Coley Nursery- Information for Parents and Carers

Welcome and thank you for sending your child to Coley Nursery. We are delighted that you chose to join us!

We aim to make your child's time in nursery exciting, inspiring and fun! We have worked hard to create a place where children feel safe and secure in the knowledge that we are all learners and we are also all teachers. We care for each other and we learn from each other and it's ok to make mistakes. In fact, the very best learning comes from making mistakes!

We have set up the nursery so it is a rich learning environment in which the children can direct their own learning adventures, as well as having some more structured group times to target their progress. Our team are always there to help and support them, whether it be helping get the resources they may need to carry out an investigation or simply encouraging them to find the correct words to solve any small disagreement which may arise.

In nursery we play a lot! Play is vital to healthy brain development and it's through play that children learn how to interact and engage with the world around them. It allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, dexterity and physical, cognitive and emotional strength. It helps children learn how to interact with others and develops their social skills. It is probably the most important part of your child's time with us and we work really hard to ensure that our nursery is set up and equipped so that your child can experience play at the very highest level.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS)and so much of the curriculum is covered by the children making their own choices within the learning environment we have created. We also have various topics which we cover each term and you will find these on the school website under Nursery Knowledge Organisers. This way if you want to learn alongside us, or would like to encourage your child to speak about some of the experiences they may be having, then reading our Knowledge Organisers is a really good place to start. We also post lots of pictures of all of our learning adventures in the gallery on our website. You may well have a look and feel that you have seen that we are doing something that you know a lot about or have a real passion for. Please feel free to share your ideas with us. Coley has always believed that a strong partnership between home and school gives the children the very best foundation to learning. Like we said earlier- We are all teachers and we are all learners.







Nursery staff and session times

There will be at least 3 members of staff working with the children every day; one nursery teacher, one Early Years Practitioner and a Learning Support Assistant all with a slightly different skillset and all equally important in the education of your child. We work very closely as a team and will do everything we possibly can to ensure that your child feels settled, happy and ready to learn.

Mr Tom Ramplin is our Nursery Teacher.

Mrs Laura Addai is our Early Years Practitioner.

Mrs Lingashini Thirukumaran and **Mrs Sujatha Nagaraj** are our Learning Support Assistants

At various times throughout the year there may also be nursery nurse students and people on work experience working with us in the nursery.

Mrs Sarah Pengelly is our Headteacher.

Mrs Clare Budd is our Deputy Headteacher and SENCo

Mr Tom Ramplin is our Foundation Stage Lead.

The **morning** session runs from **8.30- 11.30.**

The **afternoon** session runs from **12.30-3.30.**

We take a maximum of **26** children per session.

Coley Primary and Nursery school phone number- 0118 9375461








Our Nursery Routine

Start of the session- The children are welcomed into nursery and come straight into the cloakroom. They hang their coat on their peg, find their name card and put it into the pocket that has the same letter as the first letter of their name. We try to make direct contact with every child during this time to gauge how they are feeling that day. Some children require extra support to settle sometimes and it is important that they all feel that this support is there for them.

They are then free to choose an activity for around half an hour.

Free flow activities/ Group times- After the first half hour when all the children are indoors, we then open the main nursery doors so the children can choose whether they want to continue their learning inside or to go into the outdoor nursery garden. During this time, the children will be called in small groups to do some focused work with one of the nursery teachers. These groups are differentiated so all the activities are tailored specifically to your child's needs. During group times we may do an activity to help develop the children's language or maths skills. We may do a science or music activity. We learn about taking turns and listening to each other. It could even be that we present the children with a challenge which they need to work together to solve. It's all about providing exciting activities tailored to the specific children in each group to help with a specific area of their development. Children's attitudes towards learning are very much influenced by their early experiences so we are very mindful of this when we plan our group times.







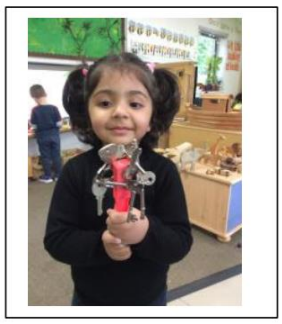
Singing time- After around 45 minutes, we all come to the carpet and sing some songs, talk about what day it is and have a general chat together. We LOVE singing in nursery because it's such a fun way to learn! In fact, the children are usually totally unaware of the high level learning that takes place during these times! We sing a wide variety of songs including nursery rhymes, action songs, number songs to develop maths skills, songs to develop language skills and ring games to help develop social and cooperative skills. We also use the rhythm sticks too.

