

Pennyhill Primary School



Parent Information Pack

Starting Nursery

September 2021

Welcome

We would like to welcome you and your family to our school. The aim here at Pennyhill is to create an environment where all Enjoy, Respect and Achieve. These key words are at the heart of everything that we do in school.

We aim to make your child's experience both happy and memorable. Within an exciting and enjoyable curriculum, we encourage all children to become confident, independent learners and to reach their true learning potential.

We are fortunate enough to have some wonderful facilities here. We have an exciting, stimulating learning environment in which the children can develop and learn. The Nursery School is situated within an extensive building with: three halls, three libraries, a stage, a gym, a music room, a child friendly kitchen, fabulous ICT resources, well-equipped classrooms, and an enormous central playing area.

Headteacher: Miss E Williams

Nursery

Our nursery room is a large, bright and secure space where the children can independently select a wide range of resources to support and enhance their own learning.

Indoor Area

Inside our nursery you will find that our room is split into different areas of learning. The children will be able to explore the art, music, construction, ICT, small world, maths, writing, sand, water, role-play, reading and investigation areas. Children have open access to our nursery friendly toilets and hand washbasins that are located in the large room. We promote independence when using the toilet and washing hands. We also have a small room where children can complete circle time games and take part in quieter activities.



Outdoor Area



The children have access to two large outdoor play areas where they can freely explore the natural environment and develop their gross motor skills by using the climbing frame, bikes and agility trail.

Staff plan for specific outdoor learning time as well as giving the children the opportunity to lead their own learning outside to investigate and create their own games with their peers.

The children will spend part of each day outside. Please make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather including having suitable coats, shoes or wellington boots. In cold weather, children may wear a hat, scarf and gloves and in the warmer weather, the children are to wear sunhats and sunscreen, which needs to be applied at home before nursery. The children will have their own labelled coat peg in the cloakroom where these items can be stored.

Snack time

All children will receive a free small snack whilst they are at nursery. This includes a piece of fruit and a carton of milk. Water will be available to all children throughout the day. In addition, you may wish to send your child in with a labelled water bottle. We ask that this should contain water only (no juice/fizzy drinks etc).

Nursery Hours

Morning Nursery: 8.35am – 11.35am (Red Ladybirds/Yellow Bumblebees)

Afternoon Nursery: 12.35pm – 3.35pm (Blue Butterflies)

Please make sure that you inform the office if another family member is collecting your child. We require all parents to set a password for their child before their child can be collected by another person.

All children and parents can access the nursery through the nursery entrance on Willett Road.

If your child is absent from school, please call the main school office as soon as possible on **0121 588 2230** to inform us of their absence.

Uniform

The governing body request that all children wear our school uniform. Please **label** all items of clothing including **shoes and PE pumps** with your child's name.



Our uniform consists of:

- A green jumper or cardigan. These can be with or without the school logo.
- A white shirt or white polo t-shirt.
- Grey trousers, skirt or dress. A green gingham summer dress or grey shorts can be worn in warm weather.

Shoes

In Early Years, we promote independence and ask children to take off and put on their own shoes when we are changing for PE. Please make sure that children have buckle or Velcro fastening shoes that they can fasten themselves.



PE Kit

All children will require a PE kit to change into when we have our PE lessons. This consists of:



- A plain white round neck t-shirt (no buttons)
- Black shorts
- Black pumps
- A small drawstring bag to place the PE kit inside.

This PE kit will be kept in school and sent home at the end of each term. Again, please make sure that all items are clearly **labelled** with your child's name.

Children should not wear any jewellery to school. All jewellery should be removed before the start of the school day.

In Nursery the children will each be given a library bag to transport their books and letters to and from school. The children will not need any other belongings or bags. (Please note that there is limited space to store larger bags like back packs.)

Meet the Staff

Here at Pennyhill we have a talented and experienced Early Years team. The staff in Nursery are:



Mrs R Sharma



Mrs D. Tomlinson



Miss Z Yaman

The Assistant Head responsible for the Phase is Miss M Matthews



A full list of teaching and support staff can be viewed on our school website.

Our Curriculum

At Pennyhill, activities in our Foundation Stage are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

When we plan activities we use a topic-based approach that is led by key texts or stories as well as following the children's interests and responding to specific events.

If you would like to see our long term plans, please visit our school website:
<https://www.pennyhill.sandwell.sch.uk/>

There are 7 Areas of Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). These are split into the following prime and specific areas of learning.

Prime Areas of Learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Building relationships
- Self-regulation
- Managing self

Physical Development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills

Communication and Language

- Listening, attention and understanding
- Speaking



Specific Areas of Learning:

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Writing
- Word reading

Mathematics

- Numbers
- Numerical patterns

Understanding the World

- Past and present
- People, culture and communities
- The natural world



Expressive Arts and Design

- Creating with materials
- Being imaginative and expressive



We encourage the children to select their own resources to develop their play or ideas through the continuous provision that we provide. This allows children to develop their independence and allows them to consolidate their learning, over the course of a day or a more extended period of time.

Our Daily Routine

As the children settle and become confident to explore nursery, we plan for a range of daily tasks and activities. These include

- Completing the weather chart and daily calendar
- Circle time activities including Lola the listening leopard
- Singing nursery rhymes and counting songs
- Daily story sessions and visiting the school library
- Phonics – Phase 1
- Fine motor skills
- Celebration assemblies
- Teacher-led tasks
- Child initiated activities

Partnership with Parents

All children are unique and develop at different rates and learn in different ways. In nursery we monitor each child's progress and development using observations and collect evidence of learning in their own learning journey book which we will share with you during our progress meetings in the autumn and spring terms. In the summer term we will provide you with a written report of your child's achievements over the academic year.

We value the contributions that parents make to their child's education. During your child's induction we ask you to share specific information about your child in order for the staff to plan a personalised start to their education. During this time, we find out their likes and dislikes, their home and family, their favourite toys and games that they like to play. This is also an opportunity for you to share any sensitive information that you may have about your child.

We encourage families to send in '**Wow Moments**'. These are little notes or messages to inform the staff of experiences or achievements that the child has completed at home. These can then be shared with the children in our special achievement assemblies and be placed in the child's learning journey.

We aim to regularly invite parents into school to attend stay and play sessions to take part in a learning workshops with your child. Through our workshops you will be able to see how your child has settled, how they interact with others and observe how the teachers delivers the lessons to the group.

Help from home

Before your child starts nursery, here are a few ways that that you could help your child to get ready for nursery.

- Talking - Talk to your child about their interests or latest experiences. Talk about what they are looking forward to, discuss or any worries that they may have.
- Singing - Learn and sing a variety of new nursery rhymes and action songs.
- Reading - Share a variety of books, poems and nursery rhymes together. Talk about the characters, the illustrations and the main events.
- Dressing – Encourage your child to put on their uniform and fasten their own coats and shoes.
- Hygiene – Encourage your child to use the toilet independently and manage their own personal hygiene by washing their hands or wiping their own nose.

Personal Information

Medical information

Please inform the staff if your child requires prescribed medication or requires regular medical treatment. Parents will need to complete the relevant paperwork at the school office before we can administer any medication.

Contact information

Please make sure that we have your most recent contact information. If you change your phone number, home address or email address, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this handout, I hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions or queries regarding starting our nursery, please contact a member of staff.

School telephone number: 0121 588 2230

School email address: EYFS@pennyhill.sandwell.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you and your child very soon.