

# Magherafelt Nursery School

## Key Information

### 2022-23



# Magherafelt Nursery School - Information

Address: 32A Castledawson Road, Magherafelt, BT45 6PA

Telephone: 028 7963 2981

School Mobile: 07930 950 824

Email: info@magherafeltns.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.magherafeltnurseryschool.com

Facebook: search 'Magherafelt Nursery School' and 'like' to receive updates

Twitter: @MagherafeltNS

School Classification: Controlled Nursery School

Education Authority – Locality South West

Age Range of Pupils: 3 - 4 years

Number on Nursery Roll: (1<sup>st</sup> September 2022) 130 children

## Term Dates

	<i>Provisional Closures (Inclusive)</i>	
Term 1 Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August to Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<i>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>School Development Day</i>
	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Mid-Term Break
	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December - Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas
Term 2 Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January to Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January</i>	<i>School Development Day</i>
	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Mid-Term Break
	<i>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</i>	<i>School Development Day</i>
	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter
Term 3 Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2 to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank holiday
	<i>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</i>	<i>School Development Day</i>
	<i>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>School Development Day</i>
	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Mid-Term Break

## School Development Days

The Department of Education designates 5 days as 'School Development Days' - these are training days for staff. **Children do not attend on these dates.**

# First Day of School

(Wendy Silva)

*I wonder what you're doing right now  
and if everyone is treating you kind.*

*I hope there is a special person,  
a nice friend that you can find.*

*I wonder if the teacher knows just  
how special you are to me.*

*And if the brightness of your heart  
is something she can see.*

*I wonder if you are thinking about  
me and if you need a hug.*

*I already miss the sound of your voice  
and how you give my leg a tug.*

*I wonder if you could possibly understand  
how hard it is for me to let you grow.*

*On this day know that my heart breaks,  
for this is the first step in letting my baby go.*

# Welcome to Magherafelt Nursery School

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to our nursery school. We trust that your child will thrive in the nurturing and enabling learning environment we have to offer and under the care and professionalism of our experienced and enthusiastic nursery team.

In partnership with you, the parent, we aim to provide high quality teaching and learning in a developmentally appropriate environment. We hope that you and your child will feel welcome and will share in and enjoy the 'enriching' experiences that our nursery school has to offer.



