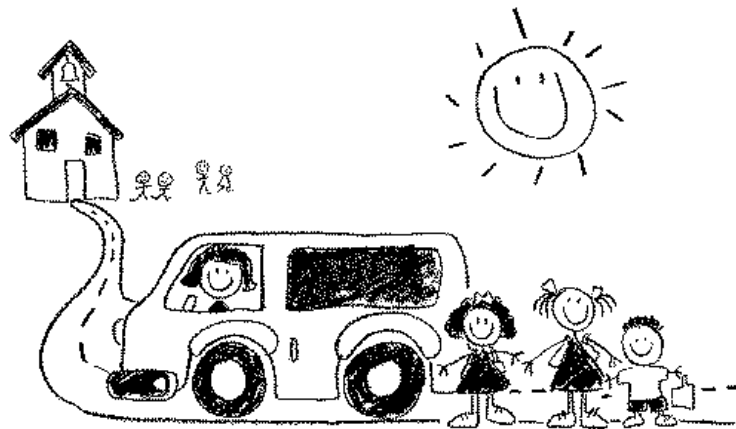
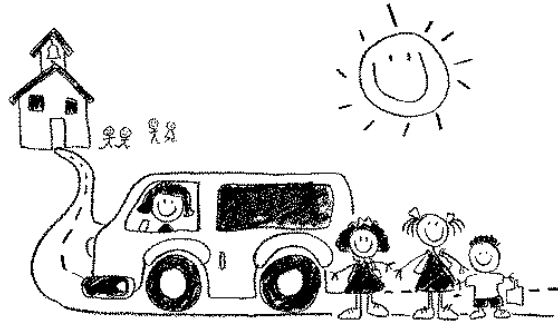


# Nursery Welcome Pack





***Dear Parents,***

***We are delighted to welcome you and your child to our nursery.***

***We aim to provide an experience that will not only be very valuable but full of enjoyment at this very special time in your child's life.***

***Starting nursery can be a very anxious time - for parents as well as children! We hope that you feel able to share any concerns you may have and ask any questions - we are happy to help now and after your child has started with us.***

***This booklet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about what your child will do at nursery and why.***

***We look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming terms,***

***Thank you,***

***The Nursery Team***

# Useful Information

## Induction -

You will receive a letter with your child's own **individual starting date** for their first day at nursery. The children do not all start on the same day, so that staff can give extra attention to your child on that very important first day.

## Times -

We run two sessions - one morning session from **8.30am until 11.30pm** and one afternoon session from **12.30pm until 3.30pm**. We also offer full time places **8.30am – 3.30pm** (for those children entitled to the 30 hours government funding. The code for this must be applied in June for sept start – the code then needs to be given to the school office by the first week in July) If you are offered a full day place you will need to send your child with a packed lunch and pay the additional hour child care fees at the beginning of each half term. Details of our school Scopay system will be given to you as soon as your child starts.

## What your child will need -



When your child starts Nursery they will need to bring with them daily a named bag with a complete change of clothes inside. (Trousers, socks, pants, t shirt and jumper)

Sometimes your child may have an accident or get wet playing in the water etc. We do have a few spare

clothes but it is nicer for your child to have their own clothes.

Your child must also bring a **named** water bottle.



Please make sure your child wears practical clothes that they can manage themselves i.e. **No belts, laces, buttons** etc. and has suitable clothes for the weather as children always have an opportunity to go outside e.g. Sunhats, wellies, warm coats, waterproof coat, gloves, scarves and woolly hats.

Your child needs their own pair of named wellies all year that they can leave in Nursery (we always change into these to go in the garden, whatever the weather)

Your child will also need a pair of waterproof trousers as Wednesdays we have an outdoor learning day and we spend



the whole day outside. During the winter months you may want to layer your child up on this day.



### **Work Boxes –**

When your child starts nursery, he or she will have a “work box” which stays in nursery, the work box will have a photo of your child on the side so they know which box is theirs. The box is not only for **work and products your child has made** but any **information we need to send home to you**. The boxes enable the children to become independent in looking after their own work and belongings. Children will bring these letters/pictures home either daily or on a Friday in their book bag.

### **Home Learning Book -**

Once your child has settled into Nursery we will start up a home learning book. This is to help you to find out more about the things we are doing in Nursery and how you can support your child at home. You can also record any information you would like to share with us about your child.

This book gets sent home on a Friday and needs to be back by Wednesday the following week. Please do the activity each week and write some information to share with us.

