



Welcome to Priory Rise School

Nursery Induction Booklet



This booklet is for parents of children starting nursery for the first time.



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Induction

Welcome to the nursery at Priory Rise school we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family! We are looking forward to you becoming part of our school family. We want to ensure that your child's first nursery experience runs as smoothly as possible. To enable this, we have a short induction period at the beginning of the year.

- Children will be visited at home, invited to a 'stay and play' session and then children will start their sessions.
- Home visits will be conducted during the first week of term.



- Staggered starts will begin from the second week of term.
Please see the separate letter for the dates for your child.

Home visits

To help your child settle into nursery your child's key workers will visit you at home. This will help us to get to know you and your child, and you to know us, in a setting familiar to you. This will be a great opportunity for you to ask any questions and pass on any information you think we need to know about your child and family.

The Foundation Curriculum

All children in nursery follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** curriculum which recognises 'every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to reach their full potential'. There is clear recognition of the importance of learning through purposeful play and practical experiences, to build on what children already know, extend their interests and to encourage them to develop independence. Children follow the EYFS until the end of the Reception year. When children progress into Year 1 they will begin the National Curriculum.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The biggest focus within our curriculum falls on the qualities needed for effective learning and being a reflective learner. These are...

- **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and learn to 'have a go'
- **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things



The seven areas of learning in the EYFS are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of their class and the school with a positive self-image and high self-esteem. Enable the children to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside and with each other and to listen to each other.
- **Communication and Language** - opportunities for all children to talk and communicate in a widening range of situations, to respond to adults and each other, to practise and extend the range of vocabulary and communication skills they use and to listen carefully.
- **Physical Development** - opportunities for all children to develop and practise their fine and gross motor skills, and to increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to do to be healthy and safe.
- **Literacy** - opportunities for all children to explore, enjoy, learn about, and use words in a broad range of contexts and to experience a rich variety of books.
- **Mathematics** - opportunities for all children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape, and space in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk.
- **Understanding the World** - opportunities for all children to solve problems, make decisions, experiment, predict, plan and question in a variety of contexts, and to explore and find out about their environment and people and places that have significance in their lives.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through a variety of art, design and technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role play activities.

Teaching and Learning

Each week will be carefully planned to ensure children's experiences build on their learning. Some activities will be adult led, whilst others will be independent activities chosen by the child. Many activities may target more than one area of learning. For example; play in the home corner could include learning about speaking and listening and sharing ideas as well as developing measuring skills to count out ingredients for dinner. The focus of learning in the nursery will be based on high quality books.

Activities

- Adult led
- Free flow (children choosing their learning)
- Library
- Music and Movement
- Dough Disco
- Inside/Outside play



Music and Movement

Children will have the opportunity to take part in these sessions each week in the small hall.

Snacks

Milk and fruit will be available to your child provided by the school. Your child will need a named bottle from home that they can bring fresh water in each day.

Drop off and Collection

Nursery is split into morning and afternoon sessions with approximately 20 extended care places. Entrance to the nursery is via the gates from the courtyard. All children must be brought into the building and handed over to nursery staff. When children enter nursery, they will need to put their coats and any other belongings onto their pegs or in their drawers, then children will be able to play in the setting for a few minutes before settling into their key groups. At the end of the session, the staff will hand over children to a parent or other adult on the child's safe collection list. It is important that you ensure that your child is brought to school and collected on time. Please note that we will only ever 'hand over' your child to adults for whom we have written permission from you.

Session times are as follows:

Morning 8.50 to 11.50 am

Afternoon 12.20 to 3.20 pm

Extended Care

We offer several extended care places, enabling your child to stay 8.50am-3.20pm. There are two ways to pay for these extra sessions. Parents can pay upfront, £21.50 per day; we send invoices out a half term in advance. Alternatively, families who are eligible for 30 hours funding, currently being offered by the government, may use this funding for all day extended care. To check if you are entitled to 30 hours of government funded childcare, click the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

Milton Keynes Council website also offers the following guidance...

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/30-free-childcare-information>

Please be aware, if you are successful in gaining the 30 hours funding, you will need to access the government portal to get your unique

code. The code needs to be given to the school office. **A new code will need to be gained for each subsequent term before the start of the next new term.**

If your child has an extended place there is small daily charge of £5 for lunchtime supervision costs. Hot dinners can be bought from school for an additional £2.25, this is a discounted price for Nursery children, or you may wish to provide your child with a packed lunch from home instead.

