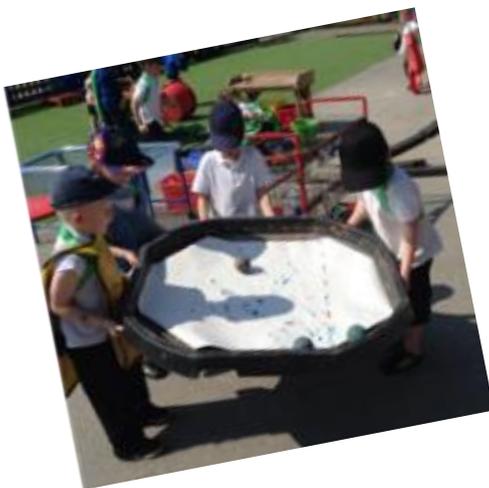


Ofsted
Good rating



Children First

*Welcome to
Dovecote Nursery
2022-23*



Ofsted judges our Early years as Good. Take some time to read the reports and visit our nursery. We are always happy to show you around and answer any questions that you have. We hope you choose Dovecote Nursery for your child.

Ofsted
Good rating

Dovecote Early Years Policy

“To rise above the ordinary and give our pupils wings”

Intent in the EYFS

At Dovecote our intention is to provide the best start to the children's education. They are at the centre of everything we do and we want the best possible outcomes for each individual child so that:

- The children are safe, happy, feel valued and special. Each child, their individuality and what makes them unique is celebrated by all adults and children to build respect, relationships and understanding.
- The children develop resilience, confidence, independence, resourcefulness, self-motivation and an ability to problem solve, so that they can interact with the world around them and are prepared for life in modern Britain.
- The children are excited to come to school, their learning is enjoyable, builds upon curiosity and their interests.
- Children are confident, have a good sense of self, build strong friendships and are kind.

We strive:

- To support and challenge the children during their learning, through high quality interactions, questioning, modelling and encouraging the children to produce work they are proud of.
- To be innovative and teach in ways which stimulate and engage the children through well thought out independent play activities as well as structured, taught sessions.
- Provide a learning environment that is inviting, well resourced, accessible to all, promotes exploration and independence.
- To put high value on the Prime areas of learning to equip the children with transferrable life skills and learning strategies to apply into year 1 and beyond.
- To encourage children to consider their own choices and responsibilities in all that they do, building empathy, self-regulation and forethought into their actions and behaviour.
- To set aspirational targets for our children to achieve by the end of Reception, building on their nursery experience and promoting a smooth transition into Year 1.

Implementation in the EYFS: In order to achieve our intentions we provide:

- High quality indoor and outdoor learning experiences that are well resourced. Learning in different ways, through play, in small groups, from each other, from adults in the wider community, gaining an expanse of experiences, new vocabulary, opening up their world.
- Provide opportunities for revisiting and talking about their learning, to embed knowledge and skills and promote metacognition.
- Apply their vocabulary to play, to interact with friends, build relationships, apply to their writing and increase their ability to read for pleasure.
- A fun, broad and exciting curriculum, that challenges and develops skills, imagination and stimulates children to become life-long learners.
- Opportunities to observe, explore, question, enquire, reflect, adapt, build vocabulary and transferable learning skills.
- A story rich environment that develops oracy and extends the children's vocabulary, to grow an understanding of the world they live in, enable their deeper thinking and confidence to question, share thinking and explore.
- A strong partnership with families to offer the best start to their learning at home and at school.

Impact in the EYFS

- Children who are internally motivated and excited to learn, take ownership of their learning, have enquiring minds and a thirst for knowledge.
- Independent learners who are resilient, reflective, independent and resourceful.
- For all children to make good progress and feel a sense of achievement regardless of individual starting points.
- Children who have a good emotional awareness, can self-regulate, play cooperatively, are kind and considerate to others and have good emotional wellbeing.
- Children who can express themselves using a broad vocabulary, use their imagination in their play and their writing, tell stories and hold conversations.
- Children who play in a purposeful way, enjoy to be challenged, are willing to take risks, try new things, persevere and reflect on their learning.
- Children who understand how to care for themselves, can take care of their own belongings, the environment and can make informed choices about their health and wellbeing.
- Children who develop passions and have aspirations for their future.

Thank you for applying to Dovecote Nursery!

If you haven't already received your welcome pack then speak to a member of the nursery team. It should contain a uniform voucher, a book bag, a reading book and all of the information that you need.

Session Times and Funding

We offer Morning or Afternoon nursery places, or full time to children who have 30 hours funding.