**Uniform -** Nursery does not have a uniform but colourful T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Nursery logo on are available to be ordered through the link on the school’s website. Children often like to wear them to be the same as the adults, also it saves your child’s own clothes from getting messed up.

**Preparation for nursery –** If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of staff. Helping your child to start to develop self-help skills will ease transition to nursery. The following list of useful skills will really help the children be as independent as possible:

- **Putting on and doing up my own coat**
- **Taking off and putting on my own shoes**
- **Going to the toilet myself and wiping my bottom**
- **Knowing when and how to wash my hands**
- **Drinking from a cup without a lid**
- **Peeling and eating whole fruit**
- **Being able to wipe my nose**
- **Following simple instructions**
- **Being able to sit and listen to a story**

### **Library** –

We have a library in school which the Nursery children visit once a week. Books are available for the children to borrow for the week.

We ask parents to purchase a book bag from the office or through the school website so books do not get damaged being transported to and from home.

Books may not be borrowed without a book bag and we do ask that any lost or damaged books are replaced or paid for.



### **Illness** –

Please contact the school office with a message if your child is absent due to illness. In the case of vomiting or diarrhoea your child should not return to nursery until 48 hours without symptoms.

### **Access** –

Your child must be collected by someone known to nursery. Please leave details of changes to normal routines.

### **Birthdays** –

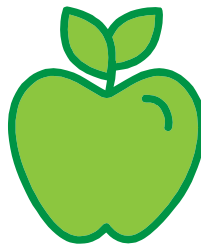
We celebrate birthdays in nursery and parents are welcome to bring in wrapped sweets for their child to share with the other children.



### **Snacks –**

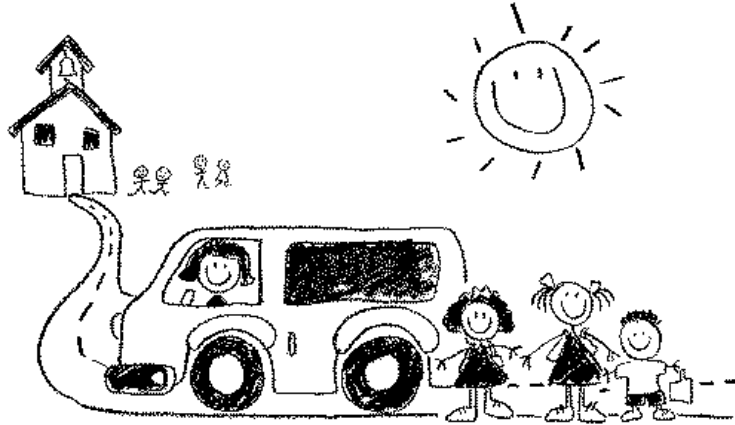
Milk and fruit are provided free of charge. All day children will get fruit in the morning but please provide a **whole** fruit that can be eaten at afternoon snack time. (This needs to be named and separate to your child's lunchbox)

Please bring in a small, **named**, bottle of water for your child every day, for them to have access to at all other times. Keeping hydrated is essential for learning and concentration.



### **Evidence me –**

We begin collating information about your child's achievements and progress in Nursery as soon as they start – we do this on an app called Evidence me . We take photos and write observations about the things they have been doing. The information is shared with parents and you will receive a letter about this once they start with information of how to access this! Parents are encouraged to add notes or photos to the information so this reflects the child at home and at school. You may also add your own photos and observations to help us learn more about your child. Staff observe the children playing and make notes of what they do and say, this information is used to make assessments to go into an Early Years Foundation Stage Profile document before the children enter year one at school.



### **Admissions-**

**Children admitted to the nursery are not automatically admitted to school.** Contact your local education authority to find out about school admissions.

### **End of Term -**

**The nursery is closed on the very last day of the Spring and Summer term,** This is to enable staff to carry out training and open days for the Nursery. (This does not apply to each half term break.)

### **News -**

The school send out a **newsletter every Friday.** Nursery news is usually contained in this. The newsletter is now emailed out to parents, if you do not have access to email please let the office know and a copy will be printed for you. Please inform us if you are not receiving a weekly newsletter. Any other letters that nursery send out will be put in your child's workbox/book bag to bring home or written information is given in your child's home learning book.

Look out for notices we may put up or emails sent as reminders. We also use the CHAT function on Evidence me so please check this.

