



At Lobley Hill Primary School we aim to 'Be the Best We Can Be' through being curious, adventurous and respectful in order to achieve personal excellence.



Nursery Class of 2023/24

Information for Families

www.lobleyhillprimaryschool.co.uk

Tel: 0191 4334080 (main office)

Email: lobleyhillprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

A Warm Welcome from our Early Years Team

We are thrilled you have chosen to join our Nursery Class at Lobley Hill Primary School and look forward to sharing in your child's learning journey over the next seven years, and hopefully beyond.

We have a dedicated staff throughout the school who will always strive to ensure your child's time at Lobley Hill is the 'Best it Can Be'. Our Nursery Class team are already preparing for September to make sure the transition into Nursery is an enjoyable, relaxed and a memorable time for you and your child.

Remember **you and your family are part of our team** and we hope to develop our relationship throughout the year to impact positively on your child's time at school. The start of this will be through our **Home Visit** and your chance to have a **Stay and Play** prior to your child's start date.

Our Early Years provision starts in nursery and throughout the year we will work closely with the reception class team. Nursery and reception share many exciting learning environments around school and the Early Years Team are dedicated to making these areas reflect the needs and interests of our children.

Meet the Nursery Class Team

Mrs Warriner
Nursery Teacher
(Mon—Wed)



Mrs Gray
Nursery Teacher
(Wed—Fri)



Mrs Fisher
Teaching
Assistant



Mrs Eskikaya
Teaching
Assistant



Miss Tate
Teaching
Assistant

Meet the Reception Class Team



Miss
Martin



Miss
Wink



Miss
Watson



Mrs
Taylor



Mrs
Patterson



Mrs
Ampleford

Meet the Wider School Team



Mrs Wood-Williams
Deputy Head Teacher for
Early Years and KS1



Miss Sarah McHugh
SENDCo



Miss Kathryn Jobling
Family Support Worker

This booklet will provide you with information about our Nursery to support you in preparing your child. In addition, you will be given a story book about Bertie Bear which we hope you will share with your child.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Lorna Wood-Williams (Deputy Headteacher & Early Years and Key Stage 1 Lead) or any of the Early Years Team. Sarah McHugh is our SEN Co-ordinator and Kathryn Jobling is our Family Support Worker

Learning Environments

Our school is fortunate to have fabulous school grounds and in Early Years we make excellent use of them! Your child will have access to the indoor and outdoor environment throughout the year and in all weathers.

In addition we extend our learning to the playground and Forest School. We provide suitable outdoor clothing to ensure your child is warm and dry but we would ask you to provide the following:

- **A pair of named wellies—to be left at school**
- **A warm, waterproof coat**
- **Hat and gloves**
- **A drawstring bag with a change of clothes including multiple sets of socks and underwear. (Please check this regularly to keep it well-stocked!)**

Your child will be active in Nursery, therefore they are best dressed in comfortable clothes which are easy to fasten/pull on. **Please ensure all shoes have Velcro fastening and are named—many children have the same shoes and they can get mixed up!**

Even though the children will wear waterproofs or aprons there will be occasions when their clothes become soiled. We hope you will understand this is inevitable and goes hand in hand with your child having an active and adventurous experience.

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED TO MAKE SURE IT COMES BACK HOME WITH YOUR CHILD



School Uniform Expectations



- Black school shoes or boots (No trainers) Velcro fasteners are helpful for Early Years.
- Black or grey trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses (No leggings, jeans or sports trousers) Pull on styles are easiest for Early Years.
- Sky blue polo tops (with or without school logo)
- Royal blue cardigans or jumpers (with or without school logo) School fleeces are for outdoor use only.
- Blue and white summer dresses or black/grey school shorts
- Black, white or grey socks or tights
- No jewellery allowed in school with the exception of watches/religious items. **NO EARRINGS**
- No PE kit is required in Early Years

Please label all items of clothing and show your child where they can find their name.

All uniform orders must be made via the school website - home delivery or store delivery is available.

Nursery Session Times

We will open the doors 10 minutes before the end of the session to allow for a staggered collection and the chance for some feedback about your child. It is essential that all children are collected by the close of session to allow nursery staff to have daily reflections and prepare for the following session.

- Morning Session: Start: 8:30am (door closes at 8.45am)
Finish: 11:30am (doors open 11:20am)
- Afternoon Session: Start: 12:30pm (door close at 12.45pm)
Finish: 3:30pm (doors open 3:20pm)

NOTE—you will need to go to the school office if the doors are closed.

