



Little Owls Nursery Information Pack



At Little Owls, we aim to provide a happy, secure and welcoming environment to every child and build a positive partnership between home and nursery. Staff get to know children by observation, interaction and talking to parents as well as previous nurseries.

Staff wish to work with parents to promote children's learning and well-being in a happy atmosphere of play and discovery. We will provide stimulating and challenging opportunities for children to learn through first-hand experiences. We aim to ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum irrespective of gender, race, belief, social background or any special educational need.



Our timetable

Welcome

Children and parents are welcomed into the Nursery from 8.45am for morning sessions and from 12pm for afternoon sessions. Staff are available to talk to parents during this time and are more than happy to answer questions and queries.

Registration and Carpet Time

Children will settle on the carpet to talk about what will be happening in their session. Time is given for children to talk through anything of interest to them. A teacher led session will take place concentrating on one of the 7 areas of learning.

Activities

Children will be able to choose from a wide variety of activities both inside and outside. We adore outdoor learning, so even if it's raining the children will have outdoor opportunities in wellies and wonderful waterproof suits. Hall time and the use of the playground and large field also takes place during the day. We have bikes and playground games to use during playtimes. We also provide short sessions, where the children will work together with the teacher on new learning. Teachers are very skilled in creating opportunities for social interaction and communication, enhancing our Little Owls speech and language abilities.

Snack Time

Children will be encouraged to tidy their equipment away, go to the toilet and wash their hands ready for snack. They will then have a healthy snack and water or milk. During this time children are able to chat, discuss and try a range of snacks throughout their time at our Nursery. Fruit and snacks change daily, for more information please contact the office.

Tidy Up Time

Children are encouraged to help tidy away their equipment. Children will then come together on the carpet for songs, stories, rhymes and to share news.

Home Time

Parents arrive to collect their children depending on how long they are staying in Nursery that day. The children will be brought out to parents at the gate, parents are asked to meet their children in the playground. Staff will then happily talk through the day and explain to parents how their children have been, what they have achieved and any personal milestones.

Communication

As a ClassDojo school, our key staff will be regularly updating you with information about the classes learning and activities. They will update the class feed at least once per week to show the learning of Little Owls. When your child is enrolled in our nursery, you will be issued with a log in and access to the class and whole school updates, however you will be required to consent to photos being shared within the class page.



ClassDojo

If you wish to contact the key staff and nursery leads, you will be able to directly message staff on ClassDojo. This will be a place to ask small questions, check in on your child and gain extra information or accident forms. Please be mindful that messages will be responded to within the day or the following day but staff are very busy engaging with and teaching your children, so replies may not be instant.

About our Nursery

The Nursery Class shares its own room and outside play area with the Reception children and we have use of the school's facilities including the hall, field and library.

The school employs a very experienced Nursery lead, a qualified teacher and support staff to ensure children attending the nursery are given an excellent start to their education. The Nursery lead, Mrs Denton works closely with the Reception teacher, Mrs Patnell to carefully plan and consider excellent activities and opportunities for our Little Owls.

The curriculum is planned carefully to provide a wide range of exciting play opportunities that are linked to the children's own interests and next steps of learning. Staff work with the children as a whole class, in small groups and on a one to one basis. This ensures that activities are tailored to meet children's individual needs and gives opportunities for each child to be supported and extended where appropriate. Staff also assess the children regularly so that they can quickly identify areas where children need extra help or show particular strengths which can be encouraged.

Our Nursery offers education and care for children who are ready, over the age of 3 until they start reception.

Planned learning areas and topics include all about me, colours, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Easter, minibeads, super heroes, families, rockets and aliens, farms and people who help us. All of these topics help the children explore the world, learn basic letters, their name and numbers as well as accessing books, stories, rhymes and physical development activities. Staff work hard to include activities which encourage communication, physical activity, motor skills, social skills, imaginative play, understanding of the world as well as hygiene and personal functioning skills.

Key person/ staff

Your child will have a key person who will make sure that your child's learning and care is tailored to their own individual needs. Your child's key person is the class teacher who will support parents in guiding their children's learning at home. We have a range of highly trained and experienced staff to help support your child in our nursery.



EYFS lead Teacher
Mrs Patnell



Nursery Lead
Mrs Denton



Nursery Assistant
Miss Hodges



Nursery Assistant
Mr MacGowan



Nursery Assistant
Miss Wood

Nursery sessions

We run our Nursery every day Monday to Friday from 9am until 3pm.

Sessions include a morning session from 9am – 12pm or 1pm and afternoon sessions from 12pm to 3pm including lunch. Children can also stay for full day sessions from 9am – 3pm. For lunches the children are welcomed into the hall with the other EYFS and KS1 children to enjoy a hot lunch or a home packed lunch.

Funding and fees

Government funding for five free sessions (15 hours) per week is available for all three and four year olds from the term following their 3rd birthday. 10 sessions (30 hours) is also available depending on eligibility, providing the school with an appropriate government code. There is the opportunity to pay for extra sessions if spaces are available. For additional spaces please speak to key staff or the office to inquire.

