

Pennyhill Primary School



Parent Information Pack

Starting Nursery

2024 - 2025

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.

Head teacher: Miss E Williams



Nursery

Our Nursery 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 following areas: art and creative, music, construction, small world, maths, writing, sand, water, role-play, reading and investigation. Children have open access to our toilets and washing facilities 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. This is also used as our lunch area for children in our 30-hour provision.



Outdoor Area

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

Staff plan for specific outdoor learning time as well as giving the children the opportunity to lead their own learning. Children are encouraged 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, sunhats and sunscreen. Please ensure that this is applied at home prior to the nursery session. 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 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

a labelled water bottle in for your child. We ask that this should contain water only (no juice/fizzy drinks etc.).

Nursery Hours

Morning Nursery: 8.30am – 11.30am

Afternoon Nursery: 12.20pm – 3.20pm

All children and parents can access the Nursery through the entrance on Willett Road. The gate will close at 8.45am and 12.35pm promptly. If your child is late, please bring them to the main school office on Hollyhedge Rd in order to sign in.

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 another person can collect them.

If your child is unable to attend school, please contact the school office on **0121 588 2230** to report the reason for their absence.

Uniform

The governing body request that all children wear our school uniform. Please **label** all items of **clothing** including **shoes** 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.



P.E

The class teacher and group leader will inform you about the day that P.E will take place. This will not start until the summer term. Children are able to attend Nursery wearing appropriate sports clothing, e.g., t-shirt and tracksuit bottoms, on this day.

Children in Nursery should not wear any jewellery to school.

In Nursery, the children will each be given a library bag to transport their books and letters to and from school. (Please note that there is limited space to store larger bags in our cloakroom area).

Meet the Staff

At Pennyhill, we have a talented and experienced Early Years team. The staff who will be working with your child in Nursery are:

Class teacher, Miss Harris:



The Assistant Head responsible for EYFS and Key Stage 1 is:



Mrs Hall-Yates

Your child will also be supported by Mrs Mainwaring and Miss Hughes.

Our Curriculum

Our Foundation Stage curriculum is carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences.

When planning learning opportunities 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 seven 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 provided. This allows children to become more independent and to consolidate learning.

Our Daily Routine

As the children settle and become confident to explore Nursery, we plan for a range of daily learning opportunities. These include

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

Partnership with Parents

All children are unique, develop at different rates and learn in different ways. In Nursery, we monitor each child's progress and development through quality interactions and 'play partnering'. We collect evidence of learning for each child 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 about their likes and dislikes, their home and family, their favourite toys and games they like to play. This also allows time to share any sensitive information 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 regularly invite parents into school to attend 'Stay and Play' sessions throughout the year. Through this, you will be able to see how your child has settled and how they interact with others.

Marvellous Me:

At Pennyhill, we use an app called 'Marvellous Me' as one of our ways to communicate with parents. When your child joins our Nursery, you will receive a joining code and login details. Staff regularly send updates, photographs, badges and curriculum information via the app so that you can keep updated with everything your child experiences in Nursery.

Help from home

Before your child starts nursery, here are a few ways that that you could help them prepare for their transition:

- 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

I hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions or queries regarding your child's transition to Nursery, please contact Mrs Hall-Yates directly using the following:

School telephone number: 0121 588 2230

Early Years email address: EYFS@pennyhill.sandwell.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming your child and family to Pennyhill.

Appendix:

Additional information – Extended hours: 30 hour provision

Pennyhill Primary School is pleased to be able to offer a small number of extended hours places to some of our eligible families, starting from September 2022.

Eligibility criteria can be checked using the following link <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>. It is up to parents to gather the information needed and provide the school with an 11 digit eligibility code which is issued by HMRC. This code needs to be renewed by parents every 12 weeks to ensure that the place remains funded.

Admissions:

When considering the offer of an extended place, the school will apply the following admissions criteria:

1. Does the child have an existing Nursery place
2. Siblings already in school
3. Distance from the school

Additional Costs:

- Pupils in receipt of extended hours will also spend their lunch break in school. This is a 50 minute period over and above the 30 hour offer and is therefore chargeable. The cost for this provision is £15 per week (£3 daily) and covers supervision costs only. All children will need to bring their own packed lunch and drink to school. Fruit and milk will be provided daily by the school as part of the universal offer.
- For children who may still need support with their toileting or require a nappy change, we ask that all families provide the school Nursery staff with nappies/pull-ups, wipes and additional clothing as needed. This will be discussed with you as part of your transition meeting.
- Please be advised that for all children in Nursery, any trips or visits will require payment in full. Where possible, we may ask that parents support us in accompanying their child. This will also incur a charge at the adult rate.