



Jumping In

Life in nursery at Wick

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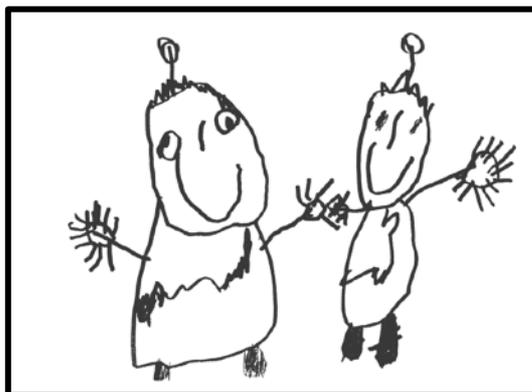
Times

Afternoon session 12.45pm –3.15pm

Welcome to your nursery

We hope that you will very soon feel that you and your child “belong” here, know and understand what nursery is all about and enjoy the experiences which we invite you to share with us. This booklet gives you a brief insight into your nursery, with the basic information we think will be useful to help both you and your child settle into life at Wick and Marcross.





Right from the start...

Nursery experience is often a child's first venture alone into the larger world outside the family and the home. What children experience and learn in nursery can create strong and lasting foundations on which to build in later life, so we believe it is essential that these first experiences are of the highest quality. By working in true partnership with parents we aim to provide a stimulating, challenging environment which is a warm, friendly extension of home, where children and adults can explore, have fun, play, talk and learn together, developing as happy, confident and independent individuals within our community.

In the nursery, we aim to create a rich, stimulating "learning climate", the most appropriate in which 3 and 4 year olds live and learn.

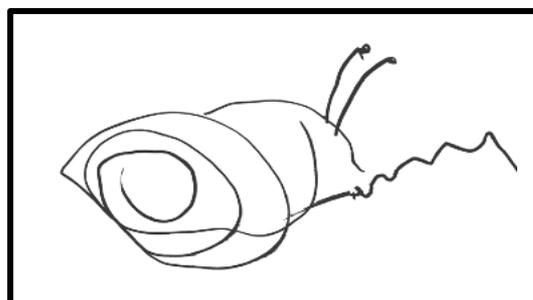
Comings & Goings

At first, nursery may seem a very big, strange place to your young child. Children only learn when they feel happy and relaxed.

Time spent on really settling in, is time well invested for your child's security and confidence. Once your children are settled, a quick, definite "goodbye" is best, but please reassure them that you will be back soon to see what they've been doing.

It is just as important to collect your children on time – searching the sea of faces for your important adult at the end of the sessions and finding no-one there can be really upsetting when you're only 3 or 4 years old.

Please ensure that your child is collected by adults they know and who are known to us.



Just Playing?

A high-quality nursery provision is about much more than colours and shapes, numbers and letters. It's about learning to be confident, strong and curious. It's about developing children's natural joy and wonder at the world in which they live.

It's about having a positive attitude, forming positive relationships and believing in yourself. If children can learn to "have a go", learn from mistakes and try again, they will succeed in their future learning.

Young children learn by doing things for themselves, by exploring and investigating, watching and listening, talking and discussing, creating and communicating – in other words playing.

Play is children's work and playing hard is very tiring! Your child may be really exhausted and perhaps a bit grumpy when they come home – please make allowances.

You'll want to know what your child has been doing for 3 hours. "Don't know – Nothing – Just playing", are common replies!

Sometimes children make something, draw or paint, so you can see what they've done. Often they have been very busy learning, but may not have anything visible to show you. Whatever they've done, please don't compare your child with anyone else, or put them under any pressure to make something for you - it's so easy to knock their self-esteem.

