

Seaburn Dene Primary

Welcome to our Foundation Stage Unit: Nursery and Reception



Introduction

TO THE SEABURN DENE FAMILY

Welcome to Seaburn Dene Primary Early Years. Here at Seaburn Dene, we believe that every child is unique and every child matters.

This is not a slogan, it reflects firm beliefs and practises in our school. Your children are precious to us.

We have tried to outline in this booklet how your child will be cared for and educated in the Early Years, in our school. We believe that you as parents are the child's first educator and hope that close collaboration between our school "family" and home "family" will help your child feel happy, safe and cared for.

We are delighted that you have chosen us to guide your child through their first footsteps in their school lives and we are looking forward to getting to know them.

Mr John Howe
Headteacher

In our school, we:

**INSPIRE
INTERACT
IMAGINE
INVESTIGATE**





Introduction

CLASS STRUCTURE IN THE FOUNDATION STAGE

The Early Years at Seaburn Dene consists of a Nursery and Reception class. Together we are one community.

Our setting aims to:

- Work in partnership with parents.
- Provide a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment.
- Respond sensitively to the needs of individual children.
- Encourage children to be independent, "I can", learners.
- Provide a creative, high quality education where all children can reach their full potential.

At Seaburn Dene we have a single intake in September for Reception and a September/January/April intake for Nursery. We believe that the children benefit from having as early an introduction into Nursery and a full Year in Reception to prepare them for Key Stage 1.

NURSERY

- Children are eligible for a Nursery place the term following their third birthday. Priority is given to children turning four during the current academic year.
- Applications are made directly to school - see our website or our school office for application forms.
- Children attend on a part-time or full-time basis. Children receive 15 hours universal funding with the option to extend their hours through paid sessions or "top up" funding.
- Various options are available throughout the school day, however places are limited and in the instance that we cannot offer your choice of session, you will be given an alternative option.



NURSERY OPTIONS

Mornings

2 ½ days (beginning or end of week)

Full time

Flexi half hour after school - £2 (2.45pm to 3.15pm.)

Additional sessions may be purchased at a cost of £15 per session. Please speak to staff for more information.

Please note that successfully gaining a place in Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in school.

SCHOOL DAY

Our school day begins when the door opens to welcome families at 8.45am. The school day ends at 2.45pm.

Children are eligible for our breakfast and tea club, starting at 7.45am and closing at 5.30pm, which is located next to our Reception classroom. Cost £4 for the first hour and £2 for every half hour after this. Breakfast and a light tea are provided and the clubs run special events too.

NURSERY ROUTINE

Our nursery is a 26-full time place Nursery for children aged 3-4 years, with capacity for up to 39 children. Our nursery building is attached to the main Primary School and with the Reception class forms the Foundation Stage unit. We share a large outdoor area with a range of equipment to support Physical Development.

We aim to make the transition from home to Nursery as smooth as possible for your child.

Before joining, you will be invited to attend a stay and play session with your child. The aim of the session is to familiarise your child with their new environment, class teacher and peers. Relevant information regarding clothing, routines, etc., will be made available to you prior to this during our Parent meeting.



RECEPTION

Our popular Reception class is a 30-place setting for children aged 4-5. There is a large indoor classroom area, with three members of staff (including FSU/Y1 manager Mrs Deborah Wilson) and a large outside area which we share with nursery.

If your child's date of birth falls between 1/9/2019 and 31/8/2020, you are eligible for a place in our school for September 2024, with applications from September 2023.

The application period is from September 2023 until 15 January 2024 online or in paper form from Sunderland City Council. If you apply after this date, it will reduce your chance of being offered your preferred school. Places are allocated in April 2024.

OUR ETHOS

At Seaburn Dene, the family and our community are at the heart of everything we do. Our children are encouraged to have a can-do, "growth" mindset. They will be learning through play - exploring, creating, investigating and challenging themselves in a secure and stimulating environment. By working in partnership with parents, outside agencies and the local community, we support the children to be confident and independent learners. Our key words to our children are, "inspire, interact, imagine, investigate. Be independent. Develop a Positive Mindset: I can attitude."

STAFF

Across our Foundation Stage, our staff consists of two qualified teachers, four teaching assistants. This gives us a high ratio of staff to children and means we can give children lots of individual, personalised support and attention. We work closely with other agencies, such as Speech and Language Therapists, Health Visitors and Paediatricians to ensure every child's needs are met.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Each morning, our Early Years team greet the families on the yard as the children come into class. We are available to briefly answer any questions or take messages regarding the collection of children by others or appointments. It is also a good time to mention to us if your child is not his or herself, so we can monitor him/her through the day. Teachers will usually be available to speak to parents more fully after all the children have been dismissed.



WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT US...

Nursery

"Seaburn Dene is amazing. Since my daughter started here, I've seen her confidence grow so much. From the very first day, I knew she was in safe and capable hands with her teachers, which made my job of leaving her so much easier. There is a lovely nurturing atmosphere within nursery and I know here teachers genuinely care for her emotional wellbeing as well as helping her to learn at a place that is right for her. Six weeks after starting nursery, I brought my daughter in to have her school photo taken and was astounded when Mr Howe said to her, "you're looking very smart as always Emily." How many headteachers know the names of the children in their nursery? Another bonus of Seaburn Dene being a smaller school.

"I can't recommend this school enough, we are so pleased we enrolled Emily here and we love being part of the SDPS family."

Mrs Mewes - parent.

"One of the main reasons I chose Seaburn Dene and I feel like it's strengths are that it's a small, very well lead school and that almost every teacher / teaching assistant that my son has met/ came across knows who he is and his name. It always has a very friendly atmosphere not just with my son but with us too. Every nursery member of staff are so very helpful and so lovely.

Parent - EYFS Survey, 2022

Reception

"Seaburn Dene is the best school, it has one class per year which means your children will move through nursery and primary school with the friends they make on their first day, this is one of the main reasons we choose to send our children here. Emily experienced nursery and I can highly recommend it. She reached milestones at a greater pace and she has so much confidence in the school. She loves it and the staff too, especially Mrs Wilson. She adores this lady who goes above and beyond for all the early years foundation children. My son Max came from a private nursery and went straight to Reception. When he started he didn't know anyone and he couldn't even hold a pen or read and write - he just made marks. By the first term, Max had learnt to read and write and had lots of friends, by the end of Reception, Max had progressed so much. Even through the most troubling times, this school has gone above and beyond to support all the children and parents.

"They are a community and special that will take you in and add."

Mrs Boydell - parent.



THE CURRICULUM

The Early years Foundation Stage curriculum has been produced by the Government and is followed by all Early Years Settings in England, from birth to age 5. We use it to support and assess your child's progress across seven areas of learning.

These are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - learning about themselves and others.

Communication and Language - to express themselves and develop speaking and listening skills.

Physical Development - to develop their co-ordination, control and movement and help children to make healthy choices.

Literacy - to link sounds and letters to begin reading and writing.

Mathematics - to improve their skills in counting, using and understanding numbers, calculation; and describing shape and measures.

Understanding the World - to explore observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design - exploring, making, creating and sharing thoughts and ideas in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design technology.





SETTLING IN

Snacks

Milk, fruit and water are available all day for the children to help themselves to when they are feeling hungry. Children only need to bring a water bottle into school, which can be regularly refilled.

School lunches

If your child attends Nursery full time or is in Reception you may have one of our school meals, prepared on site. The schools we provide are healthy, balanced meals and weekly menus and are available in advance so you can see what the children can/have had. There is a charge in Nursery (unless your child is eligible to free school meals), however in Reception, these meals are free to all.

Any packed lunches sent into school must be healthy and in line with Seaburn Dene's Healthy Eating Policy - no chocolate or fizzy drinks.





SETTLING IN (cont)

Attendance

It is important that your child attends regularly to support their learning and development. At Seaburn Dene, every day in school counts and we aim for 96% plus overall attendance. If your child is going to be absent, please see Mrs Baker in the school office for a form.

What to wear

Uniform is an important part of our school community's identity. Children in the nursery can wear the same jumpers/cardigans as those children across our school, but with a white polo shirt/tie instead of a dress shirt.

Boys - school tie, white shirt/white polo shirt, navy blue jumper/cardigan, grey trousers or shorts, grey, black or navy socks. Black shoes, not trainers.

Girls -grey tailored trousers, pinafore dress or skirt, white shirt/polo shirt (nursery), navy blue cardigan or jumper. Black shoes, not trainers.

PE - is black or navy shorts, white t-shirt, black plimsolls and trainers for running.

The children are outside a lot of the time, in all weather, so they will need appropriate clothing and footwear for the season. Please name *everything*, especially coats, jumpers and cardigans. Children will also need a named bag with a change of clothes, for emergencies.





SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

The home is the most important place of learning for young children, so there are lots you can do to support their education:

- Talk to your child about what they are doing and listen carefully to what they tell you.
- Encourage your child to ask and answer questions and speak in full sentences.
- Help them to become independent eg, going to the toilet on their own, putting on their own coat and shoes independently.
- Read stories sing songs and say nursery rhymes - every day.
- Play and talk about daily activities.
- Talk about and describe colours, shapes and changes in the world around them.
- Count items and say numbers as you go about your normal routines, eg stairs, cups, fingers.
- Support your child to begin making marks in "writing" (scribbles, lines and circles are very important in learning to write.)
- When writing, support the correct formation of letter shapes.
- Taste and try new foods.
- Use a knife and fork when eating.
- Try new activities (give praise and encouragement.)
- Join our Class Dojo account, to find stories, ideas and more to support your child's learning.





PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Parents are children's first and most enduring educators. When parents and practitioners work together in early years settings, the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning.

(Early Years Foundation Stage: Principles into Practice. Commitment 2.2)

Good communication between home and school is often key to a successful and productive school career. We feel that parental involvement is a key element in our home school partnership. Good support from home is vital in ensuring that a child makes good progress. This partnership between home and school is key to a child's successful career at Seaburn Dene. Please help to promote good communication by talking to us regularly. The Early Years team and Mr Howe welcome your comments, ideas and support.

Reading

It is expected that you will read at home with your child for 10 to 15 minutes every night. As well as the books provided in school, we encourage you to read other books you may have at home or from your local library. Please sign your child's reading diary each night to record the input that is happening at home and to communicate the learning with your child's class teacher.

HOMEWORK - This will be practical hands-on learning, not sheet-based tasks (cutting, threading etc), as well as self-help skills, speaking and listening. Using Class Dojo to share.

- **Nursery** – The homework given will mainly focus on developing basic maths, phonic games and practical activities, as well as science and discovery ideas. The children are also taught a new 'rhyme of the week' that they are encouraged to practise at home. They will bring a library book home and a home/school diary. In the last term of Nursery, children are taught to say the sounds of letters with the help of mnemonics, to blend the sounds into words and read simple 'blending books'. This gives them a flying start before going into the Reception class.
- **Reception** - The work given throughout the year will reflect the phonics teaching, reading, writing and maths that is happening in class. The homework will be extended in the spring term to incorporate maths and topic related challenges. This homework will encourage parents to support their child in applying his/her problem solving skills, letter and number formation in the home context.



STARTING SCHOOL

A place in Nursery does not mean your child automatically get a place at Seaburn Dene Primary School. You will need to follow Sunderland City Council's school place application procedures. Please ask at Nursery or our school office for more information regarding this. Applications are open from **September 2023 until January 2024**. Children who do get a place in our Reception class at Seaburn Dene Primary School will have the opportunities to visit their new class and spend time with their new teacher as part of our transition from nursery in the summer term.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

In Nursery and Reception, all staff support children to access all areas of learning by providing for their individual needs within the group.

We aim for early identification by our very experienced staff of children with additional needs and we then offer support to both children and parents.

We work with a range of professionals who visit our setting regularly, including Speech Therapists and Educational Psychologists.

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress. Please see the school's Special Educational Needs Policy for more information (available via the school website.)





PARENT INFORMATION LEAFLETS

Each term, the class teacher will send home a newsletter to inform parents about the topics and learning intentions for all areas. Parents may also access this information through the school's website

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.seaburndenepriamry.co.uk provides a range of information about the school, such as school policies, school events, term dates and celebration of children's achievements. There is a section for parents, which has information about uniform, activities for parents and links to support your child with their learning.

CLASS DOJO

We use the Class Dojo reward system to reward and encourage positive behaviour in school. Children can earn Dojo points by demonstrating positive behaviour such as helping others, working hard, being kind to others and making good progress during lessons.

Parents/carers can access the details of their child's Dojo account through the Class Dojo Website www.classdojo.com or the Class Dojo app for their mobile phone or tablet. Apple App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/classdojo/id552602056?mt=8> Google Play/Android Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.classdojo.android>

Login details will be sent home, once your child joins school.

Once parents are signed up, they are able to monitor the points that have been earned each day and Class Dojo can also be used to send messages between teachers and parents. Each class has a 'Class Story' which teachers update with information and photographs to show what the children have been learning about in school and this can be viewed by parents once they have logged into their account. If you are a parent/carer and do not have the login details for your account, please contact your child's class teacher.

TEACHERS TO PARENTS TEXT & EMAIL SERVICE

We will regularly send texts to all parents to inform them about a range of things that are happening at school, as well as reminders regarding school trips and events. Please keep the office updated with your current contact details. School letters will be emailed to parents and shared on Class Dojo so please check your email regularly.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What time does school start and finish?

School hours are 8.45am to 2.45pm in Nursery (Full day) and Reception, 8.55am to 3.15pm, but staff are available, on the yard, from 8.45am.

