



Welcome to

ACORNS NURSERY

WELCOME TO LEAVENING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are very pleased that you have decided to choose our Nursey. We very much hope that you and your child will enjoy your time in Acorns. We hope that you find this booklet useful. It is designed to answer some of the questions you may have about Nursery and it explains a little bit about what happens here. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries or concerns.

OUR AIMS

We aim to provide a safe, happy and secure learning environment where everybody grows in confidence, independence and responsibility; to enjoy and achieve - academically, emotionally and socially.

SETTLING IN

Settling into nursery is an important time for young children and their families. For some children this will be the first time they have been left with another person and often the first time they have been left in a larger environment. At Leavening Community Primary School and Nursery, we aim to make this process as smooth as possible. All children and families are unique and as such, their individual needs are taken into account throughout the settling in process. We hope to make this experience a positive and enjoyable one for everyone. We hope that by working with parents/carers we can provide the best possible start for your child's entry into nursery, laying firm foundations for the future.

OUR SESSION TIMES

Monday, Wednesday and Friday we are open as follows;

Session 1; 9am – 11.45am

Lunch; 11.45am – 1pm (£2.00 per meal plus £2.40 nursery care fee)

Session 2; 1pm – 3.15pm

Thursday 9am – 12noon these hours can be taken as part of your 15 hour allocation or as additional hours, if taken as additional hours and extra fee will be charged.

OUR DAILY ROUTINE

The children's first task is to collect their name and self-register. The children will then sit as a group 'circle time' where, for example, the days of the week and weather, are discussed.

Your children will then take part in child-led play based learning through a range of planned activities throughout the day, which provide opportunities for them to learn skills through the areas of continuous provision. They will also access short adult led activities such as phonics, maths, developing early writing, forest schools and cooking.

At play time we have a tuck shop which your children will be invited to go to. All items are 20p, an adult will accompany them.
We encourage all children to help in tidy up time.

The covered decking and outdoor area is available for the children to use all the year round, even when raining, so please remember to send your child in appropriate clothing!

A member of staff supervises each area of the classroom. Children are free to move throughout the Nursery and take part in a variety of activities. The children will have a healthy snack and milk together whilst listening to a story.

HOW WE LEARN IN EARLY YEARS

We believe that children learn through play. They are encouraged to join in all the activities, to be independent and to make choices. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a safe but inviting environment. We understand that children develop at their own pace, but with encouragement and opportunity will reach their full potential. Children learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. The staff are there to guide and teach, and will get to know you and your child well during your time here.

Our environment is planned to give children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. Although the resources in each area tend to reflect a particular curricular area, they are planned together enabling children to consolidate and apply their learning in a way that makes sense to them. Our environment consists of several areas. Each area offers a different variety of learning experiences for our children.

These areas are:

Creative Area
Computer
Construction
Maths area
Playdough Table
Reading area
Role Play Area
Sand and Water
Writing Area
Baking

Outdoor Area –

All of the above resources are also available outside, as well as wheeled toys/vehicles, space for running and physical experiences, balance equipment, small equipment e.g. balls, hoops and rings and a mud kitchen!

THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

At Leavening Community Primary School and Nursey, we support the children's learning and development by fostering, promoting, and developing the '*effective characteristics of learning*' and providing for the '*Prime and Specific areas of learning*'.

EFFECTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING

Playing and exploring:

This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes

- to engage with their learning
- to be curious; to explore and experiment
- to use objects in their play in a variety of ways to represent things
- to be confident enough to initiate activities, seek challenges and take risks.

Active learning:

- This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes, to be motivated by their learning
- to be highly involved in their learning and concentrate
- to persist with their learning
- to enjoy achievements they have made.

Creating and Critical thinking:

This includes supporting children to develop the skills and attitudes -

- to develop their thinking as they learn and be able to talk their thinking through
- to develop their own ideas and solve problems
- to make links in their learning
- to make predictions
- to explore cause and effect
- to be flexible and adapt their strategies when solving a problem

PRIME AND SPECIFIC AREAS

Prime Areas;

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We promote this aspect of the curriculum by supporting the transition between home and Nursery, promoting an inclusive ethos, and providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of the group so that strong self- image and high self-esteem are achieved. We aim to enthuse children so that they have a positive attitude towards learning and see themselves as successful learners. We also provide opportunities to enable them to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside others.

