

Silverstream Nursery



Useful information for starting nursery.

Welcome to Silverstream Nursery

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your family to Silverstream Nursery Unit and are looking forward to getting to know you all in September. The professional and caring staff will do their utmost to look after the individual needs of the children throughout the coming year so that they might reach their full potential.

Children thrive best where there is a firm partnership between home and school. We hope that you will look on Silverstream as *your* school and that you will value yourself as a vital part of the school and your child's education.

By working together we hope to fulfill your expectations of the nursery and make this a happy, exciting and profitable year for your child.

Mrs Tweedie & Mrs Gowdy

The school address is:

Silverstream Nursery
Silverstream Primary School
Moyard Gardens
Greenisland
Carrickfergus
Co. Antrim
BT38 8XD

The school telephone number is: 028 90 865 378

All about us

Silverstream Nursery opened in September 2000 and looks after the needs of the 26 pre-school children who attend on a full-time basis. We are part of the State Education System and are funded by the North Eastern Education and Library Board. Her Majesty's Inspectors at the Department of Education inspect the nursery and the staff to ensure that the provision is of an appropriate and adequate standard for the pre-school children.

Staff

Nursery Teacher: Mrs Tweedie

Nursery Assistant: Mrs Gowdy

From time to time a substitute Supply Teacher or Nursery Assistant may be required to allow Mrs Tweedie and Mrs Gowdy to attend courses.

School secretary: Miss Robinson

Caretaking staff: Mr Davison and Mrs Herron

Catering staff: Leeann the Head Cook and 3 assistants

Students: college students and 5th year school pupils are often in the nursery on work experience

Board of Governors (correct at the time of press)

Parent Reps: Mr Honan

NEELB Reps: Dr Norman Walker, Mrs Dickson

Transferor Reps: Mr J Marshall, Mr A. Bell, Mrs F. Honan, Rev. E. Lawson

Teachers' Reps: Mrs A Dobbin, Ms A Moth

What is nursery all about?

What we offer your child:

- opportunities to socialise, share and co-operate with others and to have fun!;
- a safe and friendly environment where everything is directed towards their needs;
- opportunities to develop a positive attitude to learning using their natural curiosity to explore the planned activities;
- a stimulating environment that is planned to suit personal needs and offer opportunities to progress in their learning;
- a planned curriculum that meets the Government's Desirable Outcomes for Quality Nursery Provision;
- support and guidance from a qualified Teacher and Nursery Assistant; and
- a good basis for Key Stage 1.



What we offer you

- The chance to make new friends
- To get involved in school activities
- Support / advice from qualified staff



The Nursery Curriculum

The nursery curriculum seeks to:

- encourage the children to foster a healthy attitude to learning and school;
- provide an environment where the children can acquire new skills and concepts; building on what they have already learned at home;
- give children opportunities to develop positive attitudes and values and to gain knowledge and understanding of the world that they live in;
- provide opportunities for children to learn through practical experience where there are elements of self discovery;
- support children's development through a balanced curriculum that takes into account 'six areas of learning';
- encourage independence where children are supported and enabled to do things for themselves;
- develop the children's confidence, a positive self-image and a sense of responsibility; and
- provide appropriate support for children with disabilities and special learning needs.

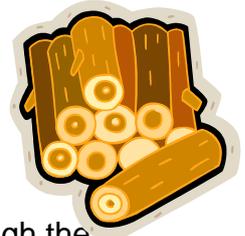
The six areas of learning are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Creative/Aesthetic Development
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The World Around Us



THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

In Silverstream we are committed to providing an outdoor environment where the children are safe, challenged and active. They will be able to explore the outdoor surroundings and practice developing skills. We value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the world around them. We believe that children should be encouraged to take risks and face challenges in the outdoor environment, an ideal that is fully supported by the NEELB (Learning Outdoors Resource Book) and the Pre-school Curricular Guidance.



