



Welcome to Birches
First School

Early Years Induction

2023-2024



Welcome from the Headteacher

Children develop more rapidly during the first five years of their lives than at any other time.

Getting children off to the right start is the aim of Birches Nursery! Quality adult interactions whilst promoting nurturing relationships and high-quality education to meet the needs of the individual are at the heart of all Birches First School strives to achieve.

'Believe, Grow, Succeed...to be the best 'ME' I can be'



Miss Varricchione
Headteacher

Birches First School

Our Values



We have a set of Birches Values which we promote and celebrate throughout all aspects of school life.

Our values are:

- Belief
- Independence
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Honesty
- Enthusiasm
- Success





Meet the EYFS Team!

EYFS
Teachers



Mrs Buckley
EYFS Lead / Reception Teacher



Mrs Lloyd
Nursery Teacher

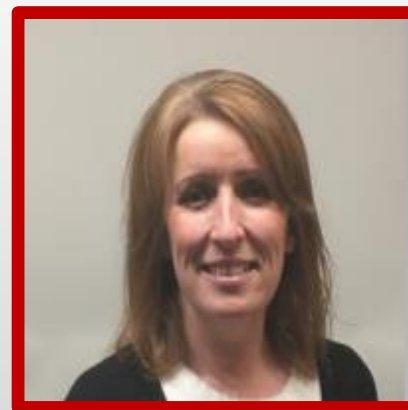
EYFS
Teaching
Assistants



Mr Hallmark
Reception



Mrs Causer
Nursery PM



Mrs Wardlaw
Nursery AM/PM



How do we learn in Nursery?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – EYFS

Our children at Birches First School will be learning skills, acquiring knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

3 Prime Areas include:

Communication and Language

- Listening, Attention & Understanding
- Speaking

Physical Development

- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Building Relationships
- Managing Self
- Self-Regulation



How do we learn in Nursery?

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – EYFS

4 specific areas of the EYFS include:

Literacy

- Comprehension
- Word Reading
- Writing

Understanding the World

- People, Communities and Cultures
- The Natural World
- Past and Present

Mathematics

- Number
- Numerical Patterns

Expressive Arts & Design

- Creating with Materials
- Being Imaginative and Expressive



Characteristics of Effective Learning

Characteristics of Effective learning underpin everything we do in EYFS. Much of our learning in EYFS is through play. Children have opportunities to investigate and explore. Learning in EYFS is hands on, children need to experience new things in order to learn. And of course it all makes learning fun! Through play, children have the opportunity to solve problems, make links and develop resilience, all skills that they need to be effective learners as they go through their school life.





Nursery Session

Morning Session 8.30am-11.30am

Children will take part in guided activities including: Maths and Phonics; Physical Education- gymnastics, gross motor skills, games and dance and Basic Skills-mark making, mathematics, funky fingers and scissor skills. Other activities include visiting the school library, woodwork, exploring the forest area and music and movement.

Dinner Time/ Extended Care

11:30am -12:00pm- £6.50 including school lunch

11:30am - 3:00pm £23.00 Extended care



Dinner is served in the hall just before the rest of the school. The children use a knife and fork and there is a menu available at the beginning of each half term to view weekly.

Parents collect children at 3.00pm

If you know that you will not be picking up your child at the end of the day it is important that you inform the class teacher/ office staff in the morning or as soon as possible. All parents will set up a unique PASSWORD so we have a secure dismissal to the appropriate adult you have asked to pick up on your behalf.



30 Hour Childcare

Many working parents of 3 to 4-year-olds in England will be eligible for **30 hours** of free childcare - rather than the current **15 hours**.

30 hours free for only 38 weeks per year - not 52 weeks of the year.

Reconfirming your eligibility

You'll need to reconfirm that you're still eligible for 30 hours free childcare. Every 3 months you will be prompted by HMRC via text or email to log into the Gateway Account and reconfirm your details and eligibility 4 weeks before the deadline

Important:

If your family falls out of the eligibility criteria, you will be offered a short grace period before the additional 15 hours stop.

Once the 'grace period' has lapsed, you will **ONLY** be entitled to the funded 15-hour entitlement. If you wish your child to continue with the 30 hours (the 15 hours not funded will be invoiced to you via ParentPay).



Health

- Our first priority above all else is to keep your child safe.
- Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular any allergies (e.g. bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian or Halal) and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema).
- We can only administer medicines that need to be taken 4 or more times a day.
- We use 'Marvellous Me' to communicate accidents with you. We will phone if there is a more serious concern.
- Please make sure that contact details are always up to date.