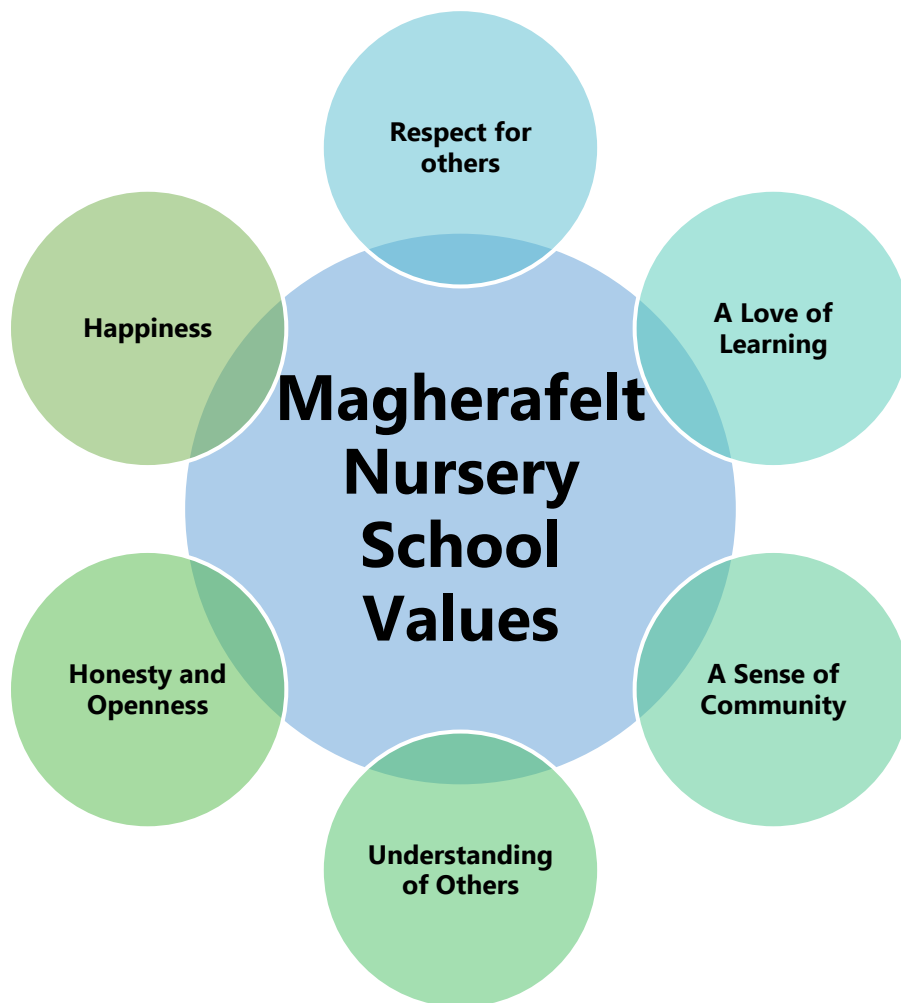
## Ethos, Vision and Values

### *'Exploring, Learning and Growing Together'*

We hope that our school motto permeates the fabric and ethos of our school. We will strive to provide rich and meaningful learning experiences, encouraging your child to progress and learn through the medium of play. Working together with you, the parent, we will seek to:

- ☺ Be warm and welcoming.
- ☺ Enable children to learn in a holistic way.
- ☺ Build upon what children already know.
- ☺ Support children towards independence.
- ☺ Foster self-esteem and build trust.
- ☺ Create a sense of wonder and a love of learning.
- ☺ Encourage children to be active learners.
- ☺ Ensure children to be physically active.
- ☺ Support children as they learn to play alongside and with others.
- ☺ Share in the 'learning journey' together.
- ☺ Seek to involve you in our 'home learning' programme.

This booklet includes key information about 'Nursery School Life' and should be kept for reference throughout the year. The team are very approachable and will offer support and encouragement as your child settles into school.



## Meet the Team



Mrs L Whiteside  
Principal / Teacher



Mrs L McGill  
Teacher



Mrs C Quinn  
Teacher



Mrs D Campbell  
Teacher



Mrs K McCreesh  
Nursery Assistant



Mrs L Gilmour  
Nursery Assistant



Mrs A McLernon  
Nursery Assistant



Mrs G McCullagh  
Nursery Assistant



Mrs J Walker  
Senior Clerical Officer



Mr M Whiteside  
Building Supervisor



Mrs F Young  
Cleaner

## School Management: Board of Governors



Mrs A McNicholl  
Chairperson



Mrs SJ Knox  
Vice-Chair Person



Mr N Richardson  
Safeguarding and Child  
Protection

Nominated by DE: Ms M McSorley  
(one vacancy)

Nominated by EA: Mrs J Trimmings  
Mr N Richardson

Parent Representative: Mrs S J Knox  
Mrs A McNicholl

Teacher Representative: Mrs L McGill

Secretary: Mrs L Whiteside (Non-voting Member)

# A Typical Nursery Day

***Once the settling in period is complete,  
All drop off / collections are within a ten-minute window***

## Part Time Class Daily Schedule

<b>Morning Class</b>	<b>Afternoon Class</b>
Greeting Time (9:00 – 9:10am)	Greeting Time (12:30 – 12:40pm)
Indoor Learning	Indoor Learning
Snack time	Snack time
Together Time including story time and music	Together Time including story time and music
Outdoor Learning	Outdoor Learning
Home Time (11:20-11:30)	Home Time (2:50-3:00pm)

## Full Time Class Daily Schedule

Greeting Time (9:00 – 9:10am)
Outdoor Learning
Snack time
Together Time including story time
Indoor Learning
Tidy Time
Small Group Time
Together Time including music time
Lunch Time
Outdoor Play and Tidy Time
Music and Movement
Home Time (1:20 – 1:30pm)

These times and activities will give you a guide to your child's day!

