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## Nursery at Northside

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### Welcome to Nursery at Northside.

An exciting time in your child's life is about to start and we at Northside appreciate that it can be an emotional time for everyone concerned. We try to make it as painless as possible for both you and your child by providing a relaxed yet stimulating environment ideal for learning. If you have any worries about your child at any time, please speak to your child's key worker (the class teacher, the Nursery Nurse or the teaching assistant). *Your concerns are our concerns.* We recognise that children learn best when they are happy and at ease in the setting.

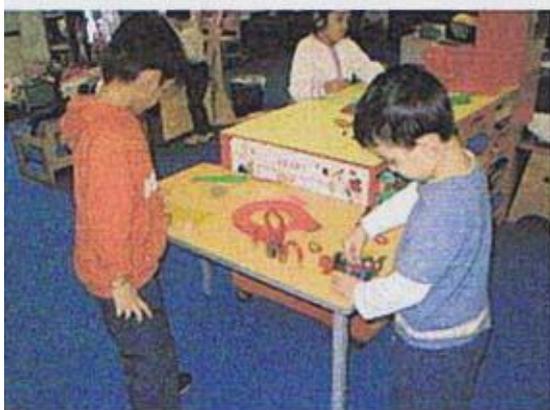
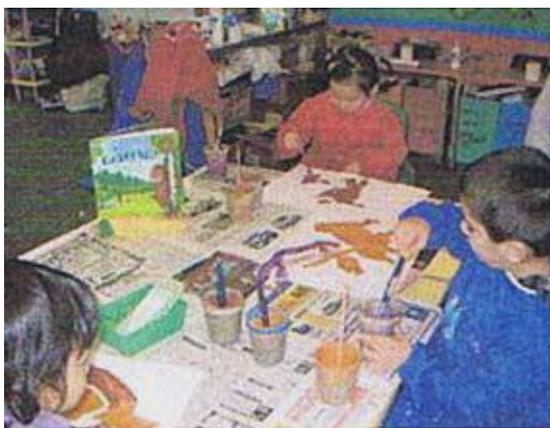
### The Foundation Stage

The 2012 Revised Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five. It provides consistency and continuity. The children experience learning in seven areas of development all of which are inter-linked and important areas. The first three areas below are prime areas that are strengthened and applied by the other four areas.

- *Communication and Language*
- *Physical Development*
- *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*
- *Literacy*
- *Mathematics*
- *Understanding the World*
- *Expressive Arts and Design*



This ensures a broad and balanced beginning, taking into account the individual needs of the children. Purposeful play is valued as an integral part of the children's development and forms the basis of our teaching at this stage. It encourages independence, cooperation, experimentation, sharing, taking turns and a whole host of other things. We aim to enable the children to become confident, self-sufficient, purposeful, life-long learners through their play, recognising that *when children play they cannot fail*.



## Focus Weeks

These are weeks when the Nursery staff focus specifically on two children in the morning and two in the afternoon to see how they are developing in the seven areas of learning (as specified above). We observe the children in the setting and value input from you, as parents on how *you feel* they are doing. You will, therefore, be given the opportunity to take part in your child's Focus Weeks as they occur by being especially observant of their interests and achievements in the home setting. The first of these Focus Weeks will be during your child's fourth week in the Nursery and thereafter as part of a rolling programme. You will have plenty of notice when these weeks occur and will be invited to meet with the class teacher during the week to have a chat about your child's progress and participate in making some simple targets from them to aim for.



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## About the Nursery

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### Ethnic Diversity

We are fortunate to have children attending the Nursery whose families come from all over the world.



We believe that every child should have equal opportunities in the Nursery. This means that we value each child's ethnic origin, culture, gender and family background. We hope that the children in our care learn to value themselves and respect others.

### Setting

Northside Nursery has two sessions with up to 26 children in each, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Both are staffed by a Class Teacher, a Nursery Nurse and a Teaching Assistant and have the same curriculum. We have access to the school's Special Needs and English as a Second-language facilities.

### Times

- Morning session 9.00am - 11.30am
- Afternoon session 12.45pm - 3.15pm

### Nursery Layout

The Nursery is divided into two areas: the inside classroom and the outside classroom which we share with the Reception Class. The learning in one reflects the learning in the other.

### Curriculum

We use the 2012 revised statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as the basis for our planning whilst taking into account the individual needs of children from birth to five. We encourage every child to access the different areas of provision to further their own learning.

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## Our aims

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We aim to provide:

- A warm, happy environment that is both safe and stimulating, where children can feel confident and secure and at ease in their surroundings.
- An environment that embraces different religions, cultures, traditions and genders.
- An harmonious atmosphere that fosters cooperation, understanding and tolerance.
- A varied and challenging curriculum that is based on play and through which children can develop their own interests and ideas, encouraging independence and perseverance.
- Resources that encourage the development of special awareness and mathematical skills.
- A wide range of activities that children can respond to by using many senses.
- Different areas where children can make their own choices, allowing their social and emotional skills to develop alongside their imagination and use of language.
- Opportunities to develop coordination, control, manipulation and movement.
- Time, space and resources to allow children to experiment, explore and discover.
- Early Phonics opportunities to develop the sounds they can hear in the environment, the sounds they can make and the sounds they can hear and say within simple words.

