Oxford Road Community School

The Federation of Oxford Road Community School & Wilson Primary School
the road to inspiring minds

A warm welcome to our Nursery at Oxford Road Community School!

We hope this booklet will be helpful for parents and carers of children who are currently in our setting or looking forward to coming to our nursery.

Transition to Nursery -A child centred approach

We stagger the starts of the children in Nursery so that the children are happy and calm. This enables us to keep a high ratio of adults to children so that we can soothe children where necessary. If your child does find the transition to Nursery difficult, we will support you and your child to make this as smooth as possible.

We welcome each child individually and want to ensure they have a positive start to their early education. In order to keep your child's wellbeing and happiness at the centre, we would ask that you work with us flexibly in the first few weeks, where we will make joint decisions that enable your child to build up to staying for a full session. We will discuss your child's individual transition plan dates and timings with you during your home visit. Transition starts before Nursery, please see the back of this booklet for tips on how you can support your child starting smoothly.

Oxford Road Community School is a trauma informed school. We support children's wellbeing at every point of their journey. Transitions can be tough for children who have lived through significant life events. They might be tricky for you too. If you feel that you (as a parent or carer) or your child needs their lived experiences understood by the school please arrange to speak to us so that you can guide us in how we support you and your child.

Transition Tips (before starting Nursery):

- Use this booklet to show your child the photos of the adults they will be supported by. Talk positively about starting Nursery.
- Please don't be tempted to speak English if your child speaks another language. The best thing for your child is if you speak your home language at all times.
- If your child has never been away from you before, you both may find starting Nursery a big step. Get them used to being with another adult that you trust and build this time up.
- Visit local playgroups and parks, so that your child is used to the idea of sharing toys and objects that they like with others. Information about playgroups can be found on the Family Information Service (FIS).
- Build up your child's independence so that they don't feel lost without you. For example, praise them for washing their hands by themselves, feeding themselves, using the toilet independently etc.

Transition tips when starting:

- Always say goodbye to your child and remind them that you will be coming back.
- Sometimes saying goodbye at the door can be tricky, avoid hanging around- this makes it harder for your child.

Our Nursery Day

When your child arrives at nursery they need to hang up their coat and bag in the cloakroom area.	
	The children then need to find their name card and stick it up on the numbers. We call this self-registration. It is one of the ways that we promote independence.
As part of every nursery session we begin with a 'group time.' The children join on the carpet altogether. The activities include listening games (early phonics), music & movement, sharing stories, maths games and of course speaking and listening too.	
We allow a large amount of time in the day for the children to play. Learning through play is an essential part of our day. Please see the photos below to see just a few examples of the ways they can learn.	

At the end of the session we like to come together on the carpet for another 'group time' to celebrate some of the unique learning which has taken place. We often sing some nursery rhymes and favourite songs too.	
	We always share or tell a story before going home.

Foundation Stage Staff

Our Foundation Stage works in a fluid and flexible way. Whilst we have a Reception class and two Nursery classes, your child will be supported by all staff. Please familiarise your child with the staff member and their names in preparation for starting Nursery.

Mrs Sarah McNamara
EYFS Leader
Reception Teacher

Mrs Beth Hunter
Nursery Teacher

Mrs Yasmin Begum
Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Rachael Cunnett
Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Sharon Reilly
Early Years Practitioner

Mrs Fran Porter
Learning Support Assistant

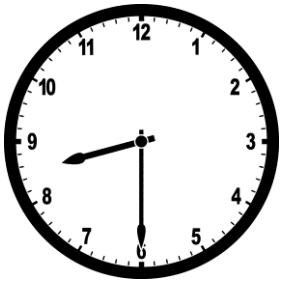
Miss Aneta Szatkowska
Learning Support Assistant

Miss Monica Leal Cabral
Learning Support Assistant

Nursery Day

Once your child has completed their transition period and are happily settled into Nursery they will be able to attend for their full session.

Nursery session times



Morning (AM) Session
Start time 08:30
Pick up time 11.30

Nursery Lunch Club
(for 30 hour children)
11.30 – 12.15

Afternoon (PM) Session
Start time 12:15
Pick up time 3.15

Our school term dates and INSET days (staff training) for each academic year can be found on our school website – please keep up to date with these.

Nursery Day

Here are just a few photos of the opportunities for learning in our Foundation Stage learning environment. Every child's Nursery day is unique to them!