OBJECTIVES

- treat the indoor and outdoor environments as inter-related;
- support the well-being and development of the children through the provision of a balanced scheme of outdoor activities;
- develop children's confidence, enjoyment and sense of adventure through the outdoor and natural environment;
- provide opportunities for the children to handle large and small equipment and materials in a way that encourages them to take risks and investigate together;
- enhance the development of fine and gross motor skills;
- have plenty of room to just be children – they can run, jump and go fast, get dirty, explore;
- discover their natural world – we have a vegetable patch, bug boxes and much more;
- encourage the children to appreciate that outdoor exercise is healthy; and
- develop the children's awareness of health and safety issues.



In our ever changing climate (!), it is important that the children are appropriately dressed so that they can go out in all weathers – please remember to send your child to school with a coat at all times. In winter a hat and scarf is beneficial.

We would also ask that you sent a pair of wellie boots to school each day as they are useful for water play as well. The nursery is able to provide 'wet legs' for the children to help protect their trousers during wet play.



Starting Nursery

Settling each child and building personal relationships with them is crucial. To do this we have a staggered intake – all children will start in September. Please be patient and appreciate that this method is best for all of the children in the class. Children who are returning to the nursery will start first, after which they will start in alphabetical order.

When you bring your child, please leave other siblings at home - *this is a special day for you and your nursery child.*

First day and increasing session times

On a child's first day they should be accompanied by a familiar adult, preferably a parent. **Both the child and the adult will stay for one hour on the first day.** Depending on teacher / parent consultation, it is expected that after the first day most of the children will be able to stay for one hour, daily, on their own. Time will then be **gradually** built up until they are staying from 9.00am–12.00 noon. It is expected that some children will be invited to stay for lunch by the beginning of October and they will go home at 12.30pm. Parents will be informed of their child's session times as soon as possible.

We would ask you to be flexible, and to be guided by the Nursery Teacher. Some children will settle better than others, therefore the settling in time and final hours will depend on the individual. Don't worry if your child appears to take a long time. Remember that this is a new environment and a new set of people for them to get to know.

Children who find the transition from home to nursery very stressful will be offered a reduced day and the aim will be to build up to the full session time when they are happy and settled. This may also affect children with Special Educational Needs, behavioural difficulties or medical conditions amongst others. In such cases the teacher and SENCO will advise you on the best way forward to ensure your child's happiness, well being and progression.



Coming to Nursery

Your child will attend the nursery for five days per week during the school term. As we want each child to have as long a session as possible to enjoy the facilities provided, it is best that you to bring them to school as near the start of the session as possible.

When you arrive in the morning please change your child's shoes and bring them right into the classroom. Make sure to let a member of staff know that they have arrived. It is important that staff are aware of who is present at all times.

There is a self-registration. The children should be encouraged to move their own picture to the 'I am here' board that is inside the nursery. Help the staff to settle your child if necessary and don't forget to say goodbye!

Going Home from nursery

The nursery will close at 1.30pm but we require that you are there at 1.15pm. The doors will be open at 1.15pm but if you arrive before this you will need to press the buzzer once and wait for a member of staff to open the door.

Please collect your child on time so that they do not become upset at being the only child left in the nursery. Sometimes an emergency may arise. If you find that you cannot pick up your child at the correct time please phone ahead where possible. If your child needs to be collected by someone not on the collector's list we must have prior permission, preferably in writing. If this cannot happen we will phone persons on the collectors list for confirmation before we release your child. In the event of no confirmation the matter will be dealt with by the Principal.

All children must be accompanied, to and from school, by a responsible adult. Please do not send them with an older child or expect us to let them go, even to the car, with an older child.

BOOK LENDING SCHEME

The nursery has a book lending scheme that has been successful for the last few years.

WHAT YOU GET: once a week your child will bring home a book bag. The contents will be related to a theme, for example All About Frogs or Counting and Numbers. There will be books, games and puzzles to educate your child in a fun and appropriate way. They require adult interaction and the nursery children loved that they were getting 'homework' to do with their parents.