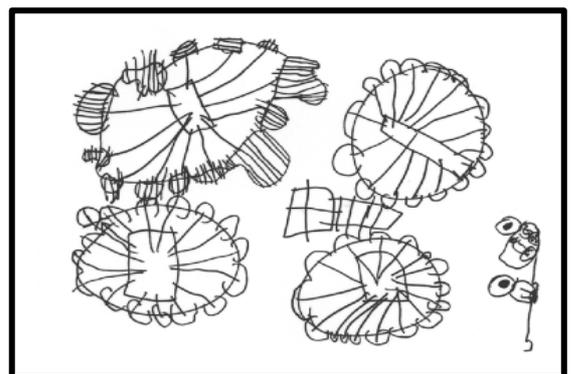
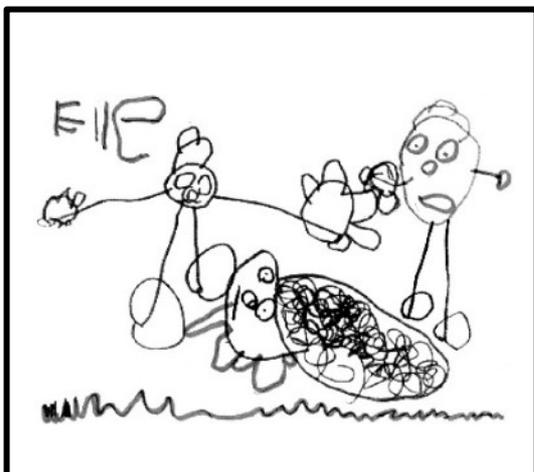
The Nursery Curriculum

So, what have they really been doing and how will they learn if they are "just playing?" Young children learn from everything around them – the people, the environment, the atmosphere, the routine, the experiences. All of these elements of the nursery make up "the early years curriculum". All aspects of children's growth and development are woven together and activities planned to support development across the areas.



Here in Wick, children's personal, social and emotional development is at the heart of everything we do and will be at the centre of your child's experiences during their time with us. This will help them to:

- place Gospel values at the heart of all we do
- form meaningful relationships with other children and adults
- have respect for other people
- be an individual and also belong to a community
- be able to express and cope with their feelings and emotions
- become independent and help others
- be able to make choices and take responsibility
- develop a sense of fairness, what is right and wrong
- understand appropriate behaviour
- respect and be able to empathise with others
- have feelings of wonder and joy
- share and celebrate festivals, traditions and special occasions.



What should my child wear for nursery?

Young children are here to play and that play can sometimes involve becoming quite messy! We also want the children to feel they are part of our Wick community.

They will need to wear our school uniform which is available from PointInk Embroidery:

- a school polo shirt with our logo (www.pointinkembroidery.com)
- a school sweatshirt with our logo (www.pointinkembroidery.com)
- a pair of navy trousers, shorts or skirt
- a blue and white checked dress

The children will need a pair of wellies that can remain in the nursery setting.

We know that young children can find it difficult to manage more formal clothing when they first start nursery, so if you feel your child would initially be more independent in navy jogging bottoms / leggings, then please feel free to let your child wear these instead of trousers.

To help us help your child develop greater independence, we ask that you;

- make sure your children wear a pair of dark coloured comfortable shoes. Open-toed sandals are not acceptable and will result in stubbed toes and tears!
- encourage your children to dress and undress themselves, even though it will take a little longer. Let them take off their coats, hang them up and put them on – all by themselves.
- please clearly name any items of clothing which your child is likely to take off at nursery.

