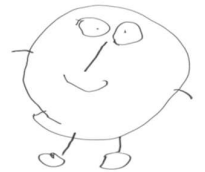




# Welcome to Nursery



## Care, Courtesy and Concern



## ***Welcome to our Nursery***

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Botwell House Catholic Primary School. We hope you will feel very happy with the care and education we provide and we look forward to working closely with you as your child begins their learning journey with us in our nursery. We have high expectations for all the children and families in our care and want to secure the very best outcomes for your child.

We recognise that every child is unique and progress at their different rate. We celebrate difference and diversity as we support each child to learn new skills and knowledge and understand that no two children learn in exactly the same way.

### ***Our intent is guided by***

**CARE** - For ourselves and others, as we would like to be cared for ourselves; for everything God-given and man-made:

**COURTESY** - To all people, at all times, with a welcoming smile.

**CONCERN** - That our school is a fair, welcoming and happy place for everyone, for all who need our help or those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Our nursery staff team consists of 1 class teacher and 4 teaching assistants. Your child will learn with all of them across the week.**

**The class teacher has overall responsibility for all of the children and in addition to this each child is allocated a key worker who takes additional responsibility for supporting your child and liaising with you. Your child's key worker is allocated after the settling in period when relationships have been established. This is so we can ensure each keyworker is a 'best fit' for your child.**

**Keyworkers ensure that your child's interests and abilities are considered when planning the learning environment and activities and keep a close eye on your child's progress and wellbeing.**



## Starting School

Starting nursery can be an exciting but also anxious time for children and their families and we want to make this transition as comfortable for all involved as possible.

For this reason, we begin our settling in process by inviting you and your child to a stay in play session prior to our welcome meeting. This is so you can have some time with your child to visit the setting and engage in some activities as well as ask any questions.

Our welcome meeting gives us the opportunity to share key information about nursery and advise of important dates and processes.

In September you and your child will be visited at home by two members of staff who will talk to you about your child's experiences, interests and particular needs and spend some time playing with your child.

Following the home visit, we have two planned short play sessions – one where you accompany your child and one where they attend with a small group of their peers.

Children then have a staggered start to nursery over a couple of weeks giving us time to settle them into their new environment, learn routines and build relationships. Children generally stay for full sessions at this point but there is flexibility to support children who find this difficult who may benefit from shorter sessions initially.

Throughout this process please talk to staff if you have any concerns. We are here to support you as well as your child.

## The Nursery Session

For most children a nursery place will consist of 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions. Please indicate your preference on your registration form.

Good attendance is an expectation when you accept a place at nursery and children should attend each school day.

Children who attend to school regularly are generally those who have the best outcomes at nursery. Periods of absence hinder progress and can impact on wellbeing where children become unsettled but also impact on their relationships with other children.

The nursery day is divided into two half-day sessions:

**Morning:** 8:30am – 11:30am

(Drop off must be between 8:30-8:45am)

(Pick up must be between 11:15am – 11:30am)

**Afternoon:** 12:15pm – 3:15pm

(Drop off must be between 12:15pm – 12:30pm)

(Pick up must be between 3pm-3:15pm)

Good timekeeping is very important as it impacts on your child's wellbeing. Please be punctual when dropping off and collecting your child.

Little children are very anxious when they are late or late collected.



Please note we will only release your child to those adults named on your child's collection sheet which is part of your enrolment forms. Relatives on the collection sheet must be over the age of 16 years.

### **Full Time**

For those children entitled to 30-hour provision we are able to offer full-time sessions. The 30 hours covers 4 ½ days at nursery but parents can 'top up' to 5 full days for an additional cost of £22.50.

Parents can check their eligibility for full time sessions by visiting [Apply for 30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). It is recommended that this is done by end June prior to starting nursery. This is because eligible families will receive a code with a start date for funding. Later applications may receive a start date that is too late to be used to fund nursery hours. You can find out more about this by visiting the above site or talking to the nursery teacher.

### **Food and drink**

At nursery the children are provided with fruit and milk during the session which they can help themselves to at the snack area.

Children should also bring with them a named transparent water bottle filled with cold water which is stored on a trolley in the classroom.

No other food or drink should be brought to nursery with the exception of a healthy packed lunch for those children attending full time.

At any time, we are likely to have children with food intolerances and allergies. No nuts are allowed on the premises at all and we consider any dietary requirements when planning cooking activities.

### **What happens at Nursery**

We follow the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum is delivered through play based learning activities which makes the experience more memorable and meaningful. We want them to enjoy learning by exploring, being creative, thinking for themselves and to keep trying.

