail or mobile telephone numbers.

## Clothing

Clothes for Nursery need to be 'working clothes'. Your child will be working with a range of different messy materials such as, paint, glue, dough, and chalks. We provide aprons for the children to wear when gluing and painting but we cannot guarantee that there will be no mishaps. Therefore, clothes need to be easily washable. We want children to enjoy their activities and not be worried about spoiling their clothes. Please ensure that your child's shoes are flat and safe for a range of outdoor physical activities.

The 'working clothes' also need to be easy for your child to manage for dressing and undressing. We like to help our children become independent when dressing so that they can more easily access the outdoor area without relying too much on adult help. You can help your child by teaching them how to put on/take off their own coat and shoes. As your child will be encouraged to take off and put on their own shoes and clothes independently please bear this in mind when choosing coats and shoes for nursery. **Please note sleeveless dresses and tops are NOT allowed.**

Your child will have a named peg on which to hang their coat and bag. It helps them help themselves if you show them how to hang up and get their coat. Uniform is not compulsory but can be worn if wished.

The uniform consists of a green sweatshirt or cardigan with a school 'swan' logo, grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers/jogging bottoms and a white polo shirt. The sweatshirts and cardigans are available to buy/order from the office. The smallest size available is age 3-4.

We like to give the children the opportunity to play outside most days, weather permitting, so please dress your child for the weather that day. Your child needs to have a pair of wellingtons at school to change into for outdoor play when the weather is wet or the outdoor area is muddy. In the summertime, please ensure your child is protected with sunscreen and clothing that fully covers their shoulders (t-shirts not vest tops). We do have a range of spare sun hats and woollen hats for the children to benefit from the outdoor area.

Please put your child's name or initials in their clothes, shoes, wellingtons etc as this helps match children to their clothes.

### **'Little accidents'**

When young children are engrossed in an activity or are just learning to manage their own hygiene needs they do have the occasional 'little accidents.' Your child may also get their clothes wet when they wash their hands, play in the water area or when playing outside. Please ensure you always leave a bag of spare clothes on your child's peg.

We do not always have sufficient spare clothes or the correct sizes to change your child into. If they don't have their own spare clothes and we don't have any to fit them, then you may be contacted to come into school at short notice with a change of clothes.

### **Jewellery**

If your child has pierced ears he/she must only wear simple studs for Nursery. For safety reasons other jewellery items must not be worn or brought to school. On days such as Sport's Day earrings need to be removed or covered with tape by a parent.

### **The Cloakroom**

Please be aware that the children have unsupervised access to the cloakroom during the nursery session. This is to enable them to independently put on and take off their coats and wellingtons when they are going outside to play. Please do not place spare clothes or wellingtons in plastic carrier bags or bags with draw strings.

## **Medications**

If your child needs to be given any medicine whilst at nursery, please take it to the main office to complete a medication form. Please ensure that you do not leave any medicines- prescription or over the counter types in bags that are intended for other carers or day nurseries. Any medications or valuables should be given to a member of staff, who will hand them over to the carer or nursery when the child is collected.

## **What do children in Nursery learn?**

Nursery is the beginning of the Foundation Stage of education, which includes children from the age of 3 until the end of the Reception year. There are specific Early Learning Goals for the children to achieve by the end of Reception. These goals are presented in three prime areas:-

- ❖ Personal, Social and Emotional development
- ❖ Communication and Language
- ❖ Physical development

There are four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied

- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Mathematics
- ❖ Understanding the world
- ❖ Expressive arts and design

The children are taught skills in these areas of learning through their play in the activity areas we provide and through specific focussed activities.

The indoor and outdoor environments are set up with different activity areas to help develop these skills.

These areas include:-

- ❖ Water
- ❖ Wet sand
- ❖ Design and making
- ❖ Role play



- ❖ Mark making
- ❖ Books
- ❖ Listening
- ❖ Small/large construction
- ❖ Painting
- ❖ Play Dough
- ❖ Small World play

### **How do the children learn?**

We believe well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is an important way in which young children learn. Through play in a secure environment with effective adult support, we encourage the children to explore, develop and repeat learning experiences that will help them make sense of the world. We provide opportunities for them to practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills.

### **Parents as partners in learning**

We believe very strongly that parents are a child's first and foremost educators and as a result know more about their child than anyone else. For this reason we offer regular consultation meetings where parents are encouraged to share information about their child's learning and development. We also welcome responses and information about your child on the 'focus child' letter that is sent out when it is your child's turn to be a focus child. We aim to have each child be a focus child once every term. The responses you provide enable you to tell us about significant learning achievements or events that your child has enjoyed and been interested in and enable us to plan for activities and provision that would interest your child. Each week we display on the notice board in the cloakroom area a copy of the weekly newsletter showing the activities we will be undertaking with your child and what you can do to support their learning. Newsletters are also sent out through Marvellous Me. This is a tool we use to send key messages to you, to keep you updated on what your child has done and what they have achieved that week or simply to send a well done message home.