## Coming and Going - Parents and Carers

- It is important to establish good timekeeping. Please aim to drop off and collect your child within the greeting and home times. This enables the teacher to teach and have lunch before the afternoon session.
- Follow the signage for drop off and collection points, but also ensure your child is handed over to a staff member.
- School will require a collection and contact list. **All collectors must be age 16 or over.**
- Your child can only be released to the people named on the collection sheet.
- Please inform the school of any changes to collection arrangements.
- Always ensure the school has the correct contact details.
- The staggered start and home time is to reduce congestion in the carpark and to enable brief exchanges between teacher and parent.
- The carpark is extremely busy so please make sure you hold your child by the hand as you enter and exit. Once handed over, your child is your responsibility.
- In the early days, suggest to your child a play activity that he / she might like to try
- Greet your child with a smile and not a mobile phone!
- If you need to take your child out of school early, a signing out sheet will need to be completed.
- The class teacher will monitor late drop off and collections and discuss these with you if there is a persistent pattern.

## Before School Club

Further information will be provided in September. If safe to do so, the club will start in October, so that children have had time to settle into school.

One member of staff is available from 8:15-9:00am each morning to supervise up to 13 children in our Before School Club at a cost of £10 per week. A light breakfast is available 8:15-8:40am. This club is designed to facilitate working parents and must be signed up to on a termly basis. Places are limited and a waiting list is kept.

## Nursery Fund



At the beginning of each term, we will ask for a contribution of £25. All 3 terms (£75) can be paid in advance in September if you wish. This fund helps to subsidise the cost of daily snack food, baking activities, dough making, class parties and treats, visitors and trips and the purchase of additional resources. *Place in a labelled envelope and give to the class teacher or place in post box in the foyer.*

Children are encouraged to share and to care for each other, resources and equipment. Please return any toys, puzzle pieces or games that get taken home by mistake!



## Snack Time

All children are encouraged to have a morning or afternoon snack. The children help with the food and table preparation and are encouraged to pour their own drink of milk or water. The staff will spend time chatting to the children and encouraging them to get to know each other. From time to time, the children will take part in cooking and baking activities and will enjoy making their own food to eat at snack time. All snack food is provided so you will not need to bring food into school. We aim to promote healthy food habits in line with our Healthy Eating Policy.



Apples	Cheese	Muffins
Banana	Grapes	Bread sticks
Pancakes	Bread	Cheese


### Food Intolerances and Allergies



If your child has a **diagnosed** food intolerance or allergy, e.g. dairy-free or gluten-free diet, please let your child's teacher know so that shared arrangements can be made for your child.

### Full Time Class Only – Lunch Time Arrangements

After the settling in period, we will start to phase the children into the lunch time routine. ***This part of the day will only be added when your child is settled and shows readiness to cope with the longer time in school.*** There are 3 options for lunchtime:

<p><b>Send a Packed Lunch:</b></p> 	<p>The class teacher will discuss this with you and you will receive a 'Healthy Lunchbox' Sheet outlining suitable foods. All drinks are provided and treat day is the last day of the week! Your child will need a small carry handle lunch box, and a cool pack is a good idea to keep lunch fresh and cool!</p>
<p><b>Free School Meal:</b></p>	<p>Children who are entitled to a free school meal will receive a meal from the School Meals Kitchen at Magherafelt Primary School. If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, it is your responsibility to complete the online application form. More information is available at: <a href="https://www.eani.org.uk/">https://www.eani.org.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Paid School Meal:</b></p>	<p>If you wish to purchase a school meal, this is available to order (current charge is £2.50 per day). Please provide the payment each Monday morning, in an envelope clearly labelled with the child's name and on which days meals are required.</p>

# Getting Your Child Ready for Nursery School

In order for a child to learn, he / she must have high levels of well-being and be happy and settled into the school environment. It is like an adult starting a new job or adjusting to change – exciting and daunting at the same time! We must build a bridge from home life to school life. Do let us know if your child has any additional needs so that we can prepare for his / her arrival. Below are some ways to prepare your child for starting Nursery School.

- ☺ Teach your child to wash his / her hands properly.
- ☺ Teach your child to use the bathroom independently.
- ☺ Talk about the child's teacher and the fun your child will have.
- ☺ Get your child involved in household and garden jobs!
- ☺ Encourage your child to play with messy materials e.g. mud, paint, water, dough.
- ☺ Give your child experience of being away from mum / dad.
- ☺ Give your child opportunities to stay with a friend / family member.
- ☺ Make sure your child has given up bottles and dummies!
- ☺ Encourage your child to eat fruit and healthy snacks.
- ☺ Sing songs and rhymes and enjoy books together.
- ☺ Bring a complete set of named clothes to stay in school.
- ☺ Your child will not need a school bag.
- ☺ Talk about school in a positive way, as you drive past in the summer months.
- ☺ Sometimes, the less fuss is made, the better!

