

# Welcome to the Snowdrop Class (Nursery)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to Whitfield St James' Early Years Foundation Stage Unit.

We recognise that settling into nursery is a big step for you and your child and we will endeavour to make it a smooth and happy transition. We look forward to working together to develop an effective partnership and that your child feels happy, safe and secure. We plan a happy and rewarding environment for your child to learn and discover through a range of experiences.

### **The Foundation Stage Staff**

Nursery Teachers: Mrs E Thornley (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)

Mrs N Cox (Thursday)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs J Taylor  
Mrs C Grant  
Mrs C Hodson  
Mrs T Ryan

### **When your child starts school they will need:**

- A book bag – everyday
- A waterproof coat with a hood - everyday we go outside in all weathers!
- A sun hat/winter hat & mittens
- A drawstring PE bag containing spare clothes including underwear and socks in case of any accidents or fun playing in the water! Bags can stay in school and taken home during the holidays to wash.
- Wellies- to stay at school

**Please label EVERYTHING with your child's name, thank you**

### **Uniform**

Pupils in Nursery have jade green jumpers/cardigans, white polo shirt, grey/black trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores and in summer green/blue gingham school dress. Black school shoes. Again, please ensure everything is labelled and that shoes have velcro straps so they can change themselves.

## Snack, Food and Drink

Fruit, milk and water is available throughout the day and we sometimes supplement the fruit snack with additional food to try, such as cheese, crackers and yogurt. **PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ALLGERGIES.**

If your child stays for lunch, we do recommend our healthy eating school lunches or if you prefer, you may bring in a packed lunch. **Due to severe allergies of current pupils please do not send in any nut products into school.**



Please be at school ready for the bell at 8.55am. A member of the foundation stage team will be on duty in the playground from 8.45am. The morning nursery session ends at 11.50am, the afternoon session starts at 12.30pm and ends at 3.20pm.

At the end of the school day we open the doors at 3.20pm (5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school.) We request you collect your child before collecting older siblings from other classes. Please ensure you arrive on time. It can be very upsetting for a child if they are the last one left at the end of the school day. Teachers will hand over each child individually to ensure that they go with their grown up. Do let us know if your child is going to be collected by someone different. Please telephone the school office or let a member of staff know beforehand.

