



RIVERDALE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

be ready, be respectful, be safe ...

Nursery Information Booklet

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome your child into our nursery at Riverdale Primary School. This is your child's first step into school life and we hope that together we can make it a happy one. Our shared vision is one which supports our children to develop into caring, confident young people who show curiosity and a real love of learning. The Early Years staff work alongside one another to offer children the highest quality learning experiences in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. We strive to make a positive contribution to children's early development and to help them to develop the foundation skills which will form the basis for lifelong learning and ensure that all children achieve their full potential. At Riverdale Primary School, we value positive partnerships with parents and carers. We welcome your involvement in school and in providing staff with regular updates about your child's progress and abilities through the use of 'Seesaw'.

STAFF

Nursery class:

Mrs S. French – Nursery Teacher

Miss E. Sheppard – Teaching Assistant

Reception class:

Ms M. Tokarski – Reception Teacher

Mrs D. Harrison – Teaching Assistant

If you telephone the school, you will usually speak to Mr Williams or Mrs Jarvis who will transfer your call to the Foundation Stage if necessary. The School email address is

office@riverdaleprimary.org.uk All messages left with the office will be passed onto the EYFS staff.

Nursery Admission

The nursery has places for up to 26 children in each session. 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 but we always try to work alongside parents to help with an early and smooth transition into school. Before your child starts Nursery, you will be contacted by us to offer you a place and to arrange a pre start visit 'stay and play' and a start date.

Starting Nursery

Your child will be offered a place and given a stay and play session which will be for 1 hour with an adult/s present. This will enable both your child and yourselves to meet the setting, staff and children. Your child's start date is usually the day after the stay and play and will be for the full session. For most children, they will happily stay for the entire 3 hours but for others this might be more gradual process. We will discuss this with you if this is something your child needs. If you would like to look around our setting prior to your stay and play session, this can be arranged via the school office.

Session Times

Morning 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoon 12:15pm – 3:15pm

30 Hours Funding

We can now offer up to 30 hours free funding from the moment your child turns three, providing you are eligible and wish to apply. This session is 8:30 am – 2:30pm.

There is an added option of extending this until 3:15pm, at a cost of £3.00 per day. Children may choose to stay for a hot school meal or may bring a packed lunch. Nursery aged children are not eligible for free meals under the 'universal free school meals programme'. School meals are currently priced at £2.40 and must be paid for through the school gateway app. Children are supervised by a key member of the foundation stage teaching team during the lunch hour and are fully supported while eating lunch.

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 shoes when they are going outside to play. Therefore, any spare clothes should be kept in a small ruck sack style bag and not in a plastic carrier bag or bags with draw strings. Bags remain in school unless they need topping up. Please ensure that coats and wellies are named. We encourage independence from the moment the children start their journey into school so please encourage and support your child to take off and put on their own shoes and coats at home at this stage.

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.

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:

- Providing a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which everyone can learn with confidence and enthusiasm.
- Encouraging a caring attitude towards each other.
- Ensuring all children experience a challenging, appropriate curriculum, which meets their needs.
- Using a variety of teaching methods and strategies, which engage the children and reflect a variety of learning styles.
- 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.
- Providing appropriate physical challenges both in and out of school and encouraging all children to be aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Fostering a creative, aesthetic and spiritual awareness.
- Providing support and opportunities for the children to succeed in all aspects of school life whatever their ability.
- Sharing an enthusiasm for lifelong learning and an enjoyment of school life.

Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years is made up of two year group classes – Nursery and Reception. It offers a distinct phase of education available for children from the ages of 3 to 5 years and follows its own curriculum which places learning and achievement firmly within a context of play and practical activities.

The curriculum covers 3 prime areas of learning:

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

Alongside 4 specific areas;

- Literacy
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

In the EYFS, there is also a focus on the Characteristics of Effective Learning (CoEL). The focus of these is how children learn rather than what they learn. Underpinning the CoEL is the understanding that during their earliest years, children form attitudes about learning that will last a lifetime. We aim to support and encourage the children during these early years and support their growth into creative, and adventurous learners throughout their lives.

The characteristics of effective learning are:

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links and develop strategies for doing things.

How do the children learn?

In Nursery, we place great value on encouraging children to express themselves confidently and listen to others with respect. Through talking, sharing, and playing together, children learn to take care of one another, develop empathy and build strong social skills that form the foundation for positive relationships and meaningful communication.