Language and Communication

We provide opportunities for children to talk and communicate in a wide range of situations. They learn to respond to adults and to each other, to practise and extend their range of vocabulary and communication skills, including being able to listen carefully. Children are taught Phase 1 phonics skills through a series of fun games and activities. These include games to support the development of listening skills, to help children distinguish between different sounds, to discriminate between sounds and to discriminate speech sounds and words.

Physical Development

Children develop and practise their gross and fine body movements through a variety of activities. Our work in the Nursery also helps children to increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe. Children are given a variety of experiences to develop their fine motor skills through malleable play.

Specific Areas;

Literacy

In Nursery, we help children further develop a love of books and to explore and enjoy the written word. Children read with adults and are told traditional stories and sing rhymes and songs. Children are encouraged to mark-make as part of their play. Adults model the writing process and support children to give meaning to their marks.

Mathematics

There are opportunities for children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space. This is achieved by providing a stimulating environment in which they can enjoy, explore, learn, practise and talk about these concepts.

Understanding of the World

Opportunities are created for children to explore and to find out about their environment, including the people and places that are important to them. This involves the children in solving problems, making decisions, experimenting, predicting, planning and questioning in a variety of situations.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities which include art, design and technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role play.

RECORD OF LEARNING JOURNEY

In order to plan for your child's development, staff contribute to observations on your child's development. This begins with the information you share with us and builds during your child's time with us. . We use a commercial on line recording tool for your child's learning journey, this is called 'Tapestry'. Please find enclosed parents' guide and agreement form, which you will need to complete and return. This will give you access to view your child's learning journey on line and we would love to have your contributions using this facility. Before your child starts at Nursery we would appreciate it if you would complete the section on Tapestry called 'Getting to know my family and me'. This would help us in the process of getting to know your child. We collect observations, children's drawings and photographs of things they have done at Nursery.

CHILDREN' S ILLNESSES

Please inform us of the reason your child is absent from Nursery and of any infectious illness. The following apply:

Illness	Appropriate action
Sickness/ Diarrhoea	Please do not bring your child to nursery until 48 hrs after the last bout of illness
Conjunctivitis	Please do not bring your child to nursery if their eyes are 'gunky'. Wait until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
Chicken pox	Please do not bring your child to nursery until the last spot has scabbed.

Notwithstanding the above, it is expected that parents/carers use their discretion and if their children remain unfit for school beyond the above guidelines, their children stay at home.

Should your child become ill, we will try to contact you as soon as possible so that they can be collected. *Please help us by keeping your contact numbers up-to-date.*

ACCIDENTS AND ACCIDENT REPORTING

All accidents are recorded in the accident book. Children will be given an accident slip to inform parents of what has happened. If, in our opinion, a child requires medical treatment, which is above our training, we will contact you immediately.

Please make sure we have up-to-date contact numbers.

ABSENCE

We ask that you ensure your child makes full and regular use of the place offered to them. If for any reason your child will not be able to attend, for example due to illness or holiday, please could you contact us.

INTIMATE CARE OF CHILDREN

During their time at Leavening Community Primary School and Nursery, your child may need intimate care. Staff who provide intimate care to children have a high awareness of child protection issues. This can be when cleaning up a child after they have soiled themselves or helping them to change clothes when wet. Leavening Community Primary School and Nursery is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. The team recognises that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given and no child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

TOYS FROM HOME

Occasionally children like to bring a toy from home. Could you please discourage this as much as possible. Toys and other items can easily be lost or misplaced which can be very upsetting for the children.

FRUIT/SNACK

Each day the nursery provides 1/3 of a pint of milk for the children to drink and fruit or vegetables. Please let us know if your child suffers from any allergies.

PARENTS

At Leavening Community Primary School and Nursery, we recognise that parents need to feel confident and comfortable with the Nursery environment they choose. To ensure this we operate an "open door" policy so that parents can discuss any aspect of their child's development at any time with a staff member. Please come in and talk to your child's practitioner, if you have any worries, concerns or general feedback.

NEWSLETTERS AND NOTICEBOARDS

We try to keep you informed about events in Nursery through regular newsletters and emails. Curriculum information will also be displayed on the board. Communication is a two way process, so if there is anything you would like to know, please ask.

LIBRARY BOOKS

We hope that you will enjoy borrowing books from our library. The books can be found in the reading area and can be selected as often as you wish. We ask that the children borrow one book at a time and that they are returned regularly. If there are any mishaps, for example a lost book, please let us know as soon as possible.