



Queensway Infant Academy & Nursery



Oak Nursery

Where little acorns grow and develop

September 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

On behalf of all the staff we would like to welcome you and your child to Queensway Infant Academy and Nursery.

We hope your child will have a rewarding and enjoyable experience with us, setting the vital foundations for future learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact or speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns. As a school we rely on your input to improve ourselves, to ensure we give your child the best possible start.

Mrs Karen Fancourt
Acting Principal





Before Nursery

Parents are a child's first teacher and can be the best they ever have. The early years at home are the years in which a child learns most, and more quickly than at any other time in their life.

We aim to build on this good start and trust you will help us to make the most of your child's time in Nursery.

For ideas about activities you can do at home with your child, please ask any of the Nursery staff.



Home Visits

After receiving notification by letter that a place has become available for your child, you will be invited to visit the Nursery for an Open Day. During this visit we will arrange a convenient time for a home visit.

Home visits are an essential element in our induction programme for the children. These provide an invaluable link for the child between home and Nursery. Children and parents can get to know some of the school Staff and ask any questions in a familiar environment.

During this visit we will arrange a start date and discuss induction to the Nursery.

Our aim is to help them look forward to coming and to feel comfortable with us.

Due to the national pandemic, home visits will take place by request only.



If at any time you would like to talk to us about your child, or you have a concern, please share it with us at the beginning or end of a session. We may ask you to make an appointment with us if we feel you need more of our time or some privacy. We assure you that your concern will be dealt with as soon as possible.



What will my child do at Nursery?

Nursery education is a partnership between parents, children and adults in Nursery. Talking is an excellent way to strengthen that partnership.

The Nursery follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework. The framework is a document that all schools and nurseries must follow and sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. Copies of this can be found at www.education.gov.uk/publications

Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is non-statutory guidance material that practitioners use to support each individual child's development pathway.

The Characteristics of effective learning (CEO) are a key element in the early years foundation stage. They detail the ways in which children should be learning from their environment, experiences and activities. Three Characteristics of Effective Learning identified by the EYFS 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 between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

There are 7 different areas of Learning and Development in the EYFS.

Prime Areas:

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

Specific Areas:

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

All of these areas will be delivered through planned, purposeful play with a balance of adult led and child led activities. No area can be taught on its own as they depend on each other to support a rounded approach to a child's development.



How does the Nursery Work?

The Nursery is divided into areas, both inside and the outside the nursery. Within each area your child will experience different activities that have been set up by the Nursery staff. Your child will be able to move freely between these activities. They may also self select other toys that interest them.

Physical Development

Children's physical ability is becoming increasingly important in schools and nurseries. We provide a range of resources inside and outside that can be used to help develop children's strength and co-ordination skills. These skills can also be targeted with fun and games and activities e.g. exploring the climbing frame, rolling or kicking a ball.



Quiet Area

An area within the inside of the Nursery, which allows children a space to sit quietly, look at books or sing songs. Story baskets and puppets are also used within the area and will help to develop language and literacy skills.



Role Play Area

There are opportunities both inside and outside the Nursery, for children to dress up and use their imaginations and recreate roles and experiences e.g. a home area. Role play will also help to develop language and communication skills, this changes to coincide with current topics.



Literacy Area

A wide range of activities and games can be set up in this area to help encourage listening, rhyming and mark making skills e.g. children may use chalk and sand to encourage early mark making and writing skills.

Numeracy Area

In this area, children will be encouraged to use a variety of equipment that is related to number, shape and problem solving. They will be encouraged to sing rhymes, sort numbers and count objects. They will explore pattern, look at shapes and experiment with measurement. Puzzles and jigsaws can also be used to support social skills e.g. taking turns and sharing.

Discovery Area

Children will be encouraged to use their senses to discover new things through handling objects and artefacts e.g. minibeasts. This is essential for finding out about the world around us and to develop questioning skills. They will also have access to technology e.g. computers, cameras and programmable toys.



Creative Area

This area will contain all messy play such as paint, play dough and other sensory materials. Children will have access to a variety of materials and tools which can be used to explore colour and texture. They will be able to use large and small

construction kits to build, or use junk boxes and tape, to create their own models. Music may be used to encourage children to move creatively and imaginatively. We encourage the children to be independent and we provide aprons for the children to wear but on occasions your child may come home a little mucky from where they have been exploring.

Outdoor Play

The outdoor environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

According to the government guidelines, children must have access to an outside area to play. They need the opportunity to explore indoor and outdoor environments. This also means that children can and should have the choice of playing inside or outside during the session.

At Queensway we share this view and allow the children to choose their preferred environment. Your child may choose to spend a significant amount of time outdoors during the session so therefore needs to be dressed appropriately.



Toilets

The nursery has low level toilets which are easily accessible for your child. Staff are always on hand to encourage your child to use them independently.



What should my child wear?

Our uniform is supplied by www.myclothing.com which includes a fleece and sweatshirt. We ask the children to wear a white polo shirt and black/grey bottoms. Your child should be in comfortable, washable and durable clothes.

We ask that children wear a sensible pair of shoes that they can fasten themselves throughout the year (open toe shoes, heels, crocs etc are not suitable for Nursery).

Children may wear small stud earrings to Nursery but please remove all hoops to avoid the risk of injury when climbing and playing.

What does my child need for Nursery?

We have a digging area and outside tap so children will get messy. Aprons will be provided for painting and other messy activities. A pair of named wellies to avoid getting their feet wet and muddy is a good idea. A bag clearly labelled with your child's name containing a named set of spare clothes is essential so please ensure your child has these. We do have some spare clothes in nursery but unfortunately, we never seem to have enough!



The Nursery Session

We like to encourage a routine at Nursery so every session tends to run in a similar way unless there is a special visitor or trip.

The Nursery session runs as follows:

8.45am till 11.45am (morning session)

On arrival children explore for a short time until everyone has arrived. Children will assemble on the carpet to say hello and find out what activities are available and to complete the register. Children are then free to explore the areas inside and outside with any of the activities or resources set up, independently.

Children may be asked to participate in an adult led activity during the session. These activities will vary and will often focus on development of a specific skill. Short carpet inputs of Maths, Phonics and topic occur throughout the session.

During the session the children will have snack time, this will include milk or water and a piece of fruit. The children will finish with a story and singing before home time.

Please inform staff if your child has any allergies.

P.E

Once a week nursery children go into the main hall for P.E. We remove our socks and shoes. You will be notified which day, please remove earrings.

Library Visits

We also visit our school library once a week. The children are able to choose a book to take home and share with you. You will be notified of the day so you can return the books.

Punctuality and Attendance

It is good practise for the children to arrive at Nursery on time. The doors will be open at the beginning of the session for ten minutes to allow you to bring your child in. If you should arrive late, please report to the school office. Please also contact the school office if your child is unable to attend nursery.

Please inform us if you are going to be late by calling the school office 01842 753163. You must also inform us if someone different is collecting your child.

Discipline

We expect a high standard of behaviour from the children in Nursery. For reasons of safety we expect the children to behave in an orderly way, showing consideration for others. We aim to teach the children that it is important to be punctual and polite. If unacceptable behaviour occurs, parents will be invited to discuss the matter with the Nursery staff.

How can I help my child?

Research suggests that children learn most rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time.

The more you talk with your child the more educated they will become. Spending ten quality minutes with your child each day sharing a book or playing a game will make them more confident and able learners.

The area for parents on this website www.foundationyears.org.uk provides valuable information about what you can do to help your child through play at home.



We look forward to meeting you and your child. Please remember to speak to any members of the Nursery team if you have any questions or concerns.