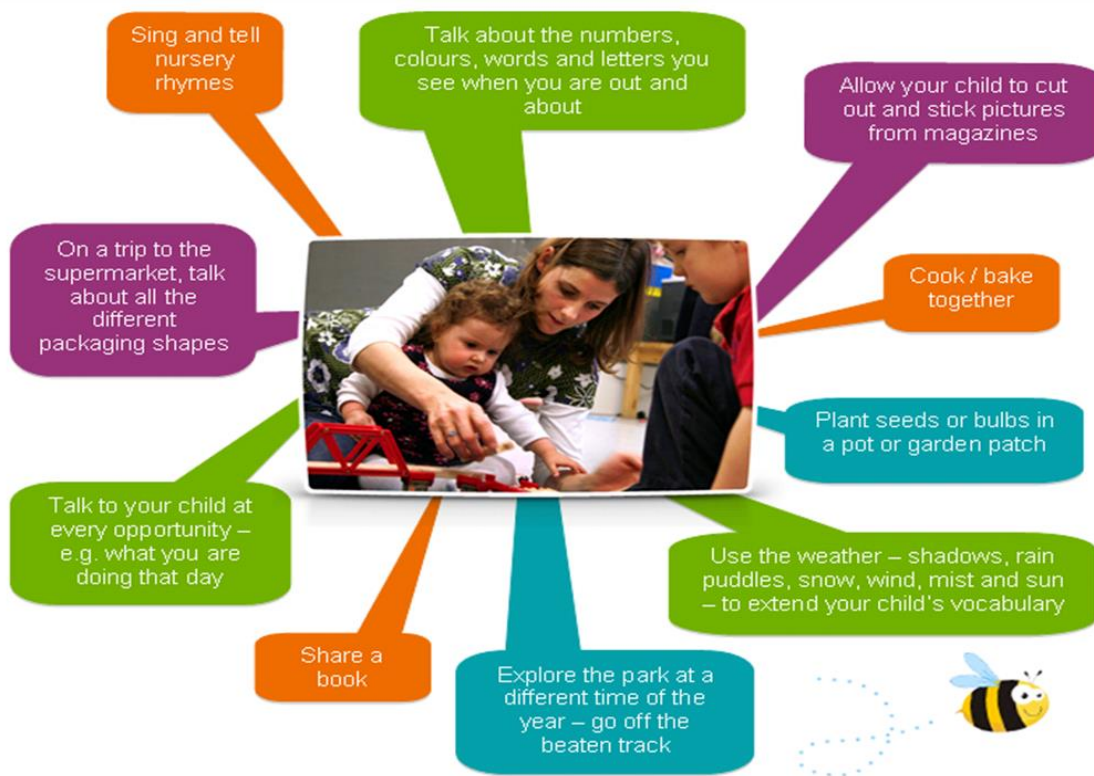


We follow a "Going for Gold" behaviour system in school, which is similar to a traffic light system where children start each day on green and may move up to silver and then gold for lots of reasons such as trying their best, being kind, being caring, completing a task especially well etc. For any unacceptable behaviour children may be moved down to orange and then red for something such as hurting their friends. Children who have reached "gold" will get a sticker and a text home to congratulate them. Children who have achieved 5 or more "golds" in each term will be invited to a special treat such a disco or a movie with popcorn.

## Illness and absences

It is very important that we have up to date contact information in case of any illness during the school day. To avoid the spread of viruses, please do not bring your child to school if they are feeling unwell. If they have had sickness or diarrhoea they should not come into school until 48 hours after the last bout.

## Helping your child at home



## Parent Partnership

The children will get a library book which they choose and take home for the week for you to look through together. Please ensure library books are in book bags every **Thursday**. If library books are left at home, they will have to wait until the following week to have their library book changed. We know parents and carers are very busy people, but if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps him or her to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. When it is safe to do so, we will invite parents/carers/ into school every Thursday to choose a new library book with their child and sit together and read through it. This is a great opportunity to be involved in your child's learning.

## Information

The Foundation Stage Unit has a half termly newsletter and weekly snap shot of what we are learning throughout the week, available on the website and uploaded onto Tapestry. School has a texting service and will text with reminders and information. Please let the office know of any changes to contact numbers for this service.

## Tapestry



Tapestry is an online learning journal. We use Tapestry to share observations made of your child and it allows you to login with a secure username and password so you can view all your children's observations, photographs and videos. You can like and comment on observations that we add for your child

and it's also possible for you to add your own observations. Your comments and own observations will allow us to find out about which activities your child really enjoys and the learning they get up to at home. We also use Tapestry to notify you of what your child is learning in school, special activity days, how to help at home, including phonics, maths and topic homework and sharing class newsletters.

### “WOW” Moments



We are aware that the children also do a lot of learning at home, and we would love to hear from you when you see them doing something that makes you proud. We ask that you share any wow moments on Tapestry by taking and uploading a photo and you can also add a comment if you wish. We look at children's wow moment photos in class

on the interactive white board and they love talking about what they have done. Here are a few examples of what you might share.

Alfie was making playdough worms. He lined them all up and told me 'this one is the shortest and this is the longest'.

Ellen helped me get ready for her birthday party. She was happy to wait for Daddy to get home before she opened her presents. She asked if we were having party bags "like what we had at Millie's party" (her cousin).

Maisie helped me with the gardening. She pulled out one of last years herbs. "Look it's dying. Can I have the watering can, because it needs water?"

### Early Years Foundation stage curriculum (EYFS) and Next steps

Next Steps and Assessments in The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is designed to provide all practitioners, working with children up to the age of 5, a benchmark, assessment tool and structure of what to expect of and to help plan for children as they grow and develop.

Part of using the EYFS curriculum is to provide practitioners an insight of where the child might be, developmentally, and where they should be moving onto next. These descriptors or goals provide practitioners with the knowledge and information that forms part of your child's next step/s.

### How does the nursery identify my child's next step?

**Initial Assessment:** Your child's key worker will spend a lot of time with your child, getting to know them and carrying out an Initial assessment (against the EYFS descriptors) within the first few weeks of your child joining the Snowdrop Class.