Morning sessions run 8.45-11.45am

Afternoon sessions run 12.20-3.20pm

30 hours full time places 8.45-3.20pm

Lunch Arrangements:

If your child stays all day there are 3 options for lunch.

Option 1

Healthy Packed lunch from home. Suggestions include:

Sandwich/wrap/crackers/pasta, fruit/veg sticks (please cut grapes in half length-ways), a bar, a yoghurt. Please put in what you know your child will eat whilst also trying to keep it healthy and balanced. We are a nut free school so please do not include any foods that contain nuts.

Option 2

School packed lunch, consisting of a sandwich, something healthy on the side and a pudding.

Option 3

Hot school dinner. This will be the same daily menu which is offered to Reception and Year 1.



Please talk to us about any dietary requirements or allergies and we will be happy to assist.

***Payments for school meals must be made via the School Gateway app or on the School Gateway website.**

Schoolgateway



Before your child starts Nursery



We aim to encourage children to be independent in as many ways as possible, therefore it is helpful if your child is able to go to the toilet, flush it and wash their hands on their own. Children should also be encouraged to put their own coat on and hang it up – **as coats are often alike, it is best to put your child's name in them.**

Learning Activities in the Nursery

At Dovecote Nursery we plan our learning activities according to the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' curriculum 2021, and provide experiences in the seven areas of learning. All our planned activities are taught through fun, play-based activities and we try hard to tailor things to tap into the children's interests so that they will be highly motivated to engage with what we offer.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We support the transition from home into nursery and provide opportunities for each child to become a valued member of our school, so that a strong self-image and self-esteem are promoted and others are respected. Children are encouraged to recognise and express their own emotions, develop an understanding of others and build friendships.



By the end of Nursery, your child should be able to negotiate problems and solve conflicts with other children. They should be able to speak about their own interests and opinions and speak confidently to others about their abilities. Their confidence should be increasing in new social situations and they should be confident approaching both adults and children.

Communication and Language

This includes reading and sharing / telling stories, talking with the children and encouraging a wide range of communication and language skills. We provide many opportunities for your child to develop and extend their speaking and listening skills and their understanding.



By the end of Nursery, your child should be able to speak in full sentences and link thoughts using a variety of conjunctions. They should be able to introduce a story line in their play and use language imaginatively to recreate roles and scenarios. They should be beginning to understand 'why' and 'how' questions, respond to two-part instructions and follow a story without pictures or props. When approaching age-related activities, they should be able to maintain attention and concentration.



Physical Development

We aim to help your child improve their gross motor skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement and to increase their confidence in the way that they move. We also support them in developing fine motor skills to handle tools and equipment, including scissors and pencils.



By the end of Nursery, your child should be able to write their name and begin to form some other recognisable letters holding their pencil in a tripod grip. They should be able to handle tools, objects,



construction and malleable

materials safely and with increasing control e.g. using scissors with one hand. When approaching the more physical activities, they should be able to negotiate space and travel confidently and skilfully around, under and over climbing equipment.



Your child should be able to put their coat on independently and take responsibility for staying dry and clean during the day. For example putting an apron on for creative and wet activities. They should show some understanding that good practices with regard to exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health. When handling equipment, they should show an understanding of safety and practice some appropriate safety measures without direct supervision.

Literacy

This includes development of early reading skills; sharing and talking about stories, as well as development of reading and mark-making skills. Your children will develop their awareness of print, phonics, letter recognition and formation and foster



a love for books. We teach phonics according to 'Read Write Inc' (RWI) introducing the sound of a new picture prompt and letter each week. We focus on recognition of that letter and we model how it is formed. You have a copy of this in your welcome pack. We teach the children to

write their name using a capital letter for the **first** letter only; they are encouraged to name their 'work' from very early on.



By the end of Nursery your child should be able to identify the initial sound in a word and match it to a letter shape. They should be able to label their pictures using the initial sounds. They should be beginning to read and write some simple CVC words (such as 'm-a-t') using a variety of letters, segmenting the sounds and blending them together. They should also be able to recognise when words rhyme and continue a rhyming string.

Mathematical Development



We provide your child with a range of fun practical activities through which they will develop and apply their understanding of many mathematical concepts. This will help them to form a sound basis for later mathematics.

By the end of Nursery, your child should be beginning to use the vocabulary

involved in adding and subtracting.

They should be able to find one more and one less from a group of up to 5

objects. They should be able to accurately count a small group of objects and

match it to the correct numeral and begin to estimate how many objects they can see. Their interest in number problems should also be increasing and they may create their own practical problems.