Collection of Children

Please ensure Nursery Staff know who is picking up your child on a daily basis and inform us of any changes to the Collections Form or contact phone numbers. Adults unknown to staff will not be allowed to take your child unless we have your consent. **The ‘Pupil Information Booklet’ must be completed online via the school website prior to your child’s start date. They cannot start unless this is complete.**

Children are much happier knowing who will collect them and that they will be collected on time. Children settle into the daily routine much quicker if they are punctual for school and attend regularly.

Please note that our school grounds are secured during the school day. **For morning collection and afternoon drop off, the only access is via the bottom gate off Beechwood Gardens. Morning drop off and afternoon collection can also be via this gate but you may use the top gate and walk around via KS2 yard.**

Establishing a Routine

Understandably, you or your child may be worried about leaving one another and if you feel they may settle better if you stay with them for a short time, we can accommodate this. However, we would ask that this is a short term strategy as children can rely on this and find separation even harder. (If you have any concerns please discuss this with the Nursery Team).

It is best to tell your child when you are leaving, then leave calmly and decisively. Children may be upset initially but they settle down quickly once they are left. We can phone you to re-assure you of this in these early stages.

Illness

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please inform the **school office (0191 433 4080)** as soon as possible.

Viruses and infections are easily passed on and we would ask that you consider others by ensuring your child is well enough to attend school

If your child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea please leave **48 hours** from the last incident before returning to school. This is to ensure the illness does not spread.

Snack and Voluntary Contributions

Milk and water are provided each day in nursery and the children have the opportunity to choose a healthy snack. Snacks often include fresh fruit, raw vegetables, dried fruit, toast or breadsticks.

They do not need their own water bottle but you may send one if you wish.

The children take it in turns to prepare the snacks with an adult and are encouraged to choose their snack.

We hope you will support us in teaching the children about healthy options to keep their teeth and bodies strong and healthy.

We suggest a weekly contribution of £1.50 from our families—there is a money box in the porch area for your contributions.

This money goes towards buying ingredients for cooking, special days and equipment as well as helping to fund the snack cafe. We would also be grateful for a donation of a **box of tissues/plain flour/salt once a term.** Any donations of socks or underwear would also be much appreciated.



Thank you in advance.

Behaviour and Relationships

Our School rule is that we 'CARE' - this represents our values in encouraging all children to **C**o-operate, **A**chieve, **R**espect and **E**njoy.

The manner in which this is addressed throughout school develops alongside the children. In Nursery 'conflict resolution' is used to allow children to discuss their actions and how it may make them and/or another child feel. We encourage children to solve their problems together.

We use positive praise to encourage those children who demonstrate our CARE values. Your child may receive a 'bee sticker' when they are trying to 'Be the Best They can Be'. These may be awarded for:

- Taking turns or sharing
- Being kind and thoughtful
- Working as a team
- Listening well
- Tidying up
- Going to the toilet alone
- Being brave
- Following instructions



Each day, a child will be chosen for Special Person. This gives the children an opportunity to develop friendships and build this self-esteem. As part of this, they will take home Bertie Bear for an adventure at your home. We ask you to write in Bertie's diary about what adventures he has had with you and your child. This is shared in Special Person time the following day.



We achieve...

Our children:	Our staff:
*Be the best they can be *Are proud and can persevere *Have a growth mindset and think, 'I can't yet' if they are challenged *Have equal opportunities	*Offer an ambitious curriculum *Have high expectations for all *Are adaptable and embrace new initiatives *Have a growth mindset
Our families:	Our governors:
*Are home learning partners *Share and join in to celebrate their child's achievements	*Work with school leaders to achieve the best outcomes for children *Recognise achievements and celebrate with us
Our community:	
*motivates us as we foster links with inspirational figures in our community *And other education providers linked to us work together for our children	

We co-operate...

Our children:	Our staff:
*support one another *play by the rules *work as a team	*Work collaboratively for a shared outcome *Embrace partnership *Support and listen to one another
Our families:	Our governors:
*Support the school expectations *Engage in all aspects of school life *Actively find out about the school day	*Proactively engage in all aspects of school life *Work together with school as a critical friend
Our community:	
*is included and considered for key events *is embraced to foster community links	

We respect...