Our approach to learning is 'holistic' which means that whilst children are playing in the sand they don't compartmentalise their learning into Maths (I'm learning that the bucket is full or empty) communication (I'm speaking in sentences) and problem solving (how can I stop my sandcastle collapsing). Chances are if you ask your child what they have done, they will say "We played"!

You will be able to see some of the exciting things your child has been learning, through play, via our online learning journals, Tapestry.

We provide a stimulating environment which is planned to capture children's interest, and nurture their curiosity. Staff members plan learning activities across seven different areas based on the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.



## Prime Areas

- Communication and language development
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

## Specific Areas

- Literacy development
- Mathematics development
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Learning experiences are planned within a theme, which vary each term. The nursery environment reflects all areas of learning and there are indoor and outdoor activities to support their development. We encourage a positive, practical approach, which is fun for all children.

## What to wear



The nursery children wear a school uniform which consists of:

a white polo shirt,

Navy blue sweatshirt with Botwell logo

Navy blue jogging bottoms.

Black trainer type shoes with Velcro fastening

White, black or grey plain socks

With exception of the school sweatshirt uniform can be purchased from most children's clothing outfits and some supermarkets. The uniform provider for sweatshirts is ....



You will also need to purchase a school book bag.

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/botwellhouse>

<https://pmgschoolwear.co.uk/>

The children need a full set of spare uniform in a navy drawstring bag to be stored at nursery in case of accidents or overenthusiastic messy play.

ALL CLOTHING **MUST** BE NAMED.

Please do not send your child with any rucksacks or additional bags. We are unable to store these.

It is a statutory requirement that nursery children are given access to an outside learning environment. This means that we will be using the outside area throughout the year and children need to bring an appropriate coat for the weather. We would suggest waterproof coats that are lightweight for the summer term and a heavier duty one for the autumn and winter months. Hats, scarves and gloves are the responsibility of their owners and must be named. A sun hat is recommended for the summer.

### **Jewellery and hair**

For health and safety reasons we do not allow any jewellery at nursery (including religious jewellery).

Earrings will need to be removed whilst in school. This is non-negotiable.

Hairstyles: Children are expected to come to school looking clean and smart each day. Fashion wear and styles are not part of our school uniform. Please note the following school policy regarding hairstyles:

- Hair should not be cut any shorter than a number 2 grade
- Shaven hair, hair dye and colour in hair are not permitted
- Lines shaved into the hair/eyebrows are not permitted
- Patterns shaved into the hair are not permitted
- Hair which is touching the collar or longer must be tied back at all times
- Hair should not inhibit their vision
- Hair accessories must be navy blue, white or black

### **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Botwell House School is an inclusive school; all children are equally valued and respected and we have high expectations for all children, including those with SEN.

If your child is currently receiving, or has been given a referral for, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, the Childhood Development Centre, or any other professional advice, please let us know.

Talk to us if you have concerns about your child's development, as soon as possible. The earlier that support can be provided for young children who aren't meeting age related milestones, the better their outcomes. We are experienced in adapting our Early Years provision, and flexible with our transition schedule, to meet individual needs.

## **Keeping children safe**

Our child's welfare and safety is our priority. We ensure this by requesting that you:

- Communicate any concerns or changes in family circumstances
- Inform us of absence on the day
- Avoid bringing toys to school
- Do not use bikes/scooters until outside of the school grounds
- Phone Free School

We encourage you to switch off your phone so that you can have a quality conversation with your child when you collect them.

## **Try these conversation starters...**

I've missed you!

I'm so pleased to see you!

What made you laugh today?

Tell me something funny that happened.

Can you think of something you built? Or made?

What did you play with outside?

Did you learn any new songs? Please teach me.

## **Learning together**

There are many opportunities for you to support your child with their learning at home.

You can get involved by

Attending stay and play sessions during the school year

Completing home learning activities suggested by the nursery (usually via class dojo)

Attending parents' evening to discuss your child's progress and how to support them further with their learning.

Getting involved with 'Friends of Botwell' (our volunteer parent group) events when you can. These will be advertised on class dojo

Sharing your child's interests with staff so we can incorporate these into our planning.

We are sure you have many great ideas of your own so please share these with us. You are your child's first and most enduring educators.





## Skills children need before they start Nursery:

- To use the toilet independently
- To blow their nose into a tissue
- To understand, and respond to the word 'no' and 'stop'
- To wash their hands thoroughly
- To sit still and listen for short period
- Let your child play with other children.
- Look towards the person who is talking to you
- To recognise their name, when it is spoken
- To be able to take off their coat
- To cough into their elbow

We are confident that your child will enjoy their experience of our Nursery and make new friends.

If you have any other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. The 'early years' are the most important years in education – they prepare your child for future learning and success.

Children's early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

Good parenting and high-quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

We look forward to meeting you very soon!