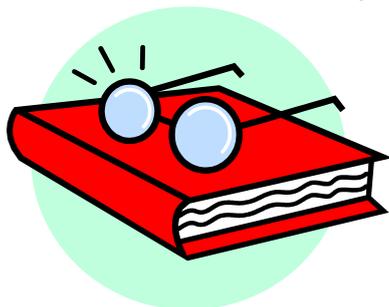
COST: the cost will be £15.00 per child for the year. The money will be used to further develop this resource. Please give the money (cash only) to a member of staff. Put it in an envelope with the child's name on the front. This is payable at the Parent Meeting in June.

Please read the following book lending policy:

In the Nursery Unit, the staff have set up a Book Lending Service for the parents and children. While the staff recognise the value of this service to encourage emergent reading and writing skills in young children they are keen that the parents are willing to accept responsibility for the successful running of the scheme.

The conditions of being part of the Lending Library are as follows:

- each participating child will have a sturdy bag to carry their books in. In the event of loss or damage the parent will be requested to pay for a replacement bag;
- each child may only have one book bag at any given time;
- the book must be returned before a new one can be issued;
- any books that are lost must be paid for in full;
- any books that are not returned within 4 weeks of the issue date must be paid for in full;
- while wear and tear is acceptable, any books that are damaged and rendered unusable must be paid for in full; and
- only parents who have been successfully vetted will be considered as a Library Volunteer.



What do the children need for nursery?

On your child's first day at nursery please bring:

- 1 A bag to hang on their peg with a full change of clothes, including pants, socks, vest, top, trousers and jumper.

**This should stay on your child's peg at all times. They may get wet during water play, messy during artwork, toileting accident etc.*

- 2 A change of shoes that have good grips for running and climbing. Velcro or secure fitting slip on gym shoes are appropriate, NOT laces – it is best if the children can change their shoes independently. Shoes are changed so that dirt is not walked into the nursery from outside.

- 3 A box of small tissues (*'man-sized' tend to be wasteful!*)



- 4 A packet of Kandoo toilet wipes, (*to promote toilet independence*)

- 5 Snack money - £5.00 per week non-refundable, as snack is bought for all 26 children in advance.

After Halloween:

- 6 Dinner money - £2.30 per day = £11.50 per week (this sum is subject to change).

SEND THE CORRECT MONEY in a SEALED AND NAMED ENVELOPE on MONDAY MORNINGS.

The nursery may ask for soap, tissues and wipes throughout the year, as required.



What to wear?

We would prefer the children to wear the nursery uniform of jogging bottoms, t-shirts and sweatshirts. This is the most comfortable clothing for physical play and it is easy to wash. (Good clothes are easily destroyed!).

Please avoid braces, belts and long dresses for safety reasons.

Tight cuffs are not practical for messy play.

Belts, dungarees and tight buttons are not suitable for independent toileting.

Children should not wear jewellery to nursery – it can cause damage to themselves and others. If ears are pierced it is essential that children wear studs, not hoops.

Indoor shoes should be provided for health and safety reasons.

Make sure to send a coat for outdoor play. We encourage wellies, hoods and hats for wet weather play.

In summer please send in a sun hat (apply sun cream to your child before coming to nursery).

Put your child's name on *everything*.

A school uniform is available. It is reasonably priced, very practical and easily laundered. Uniforms can be purchased from:

Gordon's, 10a Green Street, Carrickfergus, tel. 93 351 246.

Orders / payment are no longer taken at the school as Gordon's will keep uniform items in stock all year round and you can now purchase 'over the counter'.

The Daily Routine

- 9.00-9.15am Doors open. Parents/carers supervise their child to change shoes and get ready for Nursery. Children are handed over to the staff in the nursery room.
- 9.00-10.45am The children have a free choice of play from a range of activities. These typically include construction, art, water, sand, table top, home corner and access to books etc.
- 9.45-10.15am Snack time. To ensure minimal interruption to children's play, 4-6 children have snack when they are ready. They wash their hands and collect their snack. The snack will be a healthy option with milk or water to drink. Please do not allow your child to bring sweets to nursery.
10. 45am Tidy up time and get ready for outdoor play.
- 10.45am Physical play is out of doors where possible. Play will include bikes, balancing toys, tunnels, crates, sand, water etc. In wet weather children use the assembly hall for at least 30mins.
- 11.45am Tidy up. Toilet & wash hands for lunch.
- 12.00-12.30pm Dinner in the nursery.
- 12.30-12.45pm Story Time/rhymes/songs
- 12.45 – 1.15pm Outdoor and indoor play/table top or group activities.
- 1.15pm-1.30pm Tidy up.