Our children:	Our staff:
*appreciate and celebrate their uniqueness *understand and embrace differences *are kind, compassionate and well mannered.	*are a positive role model across the whole school community *provide opportunities to explore beliefs and cultures *create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment *are kind, compassionate and well mannered.
Our families:	Our governors:
*are kind, compassionate and well mannered *engage with school in a respectful manner - Demonstrate tolerance for all	*are kind, compassionate and well mannered. *value their role in the life of our school
Our community:	
*observe children and staff who are kind, compassionate and well mannered. *value our children as respectful citizens within our community.	

We enjoy...

Our children:	Our staff:
*enjoy school and are happy to be here *share their enthusiasm for learning with others *have opportunities to follow their interests	*create a happy, stimulating climate for learning *celebrate children's joy of learning *radiate a passion for learning
Our families:	Our governors:
*ask their children what they have enjoyed about their day *participate in the wider life of school *share their own passion for learning and interests with the school community	*join in with school celebrations *engage with all stakeholders to find out about enjoyment in school.
Our community:	
*is utilised to extend our opportunities to enjoy learning beyond school. *is welcomed into school to enjoy our environment.	

Enjoy

Our Vision

At Lobley Hill Primary School, we CARE:

- Co-operate
- Achieve
- Respect
- Enjoy

Through this, we aim to to 'Be the Best We Can Be' through being curious, adventurous and respectful in order to achieve personal excellence.

Be the best you can be!



Teaching and Learning in Nursery

At Lobley Hill Nursery we aim to build on the experience and development you have shared with your child. It is important to remember that children develop at different rates and will have had differing experiences as they start our nursery. Depending upon birthdays, some children can be with us for five terms so try not to compare children but focus on the progress of the individual.

Your child is a unique individual. They have their particular likes, preferred activities and ways of playing with others. Nursery education will provide your child with the opportunity to develop new skills and knowledge through play activities.

Equally as important is the opportunity of learning to mix with other children, to share toys and equipment and to make new friends.

Lobley Hill Nursery provides opportunities for your child to choose, play and investigate in the world around them. All resources are at child level to enable them to make choices and develop independence for their learning.

The environment enables children to develop their favourite activities while also providing encouragement to join others in trying something new.

By observing and joining in with your child's play, our team are informed of your child's progress and can plan future learning to reflect their interests.

What Will My Child be Doing?

Four guiding principles that underpin our practice in Early Years are:

- every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- every child learns to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- every child learns and develops well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time;
- Recognising the importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates.

Well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. In order that all children make the best possible progress we plan opportunities that build on and extend children's knowledge, skills and experiences using a wide range of teaching strategies.

Through their play our children are encouraged and supported to help build their self-esteem and confidence. They plan their own activities as well as having the chance to take part in adult-led activities.



Your child will be free to choose from indoor and outdoor activities, including:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • water activities | Sand activities |
| • Painting and drawing | Maths area |
| • Construction area | Small world play |
| • Writing area | Book corner |
| • Home corner | Role play/dressing up |
| • Music and movement | Cutting and sticking |
| • Woodwork | Bikes/scooters |

Staff encourage the children to help with the tidying up after activities to promote a shared ownership and respect for our Nursery.



Forest School

Our Forest School Area has developed over the years into an amazing environment to stimulate learning and play.

Forest School takes place in all weathers so this means the children are likely to get muddy and wet—this is often the greatest appeal! We have snowsuits for wet and cold days.

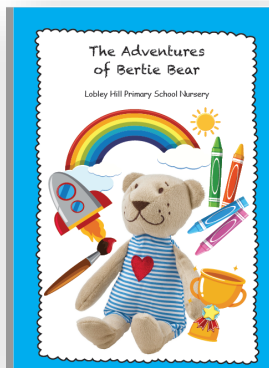
Your child must have NAMED WELLIES in school to access Forest School and the Early Years Garden.

Your child may get dirty when in Forest School so they must have a **full change of clothes in school, including underwear and socks/tights**. An extra pair of warm socks would be helpful in the winter too, wellies are not the warmest of footwear! We sometimes put their coat on in addition to their snow suit in colder weather.

Getting Ready for Their First Day

Starting Nursery is a big milestone for you and your child. We know children will all approach these adventures in their own unique way. However you can help them in the following ways:

- Talk to them about Nursery and the exciting things they will get to do—we hope our book ‘The adventures of Bertie Bear’ will help with this.
- Try their uniform on in advance and allow them to get used to it.
- For morning Nursery, get up at ‘school time’ for a week before Nursery starts to get their body clock adjusted if you are lucky enough to have a child who likes a lie-in!
- Ask them how they feel about nursery so you can re-assure them if they are worried about anything.