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## Starting Nursery

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### Home Visits - a good beginning

By welcoming us into your home before your child starts Nursery helps to establish a good trusting relationship from the beginning. It is also a good opportunity for us to discuss matters concerning your child and Nursery.

### Settling in

Please remember that each child is an individual and that some take longer to settle than others. We ask you to take time to allow children to settle into Nursery at their own pace. It is essential that staff and parents work together during this important time.

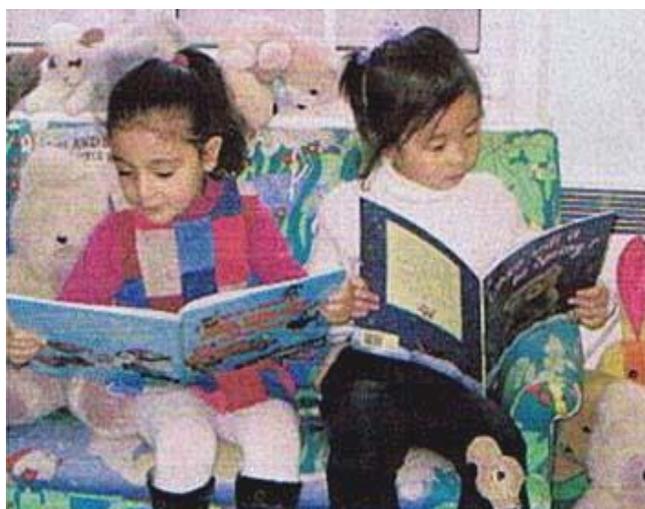
Eight children per week start Nursery. This allows us to give each child time and to establish trust. For the first session a parent or carer stays with the child and on the second session will go out or sit in our parent's room for twenty minutes. 'Time out' gradually increases until your child is happy to stay alone for the whole session. Please be prepared for this to take a few weeks depending on how well your child is settling in to Nursery - your child's happiness could depend on it.

### Extended Day

Once your child is completely settled, one day a week may be extended by two and a half hours. As this will include the lunchtime period for both 'morning' and 'afternoon' children, your child will be required to bring their own lunch in a clearly labelled lunch box. On your child's extended day you can pay £5 for your child to stay all day (9.00am-3.15pm)

### Books

Children are encouraged to choose library books to take home to enjoy with the family.



Don't be surprised when the same book is chosen on a regular basis - this is very good for your child and you will see them gaining confidence and even correcting your story telling from time to time! We do ask you to take only one book at a time and to please keep the book in a book-bag (these are available from school for a small fee).

## Fruit and Milk



Your child will have the opportunity to have a piece of fruit and a cup of milk every day. This is provided by the Government for Nursery and Reception children.

## Clothes

Please dress your child in comfortable and easily washable clothes -they will get dirty. It helps to promote independence if they can cope with fastenings by themselves and children often leave trips to the toilet until it is almost too late, so we recommend **tracksuit bottoms and T-shirts**.

Shoes should have flexible soles and closed toes so that your child is able to run and climb in safety - **no 'crops', Ugg style boots or strappy sandals** please. Velcro fastenings on their shoes mean they can do them up themselves. If Wellington boots are worn please bring another pair of shoes.



On cold days please ensure your child is dressed in a warm coat as they play outside every day. However, it is warm inside Nursery and too many layers of clothing are unnecessary and hamper free movement.

## Contributions

Contributions to the Nursery Fund are voluntary but enable us to have additional provision such as cookery, play dough, glitter, sequins and many other things. Any monies left go towards buying extra books and helping with the cost of an end of term entertainer. We are grateful for all contributions.

### **Attendance**

When your child is offered a place we expect them to attend regularly and punctually. We ask you to sign a contract stating that you will bring your child to school for the 38 weeks for government funded places. Any provision that you receive above the 15 hours will be charged to you whether or not you attend or until your months notice has finished.

Children will need to start school on the date given. Additionally, we need to reinforce to all of our families that any holidays that are being planned for this academic year, need to be taken during the regular school holiday allowance. In certain circumstances special leave of absence may be applied for in writing and given to the head teacher for consideration.

The local authority now have the right to withdraw funding for your child's place if the above is not adhered to and as a result, the place will be offered to another family on the waiting list. These measures will be taken as this has a direct impact on the school because our funding will be reduced.

### **Illness**

If your child is unwell please keep them at home until they are better.

Children who are unwell gain nothing from being at Nursery and may pass their infection onto others.

If your child is ill, please telephone the office and leave a message on the absence line. Your child will be given an unauthorised absence mark for sickness in the daily register if you do not contact us. For long term illness or irregular attendance over a period of time we will ask for a doctor's note or hospital appointment card.

### **Parents as partners**

We recognise that parents are a child's first and most enduring educators. You are positively welcomed at Northside and by working together, parents and Nursery staff, we can have a positive impact on your child's development and learning.

We hope that your child will be very happy with us and that their time with us will be a fulfilling experience and an enjoyable introduction to school. We look forward to working together with you to help your child in every way possible.