For children attending extra paid for sessions, it will be charged at £16.50 per session or £5.50 per hour. Bills are sent out at the beginning of each term. You can either pay the full amount in receipt of the bill, or on a half termly basis in advance of the session.

If no payment is received for the session your child will not be able to attend. All money is to be paid into the school office where a receipt will be given. Should you have any queries about payments or billing please contact the office on 01485 541402 or email office@ingoldisthorpe.norfolk.sch.uk



Illness or holidays

If your child is sick or you decide to take your child out during nursery term time for breaks or holidays, fees must still be paid for the sessions.

Tips for successful start to Nursery



- 1) Begin to encourage your child to dress themselves, go to the toilet themselves and wash their hands.
- 2) Wear clothes which are easy to manage e.g. trousers that can easily be pulled up or down for toileting needs.
- 3) Encourage your child to play with others, take turns and share.
- 4) Get your child used to leaving you for short periods of time, always say 'goodbye' and come back when you say you will.
- 5) Show confidence when you leave your child even if you don't feel like it. (We will contact you if they are upset - we promise!)
- 6) Build a routine for your child and ensure they attend regularly to support this.

Foundation Stage Curriculum

The nursery staff work as a team to plan and deliver the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' curriculum through the 7 different areas of learning. Mrs

Patnell and Mrs Denton plan a two year rolling curriculum which is adaptable and flexible for our young learners. Children entering Nursery will concentrate on the three prime areas before moving onto specific areas.

Prime areas

The three prime areas of learning are the foundation building blocks to learning and entering school. All children will access this key learning before moving onto more specific academic and personal skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We develop the children's independence, confidence and social communication as well as an ability to play co-operatively, share, collaborate and become part of a larger group.



We take turns when we play games together.



Using dinosaurs and exploring the sand.

Communication and Language

This focuses on the development of speaking, listening, understanding. We are highly skilled practitioners and are able to help children progress in their spoken communication. We are NELI trained and are able to support those with speech and language difficulties. Communication is key in Little Owls and we love to have the children share with us and each other.



Playing in the role play area.



Working together to find minibeasts, discussing our finds.

Physical Development

Activities are planned that enable the child to develop mobility, motor skills, balance and manipulative skills. They will learn about taking care of their own needs and keeping healthy.



Building with our hands on resources, climbing, sliding and creating obstacle courses.

Specific areas

Literacy

Children are encouraged to develop good conversational skills and listen to stories, rhymes and poems. They will foster an appreciation of books and acquire book skills, developing the skills needed to become writers. Some even like to look at and 'read' the library books and Bibles.



We love to write, draw, look at stories and we enjoy sharing stories.

Mathematics

Practical activities are designed to promote understanding of mathematical concepts and apparatus in play situations. Children will become aware of shape, ordering, sequencing and counting.



Playing with numbers, colouring patterns and shapes.

Understanding the World

Children develop understanding and knowledge of their environment and the world around them. They develop a sense of the past. This provides the foundations for science, technology, history and geography.



Digging, searching for insects, planting, playing in the mud kitchen and developing our ICT skills.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children are encouraged to develop their imagination and to express ideas in creative ways, particularly in art, role play and music.



To express ourselves and experiment we explore sounds with the instruments, role playing, use sand and water trays, mud kitchens as well as create and draw our own music.



Learning Journeys

Your child will have a learning journey where staff record their learning and progress in Nursery. This book is available in Nursery for you to share. We positively encourage parents to contribute to their child's learning journey.

"Wow!" moment forms are available in class for you to write down your observations, which will be added to the learning journey to make a lifelong keepsake and collection of wonderful memories.

Snacks and lunches

Snack

Snack consists of water or milk and fruit, vegetables or raisins. Please could you provide a named drink bottle to be left at school for drinking water. **Please let staff know if your child has any food allergies or special dietary requirements.**

More information can be found at <https://foundationyears.org.uk>

Lunch

Children who stay for the afternoon session may purchase a school lunch, which can be either a hot lunch or a school packed lunch or will need to bring their own packed lunch and drink. The school encourages healthy eating in all packed lunches and in our school lunches. Our school hot lunches are provided by Aspens and cost **£2.53** per lunch – lunches will need to be preordered by parents and paid for before attending school. The office and admin team will ensure all parents have log ins and details about lunches. For more information about our healthy lunches and offering please go to the school lunches page on the website. **Please be aware we are a NUT FREE school.**

Example lunch menus



Uniform and clothing

School sweatshirts are available to buy at our school supplier, Stratford's (order online and they will deliver them to school) but uniform is not essential for Little Owls. We recommend the children have a cardigan or jumper to enable them to feel part of the school and get ready for a day of learning and exploring. Please mark all clothing with your child's name.

Spare clothes are also a good idea in case of accidents, socks and spare underwear are very useful to have in school as school spares are limited and dependent on availability. Your child will also need a pair of wellingtons (named) for outdoor play and water proofs if you have them.



Attendance

Ingoldisthorpe C.E. VA Primary and Nursery School encourages regular attendance to ensure that children settle and adjust well to being in a school environment. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office by 9:00am on the first day of your child's absence. You can leave a message but all absences must be reported.

We hope that this booklet provides you with everything you need to know about our Nursery but if you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact us by phone or email or pop in!