Ways to Pay

Priory Rise nursery care can be paid for using childcare vouchers. If you are not already part of this government scheme you will not be able to join now as this scheme closed in October 2018. However, if you were already using childcare vouchers prior to this date, they can still be used as payment. We also accept Tax Free Credits - the latest government initiative.

Social Media

We now live in a world where social media is very much a part of our lives whether we use it or not. We ask that parents contact the nursery staff in the first instance of a problem or issue to maintain a professional relationship, just as members of staff are expected to do so too.



Settling your child - Keep calm!

Starting nursery for the first time is an important step for children and we recognise that this can be an anxious time for children and parents. Please be assured that the staff will do everything they can to help your child settle. The best approach is to get to nursery in plenty of time so that the key worker can help you settle your child before nursery starts.

If your child is upset or worried about separating from you – please don't worry. It may help to stay for a few minutes and the staff will try to engage your child in a story or an activity that helps them to feel comfortable. It may help to prepare your child for nursery during the holidays – look at the school website, drive past the school, try on uniform and talk positively about starting nursery, make use of the library and share lots of stories etc.

Please remember, being at nursery is tiring and hard work. At the end of the day many children need to release their feelings or relax and switch off for a while. You know best how your child responds to and copes with tiredness – help them to handle their feelings in the best way you can.

Key Workers

If you are worried at all or have any questions, please ask your child's key worker. It is much better to air a problem or worry, sooner rather than later, you are important partners in your child's education, and we greatly value your support, interest, and involvement. We would also like to resolve any worries you may have as soon as possible.

You can also contact staff by email...

nursery@piorise.milton-keynes.sch.uk

Nursery News

We will send home a newsletter at the beginning of each half term giving details of the key activities the children will be doing in each of the areas of learning. We will also have a notice board for weekly plans and other notices about events and activities. School newsletters will go home approximately once a month and you can also keep up to date via the school website.

Children's Progress

Your child's progress will be reported to you in the following ways:
You can ask us about this at any time though - we would be happy to discuss how your child is doing.

- Parents evenings - November and March
- Summer term – Open evening
- End of year report in July
- Regular updates on Tapestry

Learning Journeys -Tapestry

Each child will have an online learning journey - Tapestry - filled with pictures, observations, and video clips of all the wonderful learning experiences they will encounter. These entries will be linked to the learning outcomes of the EYFS curriculum. Each time your child has an entry made into their learning journey you will be able to set up your account so you may receive a notification. You may wish to comment on entries posted by staff or alternatively create a post about something your child has done out of school. During the home visit we will collect an email address from you to set this up and talk to you about our 'Code of Conduct' contract.

Illness

If for any reason your child will not be in nursery, please telephone the school office as soon as possible - 01908 502572.

Toilet Training

We expect your child to be toilet trained, or at the very least well on the way to managing this independently, by the time they start in nursery. We can help to support you with this, but we feel this is a parental responsibility not a school one.

Policies

- Please read the uniform and jewellery policy for guidance about what your child needs to wear for school. Uniform is optional for nursery children, but most choose to wear it.
- Fizzy drinks or cans are not permitted in lunch boxes. Please pack a 'healthy' lunch for your child.

- We prefer children to keep treasured possessions and toys at home.



Some important things for parents and carers to consider about your child...

- Are your child's clothes, shoes, and coats easy to manage?
- Please do not mind if your child gets paint and chalk on their clothes as learning can be messy sometimes.
- Please let the keyworker know if your child is upset about something at home as it might help us to understand behaviour.
- Adjusting to nursery can be hard work so if your child is irritable and attention seeking in the first few weeks, it might be that they are tired.
- Please make sure your child has had breakfast in the morning.
- Please remember to tell your child how good their paintings and drawings are when they bring them home. They may not look quite how you would think they should, but they have certainly tried very, very hard!
- They might not remember things they have done during their day but that does not mean they have not been working hard.
- Please remember to bring their book bag every day.

Supporting your child at home

There are many ways that you can support your child at home. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Talking to them about what has happened at Nursery.
- Taking an interest in their work.
- Following up topics at home – for example visiting the library to get books related to the current topic.
- Sharing books with your child and reading to them. Please take every opportunity you can to share and enjoy stories and other reading materials at home.
- When sharing a book try to...
 - ☺ Talk about the pictures and the title
 - ☺ Let your child find the beginning of the story and turn the pages
 - ☺ Encourage your child to talk about the storyline and to try to make predictions
 - ☺ Let your child tell the story afterwards. This may mean retelling from memory or making up the story from the pictures.