Toilet Training

Also in preparation for starting Nursery we ask you to have a real push on toilet training, if your child has not already cracked this! **Please let us know if your child still needs support—they may need regular reminders to go to the toilet or need support cleaning themselves. If we know we can help and build your child’s confidence in using the toilet.**

If your child still needs encouragement with toileting and you need support try the ERIC website for ideas, tips and videos for children of all ages.

<https://www.eric.org.uk>



The Children’s Bowel & Bladder Charity

Our staff are very approachable and used to dealing with children at varying stages of toilet training. Alternatively we can put you and your family in touch with the school nurse to talk through some strategies if you are still finding this difficult. **Please supply any nappies or pull ups.**

Some children have medical needs in this area and we ensure we meet their needs as part of our inclusive practice.



Opportunities to Share My Child's Progress

We hope that you will help us to gather information about your child's developments throughout the year. We are fortunate to spend some of the day with them but we don't think for one minute that's where the learning stops! By sharing those 'Wow!' moments with us, we can get a clearer picture of just how much they are developing.

Over the year we record some of your child's experiences and achievements using a programme called '**EvidenceMe**'. At the end of Nursery, you will get a copy of this 'Learning Journey' to keep. It by no means captures everything they will have done, but it provides a snapshot of their time within Nursery.

Each week we will share an example of what we have been doing in Nursery. This is to allow you to build upon this activity at home should you wish to.

At the end of each day the team in nursery meet to discuss the children's interests, play and developments throughout the school day. This means that all adults working within nursery can share their developments and make sure the learning environment reflects the interests of the children.

We politely ask that mobile phones are not used whilst you drop off or collect your child to enable valuable conversations to happen.

How can I share information about my child?

A feature of the 'EvidenceMe' programme is an app dedicated to parents. It allows you to share key moments, developments, interests and progress for your child. We can then use this to support us in school.

NOTE—we will use the email address you provide us when you complete the [Pupil Information Booklet](#). We must have this information to sign you up to be able to see what your child have been doing in nursery.

An area we would like to develop further is to find out more about your child and their family. It may be about your traditions, hobbies, holiday destinations, family time, religions and beliefs. We hope the children will be able to begin sharing these things when they bring their 'All About Me' sheets back to school in September.

A colorful 'All About Me' worksheet for children. At the top left is a sun icon. The title 'All About Me' is in a large, bold font. Below it is a dashed box for a name, with a green arrow pointing to it. To the left of the name box is a pencil icon and the text 'I am _____ years old.' Below that is a birthday cake icon and the text 'My Birthday is: _____'. To the right of the name box is a large, ornate frame labeled 'Self Portrait'. Below the frame is a sheep icon and the text 'My Favourite:'. Under 'My Favourite:' are two sections: 'Colour' with a rainbow icon and 'Animal' with a blank line. At the bottom left is a strawberry icon and the text 'Food' with a blank circle. At the bottom right is a stack of books icon and the text 'Story' with a blank line.

Each term we have Parent Consultations as well as an end of year Record of Achievement. However, the best type of feedback from us and from you comes at the end of each session when we can share the small steps they have taken on their learning journey.

You may also wish to email your child/ren's teachers. We ask this is only Monday-Friday between 8am and 6pm.

gemmawarriner@lobleyhillprimary.org.uk (Mon-Wed)
vickygray@lobleyhillprimary.org.uk (Wed-Fri)

Helping at Home

Not only do we like you to share information about your child's achievements outside of school, we also need you to build upon what we do in school as Home Learning.

The most valuable thing you can give your child is your time.

Research outlines the positive impact home learning has upon a child's development. You can support their time at school by:

- having positive conversations about the school day—Ask your child what they enjoyed? What did they do that was courageous? How have they been a good friend to others?
- talking and listening to your child as they tell you about their time at school.
- sharing books with them.
- singing songs and play games.
- encouraging them to count everyday objects.
- encouraging them to be independent when they dress and tidy up.
- Making positive comments about their creations—even if you are unsure what it is, they will know.

Home Learning Bag

To support home learning, we loan a Home Learning Bag which contains resources and activities ideas similar to those we use in school. **NOTE—these bags will need to be signed for and returned in full in the summer term. They will be loaned out in autumn term.**



Nursery Library Day

Each **Friday** the children can choose a library book on their way in to Nursery to take home to share with you. These books are to be returned the following **Monday**.

Parental Involvement

We welcome you to our family activities throughout the year. They will provide an opportunity for you to play with your child and be involved in some of their time within nursery. An annual plan with key dates for the year will be shared in September. We hope you can join us whenever possible.

