

# Cookstown Nursery School



“There is a welcoming, positive, inclusive ethos which positively contributes to the work of the nursery.”

“All of the children are well settled, confident and very highly motivated in their learning.”

“The staff have created an attractive, child centred and well organised learning environment.”

“Staff interactions are of high quality and promote well the children’s learning and development.”

# Nursery Staff

- Principal: Mrs J Fleming
- Asst. Teacher: Mrs Mallon
- Nursery Assistants:
  - Mrs J Harkness
  - Mrs C Hammond
  - Miss R Curry
- Additional Needs Assistant:
  - : Mrs A Bolton
- Secretary:
  - : Mrs A Bolton
- Caretaker: Mrs R Donnelly

# School Hours

- Staff are in the school from 8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
- Nursery session begins at 8.45 a.m.
- All children need to be in Nursery no later 9.10 a.m.
- The nursery session ends each day at 1.15 pm
- Children can be collected no earlier than 1.15 p.m.
- If you need to discuss anything at length with your child's teacher, please understand that we can only do this after 1.30 p.m.
- Please let us know the reason for any absence.



# School Aims

- To motivate and provide children with experiences which will arouse their curiosity and stimulate interest.





- To help your child form sound, happy relationships with those around them.





- To involve parents in their child's education.



- To build confidence and promote a sense of pride in their achievements.



- To promote independence and take ownership of their learning.



To provide opportunities to follow their own interests and learn through spontaneous play experiences







To ensure smooth progression throughout nursery year.



# The Nursery Curriculum

## 6 Areas of Development

- Personal, Social & Emotional
- Language & Literacy
- Physical
- Early Mathematics
- The Arts
- The World Around Us

Within the nursery we offer a broad and balanced range of activities which promote development in all areas.





# Personal, Social and Emotional

- encourage your child to make friendships and form relationships with the adults and others around them.
- help reinforce confidence and a good positive self-image.
- to promote independence and sense of achievement.



## *When You:*

*Cut it for me,  
Write it for me,  
Open it for me,  
Set it up for me,  
Draw it for me or  
Find it for me,*

*All I learn is:*

*that you do it better than me*





# Language and Literacy



Developing children's pre reading/ writing skills and fostering a love of books and stories.

# Physical Development



Developing gross and fine motor skills in fun and challenging ways.



# Early Mathematics



Developing an awareness of early number, counting, shape/ colour recognition and use of mathematical language.

# The Arts



- Developing creativity through role play, painting, modelling and music.



# The World Around Us

- exploring early science, geography  
and history





# Outside Play Environment



Developing a range of gross motor skills including balance and co ordination





•Fostering  
creativity  
through a range  
of different  
mediums



# Outdoor Learning

- Outdoors Thinking- Certificate in Outdoor Practice
- Focuses on creating a rich landscape of stimulating, meaningful and worthwhile possibilities & experiences outdoors.
- Explore the potential learning experiences through 'super ingredients' mud, sand, water, small/ large loose parts.
- Transforming how our environment is presented and outdoor practice is delivered.





• Exploring the elements



• Water play



• Using loose parts





Using large loose parts



Mud kitchen creations



# Forest School Leader Qualification



• Den  
Building





•Collecting natural materials to make nests for the birds.



•Fire pit activities-  
toasting  
marshmallows

# Be Prepared

- We will be outside everyday in all weathers.
- Ensure children are dressed appropriately
  - Warm coats, hats, gloves
  - Welly boots to be kept in school.
  - Waterproof clothing provided.
  - Adequate change of clothes and replenish.
- Be prepared for mess.



# Trips



- A variety of trips are offered throughout the year to support the curriculum.  
Peatlands Park/Parkanaur/Killymoon Castle



# Visitors



- World of Owls
- Librarian
- Dentist
- Police
- Vet
- Paramedics
- Fire Service
- Wee Critters

# Developing links with our community







# Jo Jingles



Enjoyable, fun filled sessions which involves music and movement.