## Getting Involved

- ☺ Become a parent volunteer.
- ☺ Help out in the garden.
- ☺ Come in and share a hobby / talent / job with the children (later in the year).
- ☺ Try out the Learning Together Programme on the school website.
- ☺ Come in and read a story.



# Our Expectations

In September we expect children to be able to:

- ☺ Say 'please' and 'thank you.'
- ☺ Wear pants and be able to use the toilet and have a go at 'wiping!'
- ☺ Pull up pants and trousers.
- ☺ Use a tissue to blow his / her nose.
- ☺ Wash his / her hands.
- ☺ Take off own his / her own shoes.
- ☺ Have a go at putting on wellington boots.
- ☺ Attempt to put on his / her own coat.
- ☺ Put away his / her toys.

## Tips for the First Days of Nursery School

- ☺ Give us time to get to know your child.
- ☺ Get to know the team.
- ☺ Complete the All About Me Book together and return it to school.
- ☺ Children can bring a teddy or small comfort toy.
- ☺ Give your child an item of yours to keep until you return.
- ☺ Explain to your child that you are going to do a job and will be back.
- ☺ Go promptly even if your child is upset – we will ring you if we need you!
- ☺ The class teachers will let you know when your child is ready to stay longer!
- ☺ Share key information about your child – you know him / her best!
- ☺ Be prepared to stay close by if your child is unsettled.
- ☺ Our school is a mobile phone free zone (except in an emergency).
- ☺ Ensure that the office has a contact number.

## How to Help When Your Child is at School

- ☺ Take a look at the learning boards to find out what your child has been doing in school.
- ☺ Take an interest in what your child is doing when you come to collect him / her.
- ☺ Tell your child about your day and ask your child about theirs.
- ☺ Talk to your child and let him / her ask questions.
- ☺ Try out some of the suggested activities together.
- ☺ Try out the 'home learning activities' together.
- ☺ Check out Seesaw, where your child's learning journey will be shared with you.

## The Golden Rules

Our rules are designed to keep children safe and are framed positively so that children learn 'what to do' rather than a list of "Nos and Don'ts!" The adults must also follow these rules and model them to the children.

- ☺ We are gentle using safe hands.
- ☺ We are kind and helpful.
- ☺ We listen.
- ☺ We are honest, telling the truth.
- ☺ We look after stuff and each other.
- ☺ We try hard and work hard.

## Give Me Five!



## Clothing (Put a name on it)

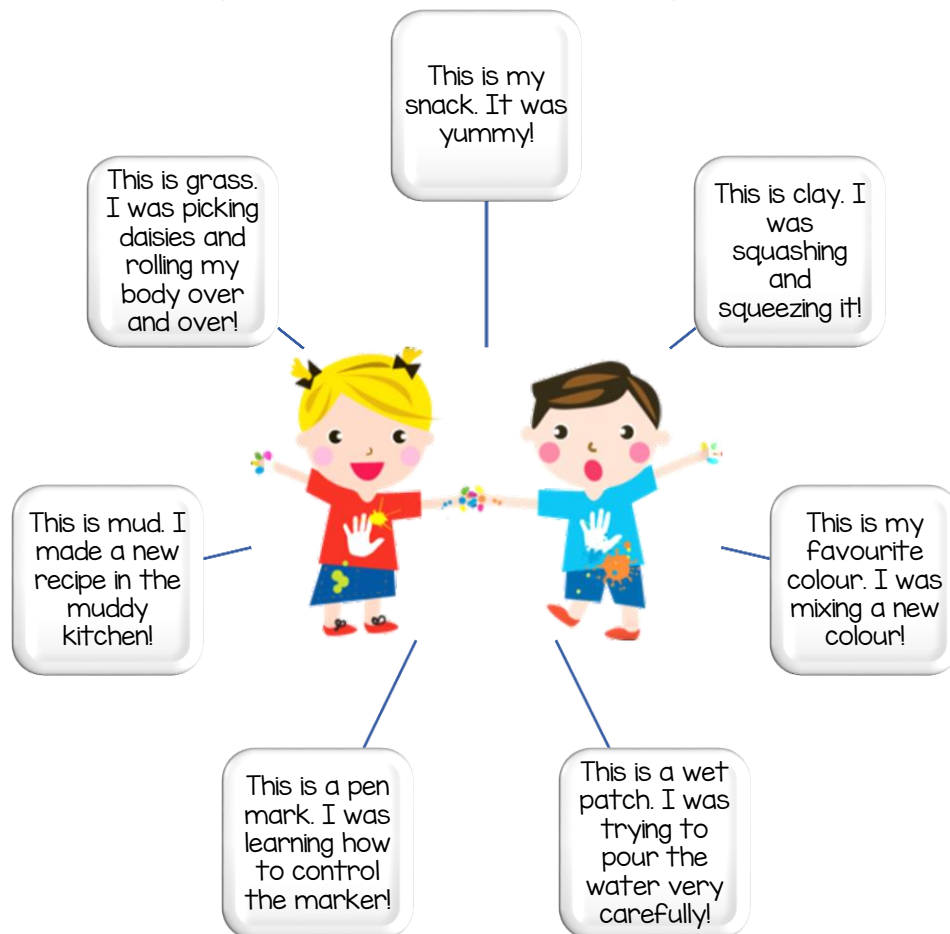
As nursery activities can be messy and children are always on the move both inside and outdoors, it makes sense that your child wears clothes that are easy to manage and that can get dirty! They will also be climbing and running so clothing needs to be suitable for all sorts of activities.

