



Acorns Nursery



Information for Parents

Welcome to Acorns Nursery

Leavening Community Primary School

Thank you for showing an interest in Acorns Nursery, at Leavening Community Primary School. We know that choosing the right provision for your child can be a daunting task, especially for younger children. For some children, this will be their first experience of being away from home and from parents. We aim to make the transition as smooth and positive as possible, by providing high quality care and education in a safe, supportive environment with experienced and qualified staff.

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. Our staff are always available to answer any of your queries. Please feel free to contact us for more information and to visit our provision, to see for yourself what Acorns Nursery has to offer you and your child.

Contact Details

Acorns Nursery
Leavening Community Primary School
Back Lane
Leavening
Malton
North Yorkshire
YO17 9SW
Tel: 01653 658313

Email: admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk

Web: www.leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk

Staff

Headteacher: Mrs Sian Mitchell

Acorns Nursery Leader: Miss H Cooke

Acorns Nursery Assistant: Mrs S Bennett and Mrs S Bedford

Our school purpose is: **'TOGETHER WE CAN...'**

This is underpinned by our 4 core values:

- 1. Look and learn beyond the classroom.**
- 2. Aim high so everyone can shine.**
- 3. Care, share and belong.**
- 4. Lead, teach and learn with passion.**

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, some of the information in this brochure may change temporarily as we follow the Government Guidance on providing a safe and effective education. We will endeavour, as much as possible, to offer the same level of provision to ensure your child continues to receive a high quality Early Years experience and feels safe and secure.

The nursery is governor-led. There is always one member of Paediatric First Aid qualified staff on the premises.

Admissions

Acorns Nursery class offers part time and full time places, during term time only. These sessions run as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Session 1: 8.55am – 11.55am

Lunch: 12 – 1pm (£2.50 per meal plus £2.40 nursery care fee)

Session 2: 1pm – 3.15pm

Thursday:

8.55am – 11.55am plus 12-1 pm lunch (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)

Please note that Nursery children are not on the roll of the main school. There is no link between admissions to a Nursery class and admissions into Reception. Parents will need to fill out an online preference form for a Reception class place and the application will be considered in line with Local Authority admissions criteria.

We provide places for up to 16 children per session. **From the start of the term following a child's 3rd birthday they are eligible for 15 hours per week of free nursery education**, until they transfer to primary school (usually the September following their 4th birthday). Parents are encouraged to use their child's full entitlement.

Our Indoor Classroom

We believe play underpins all development and learning for young children. We plan experiences that build on children's interests and their spontaneous play as much as possible. 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. Children learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. We understand that children develop at their own pace, but with encouragement and opportunity will reach their full potential. We use our observations of the children to help understand the child's current stage of development and ensure that activities are well matched to the children's needs and address the next steps in learning, through planned, purposeful play, with both child-initiated and adult-led activities.

Our environment is planned to give children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. Each area offers a different variety of learning experiences for our children.

These areas are:

- Creative Area
- Computer
- Construction
- Maths area
- Discovery area
- Reading area
- Role Play Area
- Sand and Water
- Writing Area



Acorns Nursery offers opportunities for children to:

- Make friendships, show kindness to others, learn to share and take turns
- Develop their communication, listening and language skills
- Build their mathematical understanding
- Use imagination in their play
- Discover the world around them
- Enjoy tactile and sensory experiences
- Engage in creative activities
- Develop physical and mark making skills
- Operate technological equipment



Our Outdoor Classroom

We value outdoor play experiences and therefore use our outdoor area in all weathers. Please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately for all weathers. During winter please provide named wellies (if coming in wellies please also bring shoes to change into), gloves, hat and a suitable coat. We have some spare wellies. In summer please provide your children with appropriate clothing and a sun hat. As your child will be climbing and running, open-toed sandals are not allowed. We ask parents to apply sun screen to all exposed areas of children's skin before school. Please ensure all items are named!

Children might get muddy. Perhaps use an old coat, so that it doesn't matter too much if they come home dirty. It probably means they've had a great time!