Learning can be messy

If your child comes home with clothing that has mud or paint on it please ask them 'What have you learnt today?' Learning is a process, we would rather they had fully engaged in the opportunities for learning and play rather than try to keep their clothing immaculate!

Attendance

It is important for children to attend Nursery sessions unless unwell. Getting children into good routines and habits as young as possible supports their learning and development. However, if your child is unable to attend school due to illness please call or email the school office.

0118 9375511 or

admin@oxfordroad.reading.sch.uk

Key workers

At Nursery, we use a key worker system and your child will be assigned a key worker. Your child's key worker will act as your first port of call for any concerns you have about your child or simply to share something with them you feel is helpful. Using key workers allows us to develop special relationships with our children and their families.

Curriculum

You can find out about our Nursery curriculum for learning on our school website. Further information about the Foundation Stage statutory framework can be found here.

Your child's timeline –Building a holistic picture

Your child has their own individual online timeline. We warmly welcome parent and carer contributions to your child's journal to build a holistic picture of their learning and development during their Nursery year.

We will provide you with sign up information to the online platform called Earwig (Evidence, Assessment, Engagement and Recording) to enable you to access your child's journal at home.

Our aim is to empower the children by telling them what capable, confident learners they really are and allowing them the opportunity to direct and control their own learning.

We ask you to share the timelines with your child at home and to acknowledge their successes and achievements. It would be very helpful if you were able to send in any photos or videos of your child's experiences outside of school. This could be going to the park, spotting aspects of our local area or enjoying time at home with family.

We are sure you will enjoy sharing your child's timeline and celebrating their learning with them.

Focus Week

Your child's key worker will inform you when your child will be a 'focus child'. We will also ask you to contribute to your child's timeline by asking you some questions about your child's life and experiences beyond school. Being a focus child means that staff will record all of their interactions (teaching) with your child and take a 'deep dive' approach to look closer at your child's learning and

development. At the end of the week you will be invited into school for a 'focus child meeting' with your child's key worker to discuss your child's progress, plan next steps and answer any questions or share any concerns. When your child is a focus child you will be invited to spend some time in Foundation Stage to play with your child and see the teaching and learning experiences they have daily as part of their time in the early years.

Borrowing books from Nursery

We have lots of wonderful books to look, read and share at Nursery. We love reading books so much that we have a story at the end of every day. We really value sharing books and making sure that children enjoy them too. You are more than welcome to borrow books from our library. We operate an honesty policy and do not sign books out but do ask that any books borrowed are returned before any more books are taken home. Of course, we also ask that care is taken with books to ensure that they stay in a good condition for everyone to enjoy

There is no such thing as bad weather…just bad clothing!

We play outside in all weathers, we never miss a moment for learning. It is important that children are prepared for any weather (rain, cold, snow or hot weather). Please make sure when buying new coats that they are waterproof. Wellies are fantastic and mean that your child can jump in puddles without getting their feet wet. Please do feel free to send your child to nursery in wellies when it is wet along with a change of shoes (and waterproof trousers if you wish too!)

Spare clothing

Please send in a small named bag for your child to bring each day with a spare pair of clothes, socks and underwear. There are many reasons why your child may need to change their clothes and this means that if accidents happen we can change them into clothes that they feel comfortable in. Please ensure that you write your child's name clearly on all personal items including clothing and shoes. Iron in name labels are highly recommended!

Snacks and water

We have a self-service snack area where the children can help themselves to fruit, water and milk throughout the session. Please do not send in food or drink to Nursery unless your child is staying for lunch.

We are a nut free school due to children with severe, life threatening allergies. Do not send in any nuts, or nut based products with your child.

Uniform

Children in Nursery are asked to wear a jade green jumper or cardigan. This does not have to have the school logo on but if you would like to purchase a school jumper or cardigan please see the uniform tab on the school website. Please make sure that your child's name is clearly labelled in all items.

We ask that children do not wear jewellery other than stud earrings for their health and safety.

Medication

If your child has a prescribed medication that they must take during the school day you will need to give this to the office and fill in a medication form. Do not put medicines or inhalers in your child's bag – they must be handed to the office and a form completed.

We hope that this booklet has been helpful for your child's transition to Nursery. Please keep it safe so that you can refer to it for information throughout the Nursery year. We look forward to working with you to help your child learn and thrive!

Please come and ask any member of the team if you have any questions or concerns and we will be more than happy to help.

The Foundation Stage Team