Snack time- After singing, we have a drink and a snack together. The children will be offered a choice of milk or water and the snack is usually a piece of fresh fruit. They will not be required to bring in their own drink or snack because it will be provided for them. There is always a choice of snack and we find that even though very occasionally some children may not want to try the snack, when they see other

children eating, they usually change their minds. We encourage the children to see themselves as 'Food Explorers' and they always surprise us!

Free flow activities- After snack time the children are allowed to choose whether they want to play in our indoor or outdoor classrooms again. Some children need a bit of extra support and it is during this time that this usually takes place.



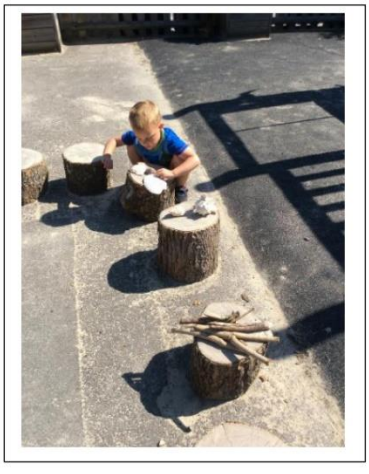



Tidy up time- Half an hour before the end of the session, we all tidy up inside and outside together. We work cooperatively. We tidy up whatever we have been using and then we help each other tidy up the rest of the nursery. It's a very important part of the day. We are proud of our nursery and we feel it's important that it looks attractive and inspiring to everyone. The children learn very quickly how to do this and we are constantly amazed at how well they manage.

Story time- At the end of the session, we all come together for a shared story. Books and stories stimulate a child's imagination and help expand their understanding of the world around them. Listening to stories builds many foundational skills, introduces new vocabulary and provides the children with a good model of fluent and expressive reading. We all enjoy this time and it's the perfect way to end a busy day full of learning

Home time- We open the gate for you to come up to the nursery and collect your child. Please can you wait for one of the nursery staff to let your child know that you are here and they will send them to you, rather than you call them over. This means that we know that each child has been given to their parent safely.

If you want to talk to us about anything, there is no need to book an appointment. Just let us know you would like a chat and one of the team will always be there to talk to you straight away.








Other useful information

Birthdays- We love to celebrate birthdays in the nursery. On their special day, the birthday child comes to the front of the class where they sit at a special table with their chosen friends. We light 4 candles on our cake and sing Happy Birthday and the child then blows them out. We then give them a birthday balloon and a card. Please don't bring in your own gifts/treats. If you do not celebrate and would rather your child didn't take part in these celebrations, please let us know.

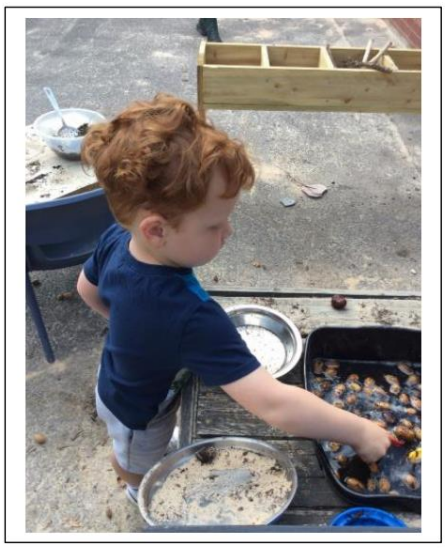
Parents evenings- Every term there will be the opportunity for you to meet with us to share your child's achievements and discuss any worries you may have. The dates will be emailed/ texted to you giving you the opportunity to book a suitable time. We all really look forward to these meetings and would love to meet all of you!

Behaviour- If children see good behaviour modelled, they will usually learn to model good behaviour themselves. We always try to correct any behaviour that may be deemed as less sociable by pointing out the good behaviour we see in other children rather than pointing out the negative. Across Coley primary school & Nursery, we have a therapeutic approach to behaviour which helps us all to work together to develop pro-social relationships between children, staff and the wider community.