Our outdoor environment offers:

- Large construction area with crates, planks and tyres.
- Water and sand play areas
- Mud kitchen
- Bikes and wheeled toys
- Opportunities for planting
- Den making
- A large area for games
- Opportunities for quiet reading
- Mark making opportunities



A typical day at Acorns looks like:

- Welcome and Self-registration
- Phonics
- Continuous provision (free flow play)
- Snack
- Continuous provision (free flow play)
- Story/singing/mindfulness carpet time
- Lunch
- Maths and/or specialised activity
- Continuous provision (free flow play)
- Story/singing/mindfulness carpet time
- Home time



Learning to deal with risk

Our environment offers children physical challenges and we support children in making judgements about staying safe. Children are given real scissors and sometimes tools. All our activities are “risk assessed” but accidents may happen. If your child has a minor accident, we will inform you with an accident form at the end of the session. If your child becomes ill or has a more serious injury, they will be looked after by someone qualified in first aid and we will contact you immediately. Please make sure we have up-to-date contact details.

Curriculum

The **Early Years Foundation Stage framework** informs our planning and daily practice.

- **A Unique Child:** Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships:** Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships where there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and carers.
- **Enabling Environments:** Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, which encourage independence.

Learning and development is based on the **Characteristics of Effective Learning:**

Playing and Exploring:

Finding out and exploring; Playing with what they know; Being willing and ‘having a go’

Active Learning:

Being involved and concentrating; Keeping trying; Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically:

Having their own ideas; Making links; Choosing ways to do things



The curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning and development:

3 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.

Communication and Language

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 identify 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.

4 Specific areas:

Literacy

In Nursery, we help children develop a love of books and to explore and enjoy reading. 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.



Meeting Individual Needs

Our curriculum is planned to meet the range of different needs and interests of children. We make provision for groups or individuals who need extra support or additional challenge to enable them to fulfil their potential. The learning is achieved through a mix of play based opportunities, adult support and adult led activities. During short daily sessions we also provide adult directed opportunities. These might involve:

- Speaking and listening activities
- Circle time
- Early mark making activities leading to writing
- Phonics time
- Music and movement
- Number activities
- Songs and rhymes
- Story time



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.

You and your child will be invited to attend a settling in meeting the term before they start in Acorns. This provides the opportunity to view the setting, meet the staff, talk about your child and discuss any needs or concerns. It also gives your child the opportunity to meet new friends and the staff.

Your child will then be assigned a key worker. Their role is to ensure that your child's care meets their individual needs, to help them settle into the provision and to build a strong relationship with their parents or carers.

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.

Some children settle in very quickly, others take longer. We understand parents' anxieties during these early days. We regularly have opportunities for parents to join in with children's activities, such as 'Stay and Play' sessions and special events. Each term there will be an opportunity to meet staff and discuss children's learning.

Start and finish of the day

Please line up with your child at the Acorns Nursery gate. You may want to talk to the key worker or other member of staff if you need to pass on information. Children usually settle better with a quick goodbye, so be cheerful and try not to prolong it. If there is a problem with your child, we will let you know but usually they are okay once parents have left and they get busy playing.

At the end of the session (11.55/ 3.15), we ask parents and carers to wait at the Nursery gate. A member of staff will open the gate and will call out individual child's names when parents/ carers arrive. In this way we can ensure children's safety. If you are unavoidably delayed please let us know, so that we can reassure your child.

It is vital we know who is collecting your child from Nursery. Please let us know if someone different is coming and preferably introduce them to us, as we never let a child go with an unknown person. Nursery children must be brought into and collected from nursery by a responsible adult. Please complete the Permission to Collect from school form to let us know who may be collecting your child.

At the toilet

The majority of children are toilet trained by the time they start Nursery. However, we understand accidents can happen and we will assist your child to change clothing if required. It is useful for each child to have some spare named clothes in their bag as our supplies are limited.

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. Please ask to see our Nappy Changing Policy for more details.

Clothing/ Uniform

School uniform is usually worn in Acorns. This can be ordered from www.myclothing.com

Please dress your child in easy to manage clothing as this helps to develop their independence, particularly with toileting. Please ensure all clothing is labelled!

Messy Play

Water, paint, glue and gloop (such as cornflower mixed with water) are used regularly and some children like to investigate with their hands. We have aprons for children to wear, but sometimes clothes will get wet or messy.

Please do not expect your child to keep clean at school! Children who are worried about getting dirty may not learn. Reassure your child that you do not mind it they look a bit untidy when you pick them up. **We play outside daily, so a warm waterproof coat and footwear are essential every day.** Wellington boots are also very useful!

Snacks

We encourage children to access a snack during each session. Fresh water will be available and milk is provided as part of the Free Milk scheme. Fresh fruit is available. Please let us know if your child suffers from any allergies.