Understanding of the World

We help the children to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding through practical activities, to help them make sense of the world. We encourage them to be curious, to ask questions and find things out for themselves; noticing similarities, patterns, changes and differences. This area of learning is

divided up into 'Past and Present', 'People, Culture and Communities' and 'The Natural World'.



By the end of Nursery, your child should have an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time. They should be able to talk about their observations of the world, including plants, animals and other natural objects and start to recognise similarities, differences, patterns and change in the environment.



They should know some of the things that make them unique and should be able to talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends and family.

They should be able to recognise and talk about special times with family and friends.

Expressive Arts and Design

We offer the children a wide variety of creative experiences on both a small and large scale to help them develop their own creativity by responding to things through art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. We also model and demonstrate key skills, which children need in order to be able to engage with creative activities.



By the end of Nursery, your child should be able to use a variety of materials effectively when constructing e.g. a box model. They should be able to use simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately in order to achieve a planned effect. They should have built a repertoire of songs and dances and be able to tap out simple repeated rhythms. Your child should also be able to play imaginatively with other children engaged in the same theme, using props to support their role-play.



If you need any further information about the Nursery curriculum, please speak to a member of staff. We are always happy to speak about your child's development.

Clothing



Activities can often be '**messy**' so it is advisable to dress your child in clothes that are easily washable! School uniform is ideal for this, so that your own clothes are not spoilt. We encourage your child to wear an apron, but they sometimes forget. Please be assured that lots of learning has taken place in the process of becoming wet or dirty.



We also go outside every day, whatever the weather so please consider this when getting dressed in the morning.

Trousers, such as jogging bottoms or elasticated waist trousers, are ideal. Jeans and dungarees are not really suitable, as they can be difficult for small fingers to undo in a rush! Footwear should be well fitting, low heeled and comfortable with soles that are suitable for climbing, e.g. trainers or similar, but please not fashion shoes. Please avoid shoe laces, in a large setting such as ours doing shoes laces repeatedly, wastes precious learning time!



School Uniform



School Uniform is available to purchase from the main school office. Please ensure that you have received your free uniform in your welcome pack. Please ensure that all items of school uniform are **named**. To avoid accidents and disappointments over loss, jewellery **should not** be worn – thank you.

Summer sun

On the rare occasions when we have a summer, please send your child to the Nursery in clothing that will help to protect them –i.e. short-sleeved T-shirts and not bare shoulders. Also could you please apply sun cream and provide a named sun hat. If your child has particularly fair skin you may wish to bring a named sun cream container for a member of staff to apply.



Milk and Fruit

Milk is free for all children under five years of age. Your child will also be offered a piece of fruit each day, which is free of charge.



We sometimes provide additional snacks for the children, do food tasting and bake cakes, bread etc. as part of the curriculum.

Assessments

During your child's time with us in the Nursery we continually keep a check on progress by observing their play. We refer to a document provided by the government called 'Development Matters' (2021) and use it as guidance on if the children are working at the expected level for their age. This document is available on the school website. You may see us taking photos of your children on the ipads. Their observations and achieved outcomes collate and we are able to create a clear picture of your child's development and what their next steps are. We will also compile work in their special books and work folders. These will be shared with you at parent meetings and sent home at the end of the year.

How you can help us



Absences – Please inform us by telephone if your child is absent for any reason. If your child is sick or has diarrhoea, please keep him/her at home for at least **48** hrs after the last bout of illness; this helps to stop the spread of infection.

Head lice – this can sometimes be a problem in all schools, so it is **very** important that you check your child's hair regularly.

If you have any problems please speak to a member of staff, or the Community Public Health Nurse on 0115 8834333.

Attendance at the Nursery – it is very important that your child attends regularly; this enables your child to become familiar with routines, and make new friends as well as ensuring that they do not

miss out on any of the activities. Good attendance has a direct link with good learning outcomes and we all want our children to do the best they can in school. Poor attendance may result in your place being offered to someone else on the waiting list.

If for any reason you cannot pick up your child, please let us know as soon as possible who will be coming instead of you. This person **MUST** be over the age of 16 unless there has been a specific written agreement with the class teacher.

Please be on time when dropping off children. If you arrive after the door will be closed, registers will be completed and you must go through the office to register your child as present.

Please try and be on time when collecting your child – it is worrying for a child to feel that he/she is the only one left behind.

Questions

If you have any questions, want to apply or want to visit our nursery, please contact the school office and our Nursery Leader will get back to you.