Promotes:

- Communication & Language skills
- Listening skills
- Physical Development
- Creativity & Imagination





# Ronan- FIT Minds Programme







# Sensory Play





# Cross Community Links



- Links with Holy Trinity Nursery/ Phoenix Nursery units.
- Trips / Activities shared between schools.
- Parent Participation.
- Involvement in Shared Education Programme.

# Parental Involvement





# Getting Ready To Learn

- 3+ Reviews.
- Links with Health Visitor.
- Liaison between home/school.
- Effective sharing of information.
  - Big Bedtime Read/Education Works/ Happy Healthy Kids



# Home/ School Communication

- See Saw App
- Notes/ Notice Boards
- Email
  - Please keep us updated with any changes in contact details.



# Clothing

- School Uniform- supplied by Wallace (Kees),  
Cookstown
  - Buy in store or online [wallace1948.com](http://wallace1948.com)
  - Navy Sweatshirt (£17.99)
  - White Polo Shirt
  - Navy track suit bottoms/leggings/  
skirts.
  - Trainers- Slip on or Velcro

- No belts, dungarees , difficult buttons etc..
- Slipper bags are provided to store a change of clothes.
- For safety reasons we do not recommend your child wearing ear rings at school.
- Necklaces can be dangerous when climbing.
- Valuable rings, necklaces etc are best left at home.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Sensible Shoes- Velcro are best: no buckles/laces.
- Cloakroom security: Please ensure names are on **EVERYTHING!**



# Break / Dinner



- Dinners are currently priced at £2.50 per day.
- If your child is entitled to free school meals, forms are available online through EA website.
- Nursery subscription covers the cost of dough ingredients, bread, fruit, cereal etc. for break and is currently £2.50 per week.
- We would ask that break/dinner money be paid on Monday mornings in a envelope clearly labelled with your child's name.

# Starting Nursery

- Information Sharing- Booklets
- Transition Day: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Staggered Intake-throughout September.
- Listen to the advice Nursery staff will give you.
- Be prepared for the occasional setback.
- Your child's length of session will be extended when the teacher feels they are ready.
- Length of day to suit child's needs.



# Promoting Independence in preparation for starting school

- Please encourage your child to be independent over the summer break.
- Where possible, all children should be independent in their toileting needs. This may impact upon your child's length of day.
- If you feel you would welcome support with toileting before starting school, please speak with Principal who is happy to help with advice / guidance.

# Pastoral Care/Child Protection

- The school is committed to promoting the health & welfare of its pupils.
- Designated staff -
  - Mrs Julianne Fleming (DT)
  - Mrs Louise Mallon (DDT)
- Child protection policy displayed within the hall area.
- Should we see signs of abuse/ neglect / cause for concern we are required by law to follow procedures laid down by Education Authority.



# Assessment and Record Keeping

- Observations
- Recording progress
- Suitable activities to promote skills.
- Progression throughout the year.
- You can talk to your child's teacher at any time about their progress.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews (3 per year)

# Special Educational Needs

- Staff may identify an area of difficulty which you are unaware of.
- It is better to face and deal with such difficulties as early as possible.
- Education Plans and targets set.
- Liaison with external agencies for support.
- Shortened day to suit child's needs.
- Any worries, do not hesitate to come to us.



# Do's And Don'ts

- Please leave your child in the care of his/her teacher every day and not in the porch by themselves.
- Smoking is not permitted in any part of the building including the immediate outside area.
- Collect your child no later than 1.15 p.m.
- Staff will only hand your child over to an adult that is known to them and not to anyone under 16.
- We encourage parents to monitor their child's behaviour when waiting in the reception area/ car park area.
- Cars are not permitted down to the school building.( exceptions apply) Strictly No parking in front of the barrier.
- If your child is sick , KEEP HIM/HER AT HOME.

# Preparing for Nursery

- Chat to your child about going to school.
- Always be positive about starting school.
- Never use school / teachers as a threat!
- Transition Visit Day.

Last but not least  
WELCOME TO COOKSTOWN  
NURSERY SCHOOL

We hope you  
enjoy your time with us.