

Welcome to the Wise Owls



September 2018

We would like to welcome you to the Wise Owls room. We are looking forward to your child joining us and partaking in lots of exciting activities that are planned around the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. We would like to give you some information about the types of things that we get up to in the Wise Owls as well as some helpful information about what your child's needs to have with them.

There are 3 stimulating and exciting rooms for your child to explore. The Elmer room, the Tiger room and the Gruffalo room. Children are able to explore all three rooms and the nursery gardens throughout the day and staff plan the environment to ensure all the areas of learning can take place in whatever areas the children visit. This September, the children will share the Elmer room with the Busy Bees children so that they can share breakfast, snacks and art/messy times with one another.

Due to the exciting activities we carry out with the children, we ask that all children have named spare clothes for every session they attend at nursery. These can be kept in your child's bag on their peg. Children will have independent access to coats and bags, therefore, it is imperative that no medicines or food are kept in children's bags. All of your child's nursery items should be named wherever possible.

We provide aprons for the children however these don't always protect the clothes, so please don't dress your child in their best clothes. We do have an optional uniform that parents can purchase if they wish. Further details are on the parent area of our website. We also ask for every child to have indoor and outdoor shoes for nursery. We ask that the shoes are either slip on or Velcro so the children can swap their shoes independently. Both sets of shoes must be closed-toe please to protect the child's delicate toes during play.

All the children are allocated a key worker who will ensure your child's care needs are met as well as plan for, observe and assess your child's development throughout their time in the Wise Owls. You can talk to your key worker about any concerns you may have. Your key worker will also hold parents evening every term, this will allow you to discuss their developments in more detail as well as set targets for your child to achieve over the term. Due to the ratio increasing to 1:8 in the Wise Owls room, we do have set evenings for parent's evenings due to the number of meetings that each keyworker will need to hold.

We love being outside and exploring the different weather and seasons. We enjoy having picnics in the summer, splashing in puddles in the Autumn, discovering the frost covered bushes and trees in the winter and exploring the wildlife and new plants in the spring. We ask parents to provide named wellies, wetsuits and coats so the children can still explore the outside in the colder weather. During the warmer months, we ask parents to provide a named hat and sun cream. Unfortunately, if a hat or cream is not provided, children will have limited time in the garden.



We provide lots of fun exciting extra-curricular activities in the Wise Owls. We have Music bugs on a Tuesday morning and French on a Wednesday afternoon. We use the activities taught during the lessons throughout the week so that all the children can benefit from these classes so don't worry if your child does not attend these sessions. We hold in-house PE sessions

which are held on a rotation basis in blocks of 6 weeks. We will notify you when your child 's 6 week block is. During this time, we ask that you provide a set of shorts and t-shirt so that we can practice getting changed as this helps prepare the children for the independence required at school. The children get lots of opportunities to go on outings. These will include walking to the local park, playing and exploring on the field and also a visit to the local church, where we get the chance to ask lots of questions. The ratio during outings reduces to 1 member of staff to every 5 children. We have been running these outings with children over the age of 3 for a number of years, so if you have any queries, no matter how small, please do speak to a member of staff. Due to the nature of the visits, many can be unplanned, so we will not always inform parents in advance of walks within the local vicinity. Planned outings will be communicated in advance through newsletters. We are always looking for parent helpers for activities and outings, if you can help in any way, please do let us know.

We do not provide daily communication books/sheets for children but staff will give a feedback at the end of each session. Sleeps and food information will be available to look at on the information board in the Elmer room.

We do try and send out as much electronic communication out as possible through tapestry about your child's experiences and achievements at nursery. We would very much like parents to keep us informed of their child's achievements and experiences from home, as we can use this to prompt discussions, circle times, and activities to further the children's knowledge and understanding. Tapestry is available as an app on IOS and Android, and this is possibly the easiest way of sharing information from home by creating an observation through the app.

Staff role model positive behaviour within the room reminding the children of the rules which are created with the children. We use lots of strategies to promote positive behaviour by using stickers, certificates and stamps which the children all love to collect. Elle who works in the Wise Owls is the designated nursery behaviour management officer and is always contactable should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's behaviour at home, as we can often put things in place to support both the child and the family with unwanted behaviours. In the event that a child's behaviour is becoming a concern whilst at nursery, we will ensure the child's parents are informed and fully involved in the process of supporting the child with their behaviour.

The children enjoy being independent and we support this in their play and meal times. The children self-select their snack and we encourage learning through meal times, such as counting out their snack, setting the table, giving out meals etc. The children use a knife and fork at dinner times to eat and we encourage good table manners, as well as clearing their own plates/bowls and cutlery. Children enjoy learning about healthy foods and we promote healthy eating while at nursery. We offer breakfast in the mornings with a variety of cereals for the children to choose from, fruit during morning snack, a two-course lunch and a high-tea. We encourage the Wise Owls to drink plenty of water and we ask for parents to provide a water bottle daily that your child can access throughout the day. These should be clearly labelled and taken home at the end of each day to clean. These bottles should ONLY contain water please.

Finally, we understand the children love to bring their toys to nursery and show them to their ladies and friends, however, this can cause all sorts of upset in this age group. There are issues surrounding sharing, toys becoming lost or broken, other children having the same toy at home etc. We therefore ask that children do not bring in toys from home. We will however, be holding show and tells on specific days throughout the term.

Many thanks



Jemma



Vicky



Elle



Catrina



Emily

Quick Guide to what to bring to nursery (all items must be named) –

Daily –

Water bottle

Nappies/wipes if your child requires them

Pull ups for sleeps if your child requires them

Full change of clothes

Indoor and Outdoor shoes that are not open toe.

Seasonal –

Sun cream and Sun hat

Puddle suit and wellies

Winter hat, gloves and scarf, warm coat

When notified –

PE Kit containing shorts and t-shirt

Please do not allow your child to wear earrings at nursery.