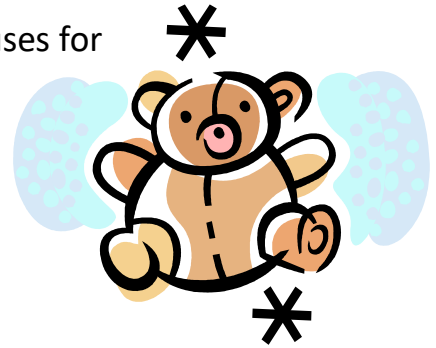
### **Parent Meetings -**

We offer opportunities for parent and teacher meetings to discuss the progress of your child at least twice throughout the year. If you would like to speak to a teacher at any other time we are happy to make an appointment for you, please just ask a member of staff.



### **Class Bears -**

We have two class bears. They love to visit the children's houses for the weekend and spend time having fun. The bears each have a diary for you to keep a record of what happens during the visit - your child can then share this with their friends at nursery on its return. The bear goes home on a Friday to be returned the following Monday. All children will get a chance to take the bear home throughout the year.



### **Nursery procedures -**

If you have any concerns or issues in Nursery at all please speak to the Nursery Teacher, Mrs Macdonald. If you are unable to do this for any reason or you feel unhappy with the outcome, please then speak to our head of foundation stage Mrs Austin. You can go to the school office or phone the school to make an appointment to speak to her.



## ***How to help at Home***



We know that children learn most effectively through **play** and through **real** experiences. At home, as the children spend time with parents helping around the house, going out on shopping trips, gardening, playing and talking, there is a wealth of learning experiences going on all the time. The following lists will help you focus on how you are helping your child to learn early skills and concepts in real life situations.

### **Developing Language and Literacy at home**

- Sharing stories, rhymes, songs and poems, recall what happened and ask questions, talk about the pictures
- Following simple instructions in everyday routines
- Modelling language as you play alongside your child
- Looking at words around us – shop names, street names
- Alphabet friezes, songs and rhymes
- A range of books, fiction and non-fiction
- Visit the library
- Using pencils, chalks, crayons, paints to draw, write and scribble, following patterns
- Writing together – lists, cards, messages in everyday routines
- Talking, listening, asking questions
- Music and sounds, making sounds and letter sounds
- Listening to environmental sounds – going on a sound walk ‘what can you hear?’
- “I spy” or “I hear” games
- Talk about new words and explain what they mean



## Developing Mathematics at home

- Counting opportunities – count how many stairs as you go to bed
- Encourage comparison as part of everyday routines – the tallest, longest, biggest
- Noticing sets of objects – there are 4 plates on the table
- Sorting objects into colours
- Prediction – which will be heaviest?
- Making sets of numbers - put 5 apples in the bag...
- Simple addition and subtraction – we've got 2 apples let's add two more...
- Making patterns
- Ordering things – let's start with the tallest...
- Building with construction toys
- Sorting opportunities – sorting washing, matching pairs of socks
- Describe position – inside, next to, behind...
- Looking at and naming shapes in the environment

A few fun family activities which help develop early language, literacy and mathematical skills (and a whole lot more.....)

- Build a den together
- Bake a cake together
- Make a film/video together
- Plant some seeds together
- Compile a photo album
- Shopping
- Wrapping presents and writing cards
- Singing Nursery rhymes on a car journey
- Playing "I spy" in the car
- Going on a bear hunt
- Having a shape hunt, letter hunt or number hunt on the walk to school
- Building models out of reclaimed materials (cereal boxes etc.. )
- Chalk numbers, letters and pictures on the ground; "hopscotch" and "corners" games





## Useful numbers

- **Earley St. Peter's School office: 0118 9261657**
- Wokingham School's Admissions Team: 0118 9746000
- Wokingham Borough Family Information Service : 0118 908 8002  
(Child protection and family support)
- The children's Society 0300 3037000
- Wokingham Borough Children's Centres:  
0118 9088152 (Ambleside) Woodley  
0118 9088010 (Brambles) Wokingham
- Brighter Futures for Children : 0118 937 3641 (Reading)
- Berkshire Autism Society: 0118 9594594
- Promise inclusion (Wokingham MENCAP): 0300 777 8539
- Homestart: 0118 9560050

### **For advice/information about Speech and Language**

Lots of information on the **CYPIT website** –

<https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/children-and-young-peoples-integrated-therapies/speech-and-language-therapy/>

On this site there is a referral form.

**you can also email the team:**

Reading – [ADMINREADING@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:ADMINREADING@berkshire.nhs.uk)

Wokingham– [ADMINBRWOK@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:ADMINBRWOK@berkshire.nhs.uk)

**Ican** is another good website for information

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/information-and-support/>