### **Learning Journeys**

We use electronic based Learning Journey books to record your child's progress through our Foundation Stage. These will contain written observations, photographs, short notes, 'focus child' information and the children's work. We use these to help us form a picture of your child's

learning and development. They are available for you and your child to share in nursery and at parent consultations. On occasions, your child's photo may be taken as part of a group alongside other children in our Nursery, which may be shared with other parents with children in our Nursery.

### **Growth mind sets**

In school we have found that often the greatest barrier to the children's success in learning is the perception they have of themselves as learners. When faced with difficulties in their learning, they 'shut off' and think that they can't do it. This is called a 'fixed mind set'. What we want to do is help the children develop a 'growth mind set' - a can-do attitude, where children are resilient to difficulties, mistakes and challenges. Our children need to know that they are competent and able to learn, to try new things and solve problems in their life. We as parents and teachers can help our children become more confident in their learning and approach to problem solving. Having a positive attitude to learning and being able to think of ideas and solve problems are important aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

### **Snack**

Every day in nursery we offer the children fruit and milk or water. We follow the Redcar and Cleveland guidelines for healthy food. If your child has any food allergies or a special diet, please let us know so that we can cater for these requirements.

### **Nursery Fund**

Nursery buy extras such as food and ingredients for special events and food technology sessions. Voluntary contributions towards these extras would be much appreciated.

### **First Aid Procedures in Nursery**

Mrs Wales, along with our Foundation Stage Staff are the registered school First Aiders. If your child is taken ill or has an accident, every effort will be made to contact you immediately. Please make sure for this reason that all contact details held by school are up to date and any changes are given to the office straight away.

Any minor bumps and scrapes that happen will be dealt with and we will endeavour to inform you when you collect your child at the end of the session. Injuries requiring first aid will be accompanied by a written slip regarding injury and treatment.

If your child suffers from asthma, however mild, Nursery must be informed. Every asthma sufferer must have a named inhaler in school at all times. Inhalers are kept in the Nursery so they are available for immediate use.

Please keep us informed of any medical conditions your child may have and that we need to be aware of.

### **Parents, Teachers and Friends Association**

The school is fortunate in having an association, which does invaluable work for the school. The Riverdale Primary School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (P.T.A) exists to organise social and fund- raising events in school. All parents and friends of children in school are invited to attend all P.T.A meetings.

Each year at the A.G.M usually held in September, a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are elected. All the money raised by the Association is spent, after careful consideration by the Head teacher, Staff and the P.T.A, on equipment for use by the children in school.

The school recognises the enormous benefits to all the children of the hard work and commitment of the Association. Any new ideas and suggestions would always be welcome. If you would like more details on becoming a member please contact Mrs Dewse via the school.

### **Entry into the Reception Class**

In line the Redcar and Cleveland Education Authority policy admission to reception takes place once during the academic year in September. We always aim to ensure that the transition is as smooth and pleasant as possible. There is a planned programme of transition into the Reception class prior to entry. As part of the transition process your child will attend Reception instead of Nursery for 2 weeks at the end of the summer term and stay for lunch during that time. We invite you to attend a meeting with Mrs Reilly and the class teacher to discuss routines and give you more information about your child starting Reception.

Any prospective parents who wish to visit the school should contact the office (01642 471298) so that an appointment can be made with the Head Teacher.

### **Your rubbish is our treasure!**

We like to use lots of new and interesting components in our design and making area-so your rubbish can be our 'treasure'. We always need:

- ❖ Boxes
- ❖ Bottle tops
- ❖ Fabric scraps
- ❖ Buttons (not too small)
- ❖ Shiny paper
- ❖ Washed yoghurt pots
- ❖ Kitchen roll middles
- ❖ Dried Pasta
- ❖ String and wool
- ❖ Wrapping paper and greetings cards
- ❖ Unused prepaid envelopes (for our office)

Please note that due to health and safety we cannot accept toilet roll middles or polystyrene.

Clothing: our spare supply of clothes does tend to become limited so outgrown clean clothes such as socks, pants, tops and trousers-are always needed.

Thank you for reading this booklet- we hope it has been useful. If at any time you have a query about our Nursery please come in to see us or contact us. We will endeavour to help you. We look forward to seeing you and your child in our Nursery soon, and we hope that we can work together to ensure that your child's time at Riverdale Primary School is enjoyable and successful.