



Flowery Field Primary School – Frequently Asked Questions

Nursery Class

We understand that as a parent/carer with a child starting school for the very first time, you may have lots of questions to ask. We have anticipated some of these questions, however, if you can't find the answers you are looking for here, please get in touch.

What is the routine on arrival?

Arrival time is 8:40am. There is a member of staff at the external classroom door waiting to welcome all of the children. Nursery children come into class and hang up their coats and bags in the cloakroom, then they choose an activity with their friends.

What equipment will my child need to bring to school?

- A book bag (provided free of charge)
- Hat, gloves and scarf (for the winter months)
- Sun hat (from spring onwards)
- Spare underwear/clothing if required
- Children will come to school in their Forest School clothing when they go to Forest School
- Wellington boots to keep at school for daily outdoor activities

Can my child bring toys into school?

We know your child may want to bring a toy in from home however, to prevent things getting lost or broken in school, it is better for these to stay at home where they are safe. If your child wants to bring something in to show the class at 'Show and Tell' - a special artefact, photograph, project etc. - we are always happy for this to happen, but please pass items directly to the teacher so that they can be stored safely until the right time.

What should I do if my child is ill?

Please telephone the school office as soon as you can. Please note that following a case of diarrhea or sickness your child is not permitted to return to school until they are clear of symptoms for 48 hours. If you suspect your child has a communicable disease (for example measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever, whooping cough, mumps, please follow the Public Health advice and inform school).

What if my child needs medicine during the school day?

We do not accept medicines at the classroom door. You will need to fill in a form which is available at the school office. We are only able to administer current medicines prescribed by a doctor and they must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

If your child needs an inhaler, please provide one that can be kept in school (check it is labelled with their name and is in date).

What if I need to collect my child early for an appointment/we are late coming to school one morning?

Please inform the office if you need to collect your child early from school for an appointment. On the day of the appointment please go to the office and someone will collect your child and bring them to you.

If you are late for school you will need to go to the school office to sign in your child on our electronic system. They will then be taken to class by the office staff.

How is reading/writing/maths taught?

In Nursery we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and tailor our teaching to support the individual needs of each pupil. Teachers read daily to the whole class and children also share books in small groups. We teach phonics daily and from September 2022 we will be following the 'Little Wandle' phonics programme, which develops reading and writing alongside each other. There are always lots of exciting opportunities to practise reading and writing in all areas of learning. We teach maths in small groups following whole class or group input using the 'White Rose Maths' scheme of work. After our short class or group inputs for reading, writing and maths we have lots of activities, both inside and out, for the children to practise their new skills in different contexts and work with the adults in the learning areas to extend and embed their learning even further. We learn through themes linked to the whole school wider curriculum and also follow the interests and fascinations of the children.

Where will my child have lunch (and what will they have)?

Pupils who stay all day (30 hours a week) will eat their packed lunch that they bring from home in the main dining hall and will be supported by a member of the Nursery team and several Midday assistants who will let the teacher know if there are any concerns e.g. if someone doesn't eat much of their lunch and the teacher will inform parents/carers at the end of the day.

Who will be working with my child?

Your child will be in one of two Nursery classes and they will work closely with their own class teacher and teaching assistant. Your child will be nominated a Keyworker for the year who will monitor development, provide emotional support, direct their learning and they will also be your main point of contact as they will know your child so well. When playing outside in the shared area, there will be a wider range of adults who they will come into contact with, but they will quickly learn everyone's names. At lunchtimes the pupils are supervised inside and outside by designated Midday assistants and teaching assistants.

Can I come into school?

There will be lots of opportunities to come into school to share your child's learning. There will be information days, workshops, celebration events and activities throughout the year. Parents' Evenings take place twice a year (usually in the autumn and spring terms). These events are posted on the school website and in regular newsletters. Other opportunities to come and help may include; story-telling, crafts, baking or reading with the children. We encourage parents/carers to participate in Forest School sessions and other visits.

What sort of things will my child be doing at school?

In Nursery the school day is 8.40am - 11.40am for morning pupils and 8.40am - 3pm for pupils who stay all day. During the school day children have circle time (focusing on speaking, listening, personal, social and emotional development), a phonics lesson, small group maths, reading and writing activities, opportunities to play outside and also time to explore the indoor areas of learning through play. We learn Spanish and Makaton alongside our half-termly themes.

Will my child go outside?

We are very lucky with our outside space - our facilities are fantastic and if you haven't been to see them we encourage you to do so; please call to book an appointment! Your child will be able to go outside whatever the weather. We have a garden to grow our own produce, story trail, climbing opportunities, covered areas for inclement weather, water and sand play, a small farm, an on-site Forest School area, but also we have Forest School sessions off site in the local park. The children go outside for small group activities, for guided choosing time and to play at lunchtimes.

Will my child go on school trips?

We offer a number of opportunities for trips, although these do change each year. These range from visits to local shops, the park, trips to the farm or we might even go on a bear hunt! Wherever we go, we ensure that your child's safety is our top priority and encourage parents/carers to join us. We also have visitors to Nursery to support our learning.

Can my child go to an after-school club?

In the autumn term, it is important for children to settle and adapt to the new routine and this can be exhausting for them initially. We inform parents/carers of the clubs and activities later in the year, as they evolve.

When are the school holidays?

Check the relevant section on the school website for school term dates and our calendar of events. Please note that we have a two- week holiday in May/June in line with Tameside LA.

What is expected of me as a parent/carer?

We encourage parents/carers to take an active role in their child's school life. This will include; reading at home (at least four times a week), attending parent workshops (where possible), attending Parents' Evening, keeping school up to date with any changes in circumstance and most importantly making sure your child is prepared for the school day

e.g. having a good sleep, regular daily routines and eating a healthy breakfast. If you find you need any help, or someone to talk to, please remember to call school for advice; we are here to help and support you in any way we can.

Do the children need to bring a snack to school?

All Nursery children will be provided with free daily fruit. Every child has access to water throughout the day. There is no need for them to bring any other snacks into school. It is important that we are made aware of any food allergies or intolerances that your child may have.

My child isn't toilet trained. Can they still come to school?

Yes, they can, but we would encourage you to toilet train your child over the holiday. Summer is the best time to do this. We encourage all the children to use the toilet independently from Nursery age upwards, and to adhere to health and hygiene advice. If you need help or advice, please speak to your child's teacher.

When can I speak to the class teacher?

We have an 'open door' policy. This means that you can speak to the class teacher or keyworker at any time, for example at the start and end of the day. However, if this is not convenient, or you require a private room, you will be asked to make an appointment.

What do I have to do if someone else needs to pick up my child?

We keep photographs and contact details of adults permitted to collect children so that if there is any change in staff at the door, they can check the records to confirm identity. If someone else is collecting your child, you must call the office in advance to inform them and ensure they have a confidential password (known to the teacher) to confirm their identity. The teacher may ask to take that person's photograph for future reference. This is for the safety of your child and we appreciate your understanding for adhering to this procedure.