- ☺ Waterproof shoes with velcro fastenings (no laces unless your child can tie them)
- ☺ Tracksuit bottoms / leggings (shorts in warmer weather)
- ☺ T-shirt and microfleece
- ☺ Warm / waterproof coat
- ☺ Hat in winter / cap in summer
- ☺ Snood and gloves (no scarves)



Scarves, open-toed sandals and jewellery are not permitted (for safety reasons), as children use climbing equipment when playing outdoors.

## A Day in the Life of My Jumper!



# Keeping In Touch

Working together, we will strive to provide the best quality education for your child. We plan to keep you up to date with the themes and learning experiences in several ways:

- ☺ Seesaw Learning Journey (details to follow)
- ☺ Learning Boards in each classroom
- ☺ Newsletters / Updates
- ☺ Curriculum Enrichment Experiences
- ☺ School website
- ☺ 'Learning Together' Programme on the school website
- ☺ NI Schools App
- ☺ Facebook posts
- ☺ Messages / emails
- ☺ Settling-in Parent-teacher Meeting and Term 2 Progress Meeting (either by phone or in person)
- ☺ End of Year Transition Report when moving to Primary School

If you need to share important information with teachers, they are available at the start and close of each session, If you are a parent who cannot regularly leave to or collect your child from school, you are welcome to talk to the class teacher by phone (outside teaching contact time).



## Attendance

Whilst we recognise that young children are prone to illness, it is important that all absences are explained. Please telephone the office or inform the class teacher. The class teacher will follow up on unexplained / prolonged absences. The principal will also be kept informed and your child's nursery school place may be reviewed in line with the School Attendance Policy.

## Illness

Children who are ill will not be fit for the nursery activities including outdoor play. They also require high levels of care and may need to take regular medicine which cannot be given by staff.

To prevent the spread of infection in our young children, please adhere to the following guidelines provided by the Department of Health.

Symptomatic of Covid-19	As per updated PHA Guidelines
Confirmed Case of Covid-19	As per updated PHA Guidelines
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours after last episode
Chickenpox	Until all vesicles are crusted over
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after starting antibiotic
Starting Antibiotics	At least 48 hours after starting medication
German Measles	4 days from onset of rash
Whooping Cough	At least 48 hours after starting medication
Scarlet Fever	At least 24 hours after starting medication

*\*Please contact the school for guidelines on other infectious conditions or check PHA information*

Parents will be informed if there are known cases of infection within the school (important for pregnant ladies and children who have low immunity).