What if I am late?

On most occasions, a member of staff will be available to let your child in. However, if you are much later, please take your child to the main office to sign them in where Mrs Baker or another member of staff will bring them to the classroom.

What if my child is ill and will be absent from school?

Please phone the main school office tel: 0191 563 4100 and either speak to Mrs Baker or leave a message before the start of school. We hope they feel better soon.

What if my child is ill at school?

We will contact you if your child is unwell. Please let us know if you have given your child any medication before school, or if they have complained of feeling unwell, as it helps us to build up a bigger picture. If your child requires medication during the day (only if four times a day or more), you will have to notify the school office. If your child has shown symptoms of vomiting or diarrhoea, they will need to remain off school for 48 hours from the first episode.

What should my child bring to school?

- Named book bag.
- Homework bag (reading books etc)
- PE kit in a named bag (Reception.) Please see uniform details.
- Outdoor kit - wellies, waterproofs (named please.)
- Named water bottle.

How will I know what is going on at school?

Class Dojo, email and the school website are our main methods of communicating with parents. This is where newsletters and other letters are posted. Photographs, news, activities and rewards are shared here.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (cont)

What can my child have for lunch?

School dinners are free for all infant children (not Nursery.) This is based on a three week rotational menu and your child has a choice of a main course, a vegetarian option, a choice of pudding/desert/fruit option. Bread and salad are available, with water/juice/milk to drink.

Are there regular assemblies?

Seaburn Dene has regular sharing assemblies. Sometimes there may be a whole school sharing assembly, while all year groups also have their own class assembly each term - dates of these will be in the school newsletter. Nursery and Reception have their own RE sessions and a weekly 'Show and Tell' group sessions for children to talk and show things that are important to them.

Can my child ride or scoot to school?

Your child can ride a bike or scooter to school, but they should get off their bike or scooter on entry to the school pathway and push them, for the safety of others. There is a bike rack for storage, please bring your own lock.

What should be in the book bag?

It will seem pretty empty at first! Your child will not need a pencil case as everything will be provided at school. They will get different books to read at home - more details will follow as appropriate.

How can I get my child ready for using the toilet at school?

On entry to nursery and reception, we want our children to be as independent as possible, but understand that children manage their personal care at different rates. Please encourage your child to become independent using the toilet (if this is appropriate) and let us know which stage they are at. Our staff are fully trained and experienced to support the children and make sure they are comfortable.

if you need help and advice to help your child with this please speak to class staff or contact school to speak with Mrs Wilson.

Remember:

There is no such thing as bad weather - just bad clothing!





MEET THE EARLY YEARS STAFF

Foundation Stage Manager and Y1 Lead,
Mrs Wilson, Reception class teacher.

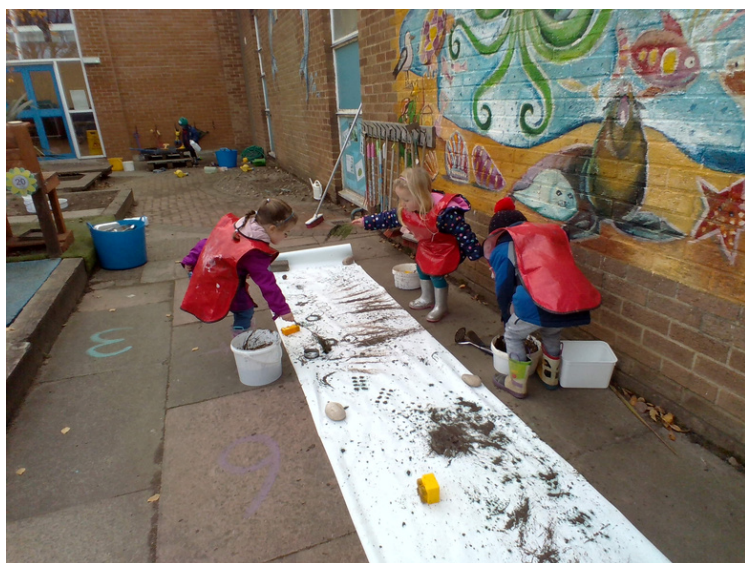
Miss Flanagan, Nursery class teacher.

Mrs Brown, Reception, Nursery Nurse.

Mrs Berston, Nursery, Teaching Assistant.

Miss O'Brien, EYFS, Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Boydell, Teaching Assistant (based in Nursery -pm.)





Contact us

0191 563 4100

www.seaburndeneprimary.co.uk

*We look forward to seeing
you at Seaburn Dene
Primary School soon.*