Keeping Your Child Safe

- Please tell us who is collecting your child if it is someone different- they will need to know the 'password' that you have given to us if they have not collected before.
- Be patient with us at dismissal, especially in the early days! We are keeping your children safe.
- Safeguarding leads in school are:

Miss S Varricchione Headteacher Designated Safeguarding Lead		Miss S Hulme Assistant Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Year 2)	
Mrs E Buckley Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Reception/EYFS Leader)		Mrs C Banks Club Manager/Y3 Teaching Assistant Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	



Behaviour

- At Birches First School we have a set of Golden Expectations.



Golden Expectations

We care for everyone
and everything

We are polite

We tell the truth

We listen

We walk in school

We work together

We always try to be
the best 'me' I can be!

We believe that positive reinforcement is the most effective way to teach children good behaviour.

In the early days, we will reward good behaviour with stickers, verbal praise, sending home a wow moment on Tapestry or Marvellous Me.

Once children are settled, we will introduce our 'Good to be Green' behaviour system that is used throughout the whole school. We will communicate this to you when it is introduced and explain it in detail.



Getting to School

We promote a Healthy Ethos in School and we also want to encourage children to protect the planet.

If possible, please walk to school. Not only does this promote healthy habits but it also helps with the parking situation outside of school.

Bikes and scooters are welcome! We have a safe place for bikes and scooters to be stored outside of the playground gates.

If you do need to drive to school, please be mindful of safety with driving and parking around school. We have very supportive neighbours but they do get frustrated with inconsiderate parking- please help to keep our neighbours happy and most importantly, keep our children safe!

Please do not turn in the school driveway- there is a safer turning circle further up Birches Avenue.



My First Day

Be Ready...

- Good bedtime
- Morning routine
- Healthy breakfast
- School uniform -all labelled!
- Velcro shoes –both labelled!
- Calm start to the day
- Work on toileting!

Bring...

- Your smile!
- A water bottle –WATER only and clearly labelled with name!
- Your Birches red drawstring bag (to include a spare set of uniform including socks and underwear)
- Wellies to leave at school- for Forest School sessions



School Uniform

- White Birches embroidered polo shirt
- **Black** tracksuit bottoms (all year/winter)
- Red 'Birches' embroidered zip hoody
- Plain black/White Trainers- Velcro fastenings.
- **Red** shorts/red gingham dress (summer term only)
- Long hair must be tied back. Bobbles and slides must be red or white.
- Earrings- small studs only. Children must have earrings taken out for PE.
- Children will need a pair of wellies that they can leave in school at all times.



Birches Drawstring Red Bag (needs to stay in the classroom) to include:

- Change of clothing – a spare set of uniform including socks and underwear
- The bag will be left at Nursery and sent home each half term to be washed and refreshed.





Birches Club- Wraparound Care

At Birches First School we offer Wraparound Care from 7.30am- 5.30pm.
This is available for all children including Nursery children.

Before School Club-

- 7.30am- 8.30am (children can be dropped off anytime within this time).
- We do not provide breakfast but parents can provide breakfast for children to eat at club (we can provide milk for cereal).
- Before School Club costs £4.50 per day.

After School Club-

- 3.00pm- 5.30pm (children can be collected at anytime during this time).
- £4.50 per hour regular/ pre-booked. £5.50 per hour for late booking.
- Children can bring after school snack to eat in club. If children are staying for full club they can bring extra snack.
- -Full wraparound care (both before and after school regular/ pre-booked) £16.50 per day.



How will we communicate with you?

- Monthly newsletter- informs you what has been happening in school and what is coming up. Sent out via Marvellous Me/Text/Website.
- Letters sent out via Marvellous Me/Text/Website.
- Surveys- Google Forms.
- Marvellous Me- information, first aid, homework, curriculum.
- Tapestry- for sharing learning and 'Wow moments'.
- Face to face- speak to myself, Mrs Wardlaw or Mrs Causer on the door at drop off.
If we are not on the door, please ask another member of staff and they will inform us. Miss Varricchione is always on the gate to help.
- Parent's Evenings 3 times a year
- Reports twice a year.
- Phone- 01902 297910



And finally...

We are always willing to answer your questions.
Please message the office@birches.staffs.sch.uk
or Nursery Teacher
yn@birches.staffs.sch.uk

No question too small- any messages will be
communicated directly to the teacher who will
reply at a convenient time.



We look forward
to seeing you in
September!