Lunch

Children attending for full days have a choice of meals, including:

- Hot school lunch
- Vegetarian school lunch
- Packed lunch from home (in line with the school's Healthy Eating policy)

School lunches are paid through the ParentPay scheme – a **nursery lunch costs £2.50 per day**. Parents may be eligible for Free School Meals. If you think you may be eligible, please speak to the office as soon as possible.

If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please let staff know. There is also a charge for lunchtime staffing cover (£2.40 per day).

ParentPay

Leavening is a cashless school; school dinners, additional childcare, trips etc. are paid for via an online payment service – ParentPay. You will be given a ParentPay activation letter and full instructions on how to use ParentPay when your child starts in Nursery. Please set up your account as soon as you receive your ParentPay activation details. For more information please visit www.parentpay.com/parents or ask in the school office.

Absence and Illness

If your child is ill – please contact the school immediately. **Medical appointments** – if your child has a dental, clinic or any other medical appointment, please inform school. **Family holidays** – unlike school, Nursery is not statutory and not subject to the same requirement as school. However, **it is very important to a child's progress that they attend regularly** and while we appreciate the importance of family time, it can be detrimental to a child's progress, friendships or behaviour if they miss nursery.

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

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 children remain unfit for school beyond the above guidelines, they 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.

Medication

Any medication needs a prescribed medicine form to be completed at the office, in line with school policy. Please inform staff of the requirements.

Dummies

Please do not bring dummies into school. They can inhibit language development, cause dental problems and can contribute to ear infections. It is also not hygienic if another child finds it.

Reading

We will regularly send home a Home Sharing book from our 'Class Library' for you to read with your child. If there are any mishaps, for example a lost book, please let us know.

Look out for head lice!

We'd rather not think about it but as your child starts nursery it is a good time to start the regular habit of checking for head lice. When you have washed your child's hair, use ordinary conditioner and comb through

the hair with a fine-toothed comb. This should remove any eggs before they hatch. Make this part of your regular hygiene routine like cleaning teeth and the problem won't get out of hand.

Toys

Occasionally children like to bring a toy from home. 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.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones must not be used whilst in the Early Years areas. **Phones should be turned off prior to entering** – no calls should be made or received and photographs should not be taken.

Communication

We try to keep you informed about events in Acorns through Tapestry, regular newsletters and emails. Communication is a two-way process, so if there is anything you would like to know, please ask.

Tapestry

We use a web-based interactive Learning Journey tool called Tapestry to record observations and assessments of children's learning and development. This begins with the information you share with us and builds during your child's time with us. Staff take photos, record videos and make notes on an iPad. By logging on with a secure username and password you will be able to view all of your children's observations, photographs and videos. You will even receive an email telling you when a new observation or piece of work is available for you to view. This will enable you to follow your child's individual progress closely and you can reflect upon their achievements with your child. You can add comments so that we as a staff find out about which activities your child really enjoyed and the learning they get up to at home.

Tapestry is a secure website, stored on a highly secure server which is monitored closely. You will be asked to provide an email address so that we can set up access to your child's Learning Journey electronically. Please note each parent only has access to their own child's Learning Journey. We will also give you detailed information on how to view/use your child's Learning Journey. If you do not have access to e-mail, please don't worry! Your child is still able to have an online Learning Journey and we will regularly print out observations and add them to the Learning Journey books so that you and your child can read through them together. We also collect children's drawings and examples of things they have done at Nursery. Please see our Tapestry Policy for more details.

Please complete the parent's agreement form, to enable us to set up your child's Tapestry account.

We ask parents and carers to complete the 'All About Me' section of Tapestry and an 'essential information' form. It is important that we have information about medical conditions, allergies, contact details etc. It also helps us to know about children's family, their culture, likes, dislikes, pets etc.

Tips for Starting School

As the time for nursery approaches, there are ways in which you can help prepare your child and make their entry to nursery a happy time. Here are a few suggestions:

- Get to know other children that are starting at the same time
- Encourage them to dress and use the toilet as independently as possible
- Be positive about starting nursery (hide any of your own worries or fears)

- Play games together e.g. I Spy, snakes and ladders, snap
- Help your child to realise how numbers occur in everyday life
- Inform the school of any health, social or emotional problems
- When practising spelling your child's name, please encourage them to use lower case letters (except for the starting letter). Also, teach the letter sound as well as the letter name.

We hope you have found this booklet informative but do not hesitate to ask for any further information you may require. We are very much looking forward to meeting you and your child and getting to know them. We hope this will be an enjoyable and positive first experience of school.