**Identifying Next Steps:** Using the information from the Initial Assessment allows the key worker to identify areas that your child might need help or support with, in order for them to reach their next goal. This also helps us to measure your child's progress over time. Once your child has successfully reached their next step, new targets will be set for them. This is reviewed on a half termly basis or if they have reached their target.

**Sharing Next Steps:** Sharing children's next steps with parents is very important as this will give parents and carers information on where their child is at and how they are making progress over time. This also provides parents with the knowledge of how the nursery is meeting your child's developmental needs.

**Further Assessments:** Your child will be assessed at least once every term. This will form part of setting next steps for your child. We will share your child's next steps with you via a report card and when we are able to do so safely, we will invite you into nursery for a parents meeting. We also welcome next steps from parents and this can be included at the bottom of the report card.

### **What does the Nursery do with the Next Steps?**

**Planning:** The next steps form part of and is linked into our weekly and daily planning, forming part of our rich learning environment on offer. The activities that are planned for, provide a context for your child to practice and work on their next steps identified until they have achieved them. Your child's next steps are displayed within the nursery on a next step wall for all adults to clearly see and refer to.

**Observations:** Your child's key worker is aware of your child's next steps, their age and stage of development. Through a variety of weekly observations, the key worker will be able to identify when your child has achieved their next step. This will also inform the following next step set for your child.

**How can parents help?** It is vital for parents to be aware of their child's next steps and overall development and this is why it is important that we share next steps via report cards and using Tapestry online learning platform.

Measuring next steps at nursery is only one part of a child's learning and growing environment. That's why it is very important for parents to share your child's important milestones or WOW moments they achieve at home with us to celebrate! You can do this via Tapestry online or in person.

### **Writing**

#### **Why we teach the children to write in lowercase not uppercase letters (capitals):**

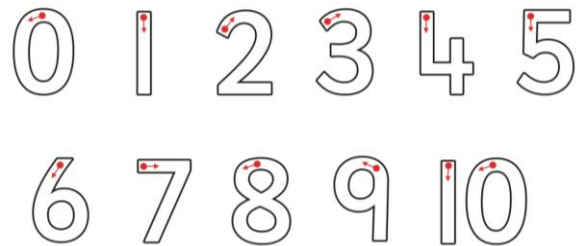
95% of what children write, and are exposed to, is in a lower case form and only 5% in capital. Lower case letters are far less complicated, requiring fewer pencil lifts to complete the letters.

Young children who have learnt mostly capital letters first find it difficult to stop, as it is so ingrained into the memory, using them half way through words and sentences. Even when they are older this inappropriate use of capitals creeps back into their work especially if they are tired or concentrating hard on composing their work.

Learning to write their name is a very important skill for your child to learn. Always use a capital letter for the first letter of their name then follow it with lower case letters. You can explain that as it is their name it starts with a capital letter because it is an important word which we want to stand out.

### **Number Formation**

We teach the children to form the letters using memorable formation rhymes and to start the letter on the red dot like the numbers below.



### **Formation Rhymes:**

Around and round and round we go, when we get home we have a 0.

Start at the top and down we run, that's the way we make a 1.

Around and back on the railroad track, 2, 2, 2.

Around the tree and around the tree, that's the way we make a 3.

Down and over and down some more, that's the way we make a 4.

Down and around and a flag on high, that's the way we make a 5.

Around to a loop, number 6 rolls a hoop.

Across the sky and down from heaven, that's the way we make a 7.

Make an S and do not wait, when we get home we have an eight.

Make a loop and then a line, that's the way we make a 9

### **Special Occasions**

We like to celebrate the children's birthdays, as it is an important time for them and it makes them feel very special. We know that some parents like to bring in something for the class to share. We suggest stickers or a book for everyone to read.

### **The Orchard (Before and After School Club)**

Our Before and After School Club (The Orchard) is available to all of our pupils in school.

Timings:

Before School Club – 7.30-8.55am (when school starts)

After School Club – 3.25-6.00pm

Please see our school website for further information or ask at the office.

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**We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure the very best care and education for your child.**

**We hope that this booklet has been helpful. If you do have any questions or concerns please contact a member of staff. We are always happy to help.**