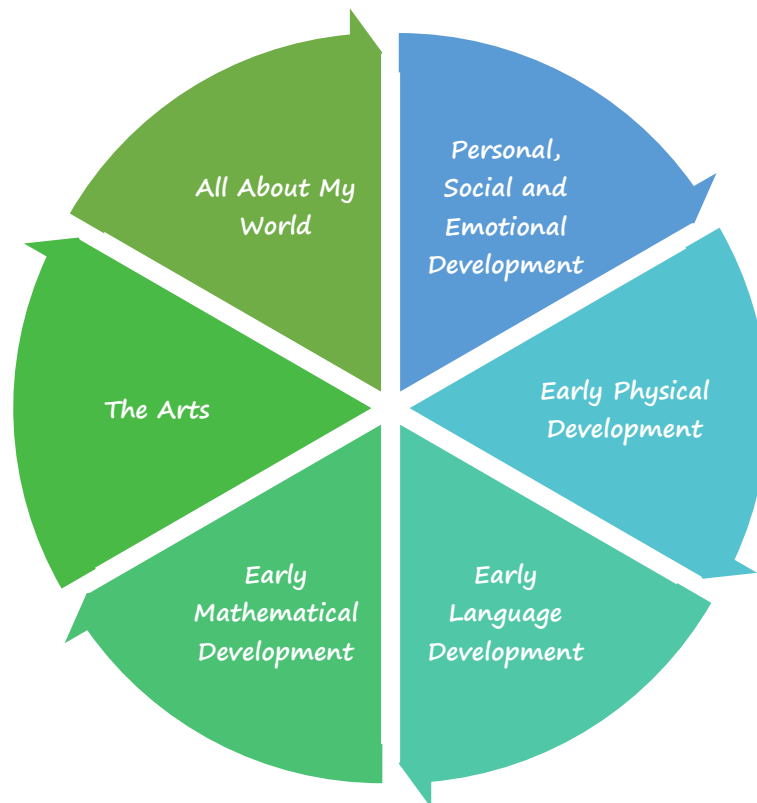
If your child becomes ill / injured during the nursery day, we will try to phone you or another adult in the order listed on the emergency contact list. Should we be unable to contact you, we will act in the best interests of your child and seek medical assistance / advice.

## Medical Needs

If your child has a diagnosed medical condition which will require medication, or will impact on the child during nursery hours, the school must receive a **medical care plan** from the relevant nurse / GP.

# WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING?

## The Pre-School Curriculum



The wellspring of learning comes from the children as they will share their experiences with us.

## What Themes Will Be Used to Springboard Learning?

- All About Me and My School
  - Playing By Myself and With Others
- The Adventures of Mr Hullabaloo and Friends
  - The Adventures of Elmer and Friends
  - Traditions, Festivals and Celebrations
    - Keeping Healthy and Safe
  - Exploring the Seasons and Weather
- Finding out about animals and habitats
  - Exploring the Garden
  - Moving On and Moving Up



## Curriculum Enriching Experiences

With such large groups of children, it is costly and challenging to go on class trips. We have found that bringing visitors into school is a more manageable and cost-effective way to enrich the learning experiences of the children. All experiences are risk assessed and a risk-benefit assessment is completed e.g. Mr Hullabaloo's Interactive Theatre, Activity NI.

## Documenting Learning

The staff will keep detailed records of each child's progress. This will take the form of photographs, videos, mark making examples, written observations and assessments. Learning will also be shared through Facebook, through Class Pages on the website and Class Learning Boards. Information will be shared with you at parent teacher meetings / discussions. You will receive a link by email to sign up for 'Seesaw', where you will get to share in the learning journey of your child.



## Involving Others

The children and staff of the school benefit from the involvement and expertise of other key professionals from the education and health sectors. You will be informed before we liaise with these professionals and information will be shared on a 'need to know' basis.

Examples include:

- Health Visitor e.g. 3+ Review
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapist / Physiotherapist
- Paediatrician
- Social Worker
- Interpreter
- EA Educational Psychologist
- EA Behaviour Support Team
- EA Autism Spectrum Disorder Service
- EA Early Years and Inclusion Service

# Car Parking

4 parking spaces along the front of the car park, and spaces to the rear of the school building have been allocated to staff.

10 parking spaces to the rear of the car park are available for parents at pick up time, along with additional drop-off points in the laybys.

Please do not stop on the double yellow lines, on the yellow boxes, or in front of the access lane to the left of the school. Also, please remember that there is a 10 minute window to drop off / collect your child; this should reduce any parking difficulties.