We predominantly have paperless communication from school and have the following in place to help achieve this:

- text links to letters on the school website;
- Emailing of school letters;
- Payments and permission for visits online;
- Sign up to parent consultations online
- Pupil Information completed online.

Winter Wonderland—In the lead up to Christmas we hope to invite you to join us for a Winter Wonderland. In previous years our families have thoroughly enjoyed winter crafts, singing, treasure hunts and special visitors. The date will be provided on the aforementioned annual plan.



If you are interested and have the time, we are always looking for helpers in nursery. Whether you can give time regularly or occasionally, your support will be welcomed. All adult helpers need to be DBS cleared—just phone or email the school main office and we will help you sort this out.

Telephone 0191 433 4080

Email: lobleyhillprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk

Safeguarding

In Lobley Hill Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Officers are shown below. Mrs James is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff members are Deputy Safeguarding Leads.



Johanna James
Headteacher



Lorna Wood-Williams
Deputy Headteacher



Andrew Beattie
Deputy Headteacher



Kathryn Jobling
Family Support
Worker



Sarah McHugh
SENDCo

You can call school on 0191 433 4080 or drop in to speak to any one of us about a concern for yourself, your child or another child or family in school.

Worried about a child in Gateshead?

Follow this link to Gateshead's Local Safeguarding Children's Board website:



If you have a concern about the safety of a child then you should talk to someone immediately.

Phone Gateshead Council's Children's Services (in confidence) on:

0191 433 2653 (office hours: Monday - Friday, 8.30am to 5pm)

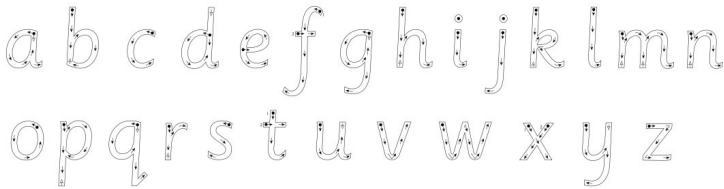
0191 477 0844 (out of hours, at night, at weekends and bank holidays)

The Emergency Duty Team will help with personal or family problems that reach a crisis at these times. All calls go through to the Gateshead Care Call Service where a telephone operator takes all the calls. This service is the contact point for all council services out of hours. If the phone isn't answered straightaway, please be patient as they will be dealing with another call.

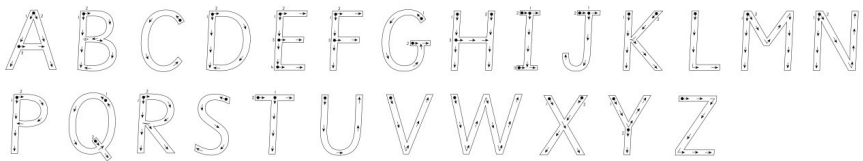
Our School Writing Script

This is the font we use in Early Years and Year 1. If you are encouraging your child to write their name it would be helpful if you used this font.

As a reminder, correct letter formation for lower-case letters is as follows. The arrows show the direction of your child's pencil:



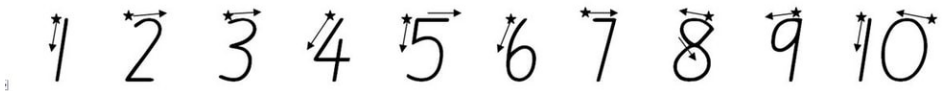
Capital letters are formed as follows:



Number Formation

This is the font we use in Early Years and Year 1 for Number Formation

Start at the star and follow the arrow.



Sweets and Toys

Please encourage your child to leave their toys and possessions at home, where they are safest. Toys which are brought into school by children can easily be mistaken by others as belonging to them. When children see others bringing things they like to do the same. Toys from home may get lost or mixed up with school things and children can become upset when asked to leave them in the porch to avoid this happening. We would rather their entry into nursery was a positive one. We have plenty to keep them entertained in school!

Sweets are not allowed in school.

Moving to Reception Class

Please note, children who have their 4th birthday before August 31st 2023 will need to apply for a school place in the autumn term. We hope this will be with us at Lobley Hill Primary School!

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk>

If you have any questions about this process or would like a tour of school please contact the main office on 0191 433 4080 to arrange an appointment with Lorna Wood-Williams (Deputy Head - EYFS and KS1 Lead)

Please ask any member of the Early Years Team if you need advice about applying for a school place. **A Nursery Place DOES NOT mean you automatically move into school, you must apply for your place.**