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. We take part in 'squiggle while you wiggle' and 'dough disco' throughout the week. These activities help to strengthen muscles ready for writing, promote the crossing of the midline, to support letter formation and to promote listening. We have yoga once a week also, which supports strengthening the core muscles.

We have a visual timetable which we follow and change daily. The session begins by welcoming the children into class followed by register.

During the year before joining Reception, begin early phonics through 'letters and sounds' and build phonics into our daily routines. Following this, we introduce 'Read, Write, Inc' which focuses on the pronunciation and writing of sounds. The children begin early blending of cvc words in preparation for Reception.

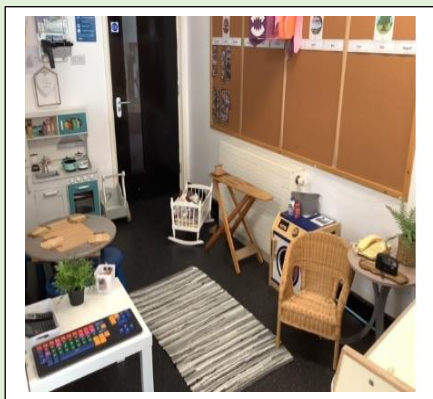
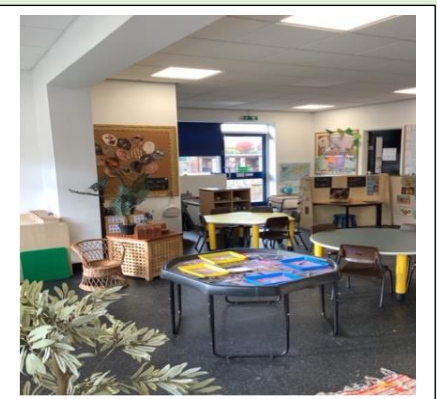
Our Provision

Our nursery is a calm, fun and stimulating place to learn. Children are encouraged to follow familiar routines, access play with increasing independence and develop into self-confident and curious learners. The development of social skills is also an important aspect of learning in nursery; opportunities to interact with others, develop skills of cooperation and turn taking. The children are taught skills through their play 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:

INDOOR

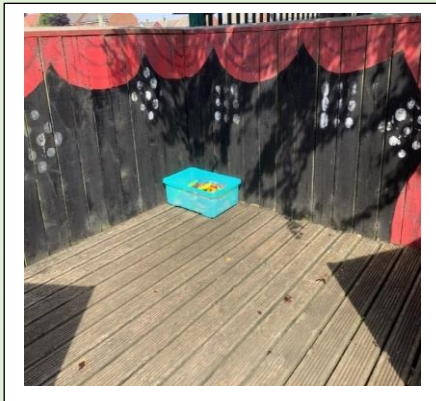
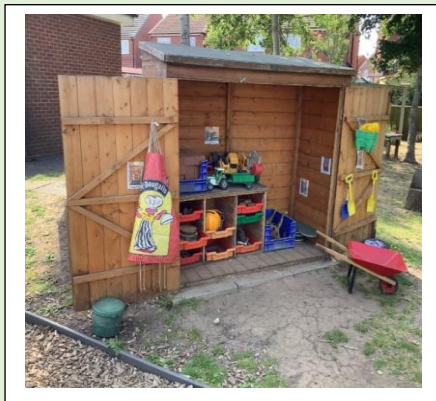


- home
- arts and craft
- painting
- playdough
- reading room – quiet area and sensory bottles.
- role play – hospital, vets, hairdressers, ice cream shop, flower shop, etc
- small world
- construction
- maths
- tuff tray
- writing and mark making
- water
- sand
- I wonder ... investigation area

- funky fingers
- fiddle board
- music

Our provision areas change depending on the curriculum focus and also as a result of the children driving their own ideas and learning.

OUTDOOR



- construction – guttering, vehicles, bricks, wood
- games – balls, skittles, hoops, dice, dominoes, stepping stones, beanbags, cones
- small world – large animals and dinosaurs
- water play – guttering, bowls, funnels etc
- climbing frame

- reading area with log seats
- mud kitchen
- bug hunting
- bird hide
- camping
- painting on large Perspex
- art and craft table
- writing and mark making
- crates and planks
- stage for singing, dancing and playing instruments
- loose parts
- chalking
- role play costumes
- balance bikes (planned activities)

Our provision areas change depending on the curriculum focus and also as a result of the children driving their own ideas and learning.

Attendance at Nursery

In order to benefit fully from the curriculum offered, we encourage children to attend daily. Attendance at nursery is very important, but if your child is unwell please do not send him/her to school and keep him/her at home until fully recovered.