Health Care

If your child is off sick there is no need to phone the school unless it is very important, such as, an infectious disease like measles or mumps when it is important that we alert other parents to possible infection.

If your child has been sick through the night please give them 48hrs at home to prevent spread of infection.

There have been times when some children have head lice. Please do not be embarrassed or alarmed. Instead let us know so that we can advise all parents on how to detect them, prevention and treatment.

On return to nursery, for any reason, please write a note confirming the reason.

Breakages and Lost Property

We would like to advise you that the Nursery cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of toys and other valuables that children bring to Nursery.

Please ensure that your child has left their toys at home. They can hinder play and cause behavioral issues where children no longer want to share. There are safety issues, such as, the quality of the toy or the danger of small parts causing an injury. Toys that are brought into nursery will be kept in a safe place until home time.

We encourage the children to look after the nursery toys and equipment, and accept that sometimes accidents happen resulting in damage to Nursery property. However, if your child breaks or damages Nursery property through unacceptable behaviour we will ask you to pay to replace it.

What about my child's progress?

You may speak to the Nursery Teacher at any time to receive information on how your child is progressing. If the teacher is busy, or a private discussion is more suitable, an appointment will be made so you can have the teacher's undivided attention.

Throughout the year there will be a short talk to explain the nursery curriculum. There will be a series of short, practical workshops.

At the end of November there will be one to one interviews.

Open Day is in June, you will receive a written report and have an opportunity to talk with the teacher. An interview can be arranged on request.

This report will be forwarded to the Primary School that your child is due to attend.

Transfer to Primary School

Your child will not automatically be given a place in Primary School. It is your responsibility to contact the school and get an application form. You must then wait to see if your application is accepted.

Towards the end of the year we will discuss with your child where they will be going to next. You and your child will be invited to visit the Primary School and meet your child's teacher.

Keep talking about school in a positive way. The more you talk about it, the more exciting the prospect will become.

How can parents take part in the nursery?

- Come along to meetings and organised events. They are generally informative and offer a chance to get to know other parents.
- Support any ventures going on in the Nursery and the rest of the school.
- Volunteer to help in the nursery setting - reading stories, supervising outings etc. Vetting is essential, forms are available from nursery staff and the office.
- Take part in the running of the Book Lending Library.
- Collect items as requested by staff. For example:
 - junk modeling materials-various boxes/containers.
 - old catalogues for cut & stick activities.
 - old holiday brochures, tickets, luggage labels etc.
- Send us a postcard from your holidays.
- Read newsletters and the parent's notice board! Feel free to put your ideas and opinions in the Comment Box
- Inform staff of an activity that your child particularly enjoyed - family celebrations, special outings etc. so that they can develop their interests in the nursery setting.
- Look out for any good toy offers in shops.
- Hunt out good condition, redundant toys from home, friends and family.

Some things to do at home

Encourage your child to be independent at the toilet.

- Does your child wipe independently?
- Do they wash their hands properly with soap and water?
- Do they dry their hands properly?

They must be independent in their toileting routine before coming to nursery.

Things to encourage for snack and dinner times.

- Wash hands before eating.
- Healthy eating, healthy snacks.
- Enjoy mealtimes and have regular eating patterns. Sit together at the table.
- Set out cutlery and drinking cup and encourage correct use.
- Introduce new tastes gradually; encourage a 'tiny taste'.
- Encourage children to eat all of their dinner before pudding!

Over the summer months:

- talk about coming to nursery
- discuss that they will be staying without their usual carer
- encourage independence with dressing, going to the toilet etc.
- get into the habit of praising your child's efforts
- get involved in their play – let your child tell you what to do!
- encourage your children to talk about what they are doing or what they did while you were not there
- discuss the rules of the nursery in a general way, but pay particular attention to sharing with other children
- finally, don't worry – we are here to support you and your child - we have done it before even if you haven't!