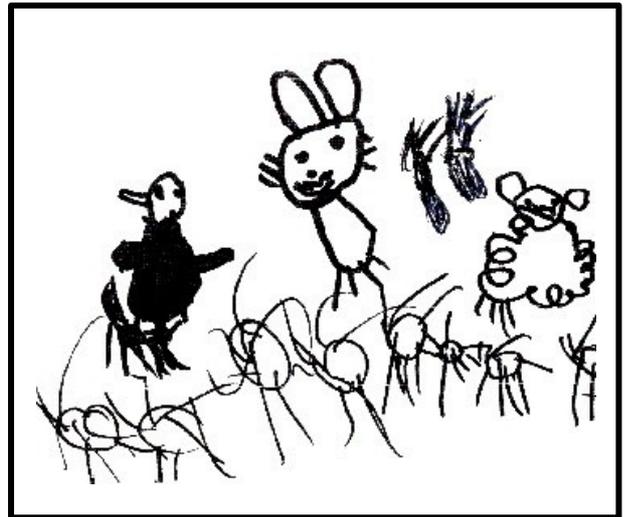
If your child needs to be changed for any reason and comes home in nursery clothes, we would appreciate them being washed and returned as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please note that jewellery of any kind is not to be worn to nursery.

Healthy Living

We feel that it is important to promote a healthy lifestyle right from the start.

We encourage children to play outdoors with lots of opportunities to develop both their bodies and their minds.



Snack

At each session children are offered a drink of milk, or chilled water and a “snack”, for which we ask for a contribution of £1 per week for children.

Snack varies enormously, but is always healthy. It could be cheese or fruit – apples, oranges, bananas, grapes, etc. or raw vegetables – carrots, celery, sweet peppers, dips and bread sticks, or the children may make sandwiches, toast or warm bread. The children will be actively involved in preparing a daily snack. The snack contribution is payable directly to the nursery staff and should be paid either half termly to termly in advance. This contribution will also go towards providing the ingredients the children need when cooking.

Outdoor Play

Playing outdoors is essential for young children, not just for their growing bodies, but for the development of their minds too. Outdoors they have opportunities for investigation, exploration, for creative experiences, for working together in imaginative play, for sharing and co-operation. We aim to spend as much time outdoors as possible. The children will also visit our Forest School area.

A Few Guidelines About Illnesses

First of all, if children are not well they are better off at home, whatever they say! If you are not sure, check with the nursery staff.

Sickness and Diarrhoea

In the case of “tummy upsets” it is vital that children stay at home for at least 48 hours after the last incidence of sickness or diarrhoea to prevent it spreading to others.

Headlice

Please check your child’s hair regularly and if you find any signs of head lice, treat and then check the whole family.

Asthma

Nursery staff need to know if your child has asthma, and if an inhaler is used, we need to keep one at school, labelled with your child’s name. You will also be asked to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan for your child.

Childhood infectious diseases

There are lots of common infectious diseases, which your children will invariably have at some time, perhaps whilst at nursery. Please let us know as soon as you suspect an infection, or have a diagnosis, so that we can inform other parents. We can also advise you about the minimum exclusion periods.

Earache

Ear, nose and throat infections are very common in young children, but ear infections in particular should not be treated lightly as ears can so easily be damaged permanently if infections are not treated. They are also very painful and children need to be at home.

Medicines

As a general rule, children who have been prescribed medicines e.g. antibiotics, are recovering from an illness and are probably not well enough to come to nursery. If you feel your child is well enough to be in nursery, and as your child will only be with us for half a day, prescribed medication should be given at home.

Allergies

If your child has an allergy to a food, please let us know. It might be that we ask you to provide confirmation from a medic, but will discuss this with you as we complete an Individual Healthcare Plan for your child.

Communication

As an Eco school, email is our main method of contact. You have included an email contact on your admission form and we will use this to send information home. This will include all curriculum information, newsletters and information from external sources e.g. library events and fundraising from the Association of Friends. If you do not want to receive information from the school you must notify us in writing.

The school operates a 'push messaging' service, Schoop. This service is free to families at the school. Please sign up using the school's unique number ID 28308. This will ensure you get messages and the school calendar directly to your phone, tablet or email.

When your child starts with us you will be provided with log in details for Seesaw. The school pays a subscription to the site and it is free to use for families. It will be the primary way of staying in touch with life in nursery and with the nursery staff team.

Our school website has a class page for Padarn (nursery) and here you will find our monthly learning blogs outlining what we've been up to during the term.