Nursery Uniform - We have a very simple nursery uniform. This consists of a school jumper available from Stevenson's or a green jumper. This can be worn with an optional school t-shirt, also available at Stevenson's, or a t-shirt of your own choosing coupled with leggings or jogging bottoms or if preferred a school skirt. Children should wear shoes or trainers, with closed in toes that they are able to take on and off and fasten themselves. We find that almost all children are able to manage Velcro.

Please see the school website for details.

School bag- In addition to a variety of messy play (paint, sand, mud, glue), all children have accidents from time to time and occasionally children may feel worried when this happens. Please ensure that your child has at least one complete change of clothes in their bag so if we need to change them, they will be in their own clothes. This often really reduces any possible anxiety about having to change. If your child is still wearing nappies/pull ups, please put a few in their bag along with some wipes. Your child will not need a water bottle.







Nursery guidelines

In our nursery we want the children to be independent learners who can play cooperatively with other children whilst still keeping safe. With this in mind we have a few rules and guidelines in place. Please feel free to ask any member of the staff if you feel you need clarification on any of these.

Inside and outside nursery classrooms

- Children should not leave the inside nursery classroom without adult supervision.
- Children should move around respecting each other's space.
- Children and adults will use the furniture and equipment respectfully.
- Children will play and work carefully at all times and not put other children at risk.

Aprons

Children must wear aprons when taking part in activities involving paint, water, glue, shaving foam etc

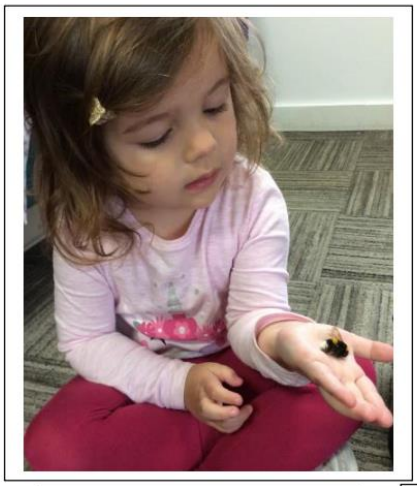
Tidy up time

All children must help to tidy up the nursery eg putting toys away, sweeping up the sand, mopping up spillages, completing puzzles etc.

Toilet

Children may go to the toilet any time during the session. They don't need to ask an adult but may do so if they require help.

After using the toilet, children should flush it, wash their hands with soap and water and then dry them with a paper towel.













Important things for you to remember

- Your child must be brought to and picked up by an **adult**.
- To keep your child safe, please ensure we know who is picking them up from nursery. If there are any changes, you must let the staff or the office know. For your child's security, staff will question any unfamiliar faces.
- Please ensure your child comes to nursery regularly and promptly. You need to inform the office if your child is absent.
- If your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, please do not send them back to nursery before they have been completely clear for 48 hours.
- Please help your child become more independent by helping them practise taking their coat on and off and doing up their zip and practising putting their shoes on and off. They feel so proud when they learn how to do this!

Important things for your child to remember

At Coley nursery we care for each other.

- We want everyone to feel safe and happy at our nursery so we always try to be kind.
- We always walk inside the nursery classroom. We can run outside though!
- We always try to be friendly in our play and have kind, caring hands.
- If someone upsets us at nursery we must always tell a nursery grown up straight away so they can help us.
- We must never leave the nursery building without a grown up.
- We share with others.
- We follow instructions.
- We try to be good listeners.

Your child's education after nursery

Your child will stay in the nursery until the school year in which they turn 5. After this they will join their new class in school.

Unfortunately, your child is not automatically guaranteed a place at Coley Primary School even if they have attended Coley Nursery.

The Education Authority has issued a set number of children that schools can admit per year and the following criteria have to be followed if there are more applicants than places available.

1.Children whose home address is served by the school catchment.

2. Children who have brothers/sisters attending the school.

3. Children who have strong social or medical grounds for admission.

4. Children who have strong family connections with the school.

5. Children who have any other reason for their choice.