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.

Collection of children

In the admission pack, 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 School Gateway. Please keep us informed of any changes to your e-mail or mobile telephone numbers. We use seesaw in nursery to send you information, newsletters, photographs of your child and identify the Development Matters statements your child has achieved or is working towards. Information on how to access the electronic messaging system on School Gateway is provided within your welcome pack but if you have any problems, please don't hesitate to contact the main office who will be only too happy to help you.

Clothing

Although it is not compulsory to wear a uniform in nursery, most parents choose to send their child in one from the moment they start school. These can be purchased using the 'uniform order form' in the welcome pack or via the office.

Children attending in their own clothes should be 'working clothes'. Your child will be exploring 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. Please ensure that your child's shoes are flat and safe for a range of outdoor physical activities.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible so jogging bottoms or trousers with elasticated bands are ideal instead of trousers with a zip and clasp. Wearing shoes without laces is also encouraged to support independence when changing footwear.

Behaviour

In nursery, we foster and promote an atmosphere of caring, self-control and cooperation between all children and within school we operate a behaviour strategy linked to our three school 'bee promises' – Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful'. Praise and rewards are given to children who follow the rules and demonstrate positive behaviour.

'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 ask not to choose large bags as space is limited and not to choose draw string bags as these can lead to accidents.

We support parents and children who are still developing the independent use of the toilets. The following website will further support this: <https://eric.org.uk> and <https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>

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.

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.

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. Also a parent questionnaire is sent out at the pre start visit. 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. Our main way of communication is through 'Seesaw'. This app allows photographs, videos, messages and achievements to be sent to parents regularly. Parents can also send messages back directly linked to what has been sent or just as a way of communicating with the teacher.

Parents can help their child prepare for Nursery by exploring new places together, joining social groups to build confidence around others, and encouraging independence with simple self-care skills such as putting on and taking off shoes and coats.



Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful

As a school, we have our 'bee statements' which promote being ready, being safe and being respectful.

Snack

In Nursery, we care for each child as a whole, supporting their learning, wellbeing, and development in every aspect of the day. Staff provide close supervision during mealtimes and snack, ensuring that children are safe, comfortable, and developing good eating habits in a calm and nurturing environment. We build on their confidence and wellbeing during social situations to help them build positive relationships and feel secure in their interactions.

Each day, 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.

First Aid Procedures in Nursery

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 classroom 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.

Sleep – ready to learn

These are the recommended hours of sleep children should get each night. Although lots of fun, nursery is tiring both physically and mentally so it is important to encourage a good sleep pattern.

	Age Range	Recommended Hours of Sleep
Newborn	0-3 months old	14-17 hours
Infant	4-11 months old	12-15 hours
Toddler	1-2 years old	11-14 hours
Preschool	3-5 years old	10-13 hours
School-age	6-13 years old	9-11 hours
Teen	14-17 years old	8-10 hours
Young Adult	18-25 years old	7-9 hours
Adult	26-64 years old	7-9 hours
Older Adult	65 or more years old	7-8 hours

Entry into the Reception Class

In our Early Years setting, Nursery and Reception work closely together to provide a seamless and supportive learning experience for all children. Both classes share the outdoor area, allowing children to explore, play, and learn alongside one another, which helps to build confidence and strong friendships across both year groups. We also share common themes and topics, ensuring that learning is connected and meaningful, while planning activities that are progressive so that skills and understanding develop naturally as children move from Nursery to Reception. Through regular collaboration and shared experiences, children form strong, trusting relationships with all adults across both classes, creating a warm and consistent environment where every child feels valued and supported.

In the Summer term, we have a carefully planned transition period to help Nursery children feel confident and excited about moving into Reception. During this time, the children spend time in the Reception classroom, becoming familiar with the new environment and routines. They also begin staying for lunch each day, helping them adjust to the longer school day in a supportive way. Throughout the transition, children meet and build relationships with their new teacher and other adults who will be part of their Reception experience, ensuring a smooth and positive start to the next stage of their learning journey.

In line the Redcar and Cleveland Education Authority policy, admission to Reception takes place once during the academic year in September. The deadline is usually mid January. For further information see the admissions website at:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions>

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

Please note that due to health and safety we cannot accept toilet roll middles, polystyrene or recycling which has included nuts. 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 don't hesitate to contact us and we look forward to welcoming you and your child in our nursery soon.

The Nursery Team