



Nursery Booklet

Mount Pleasant Nursery



Nursery Staff: Mrs. C. Jones
Mrs. N. Moore
Mrs. D. Bloomer

Times of Nursery Sessions:

Mornings	-	8.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Afternoons	-	12.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.

From the time a child is born, they begin to learn through play. Nursery provides a variety of play experiences, which help to develop a child's learning skills. For any child to develop fully in the pre-school years he/she needs to socialise with others.

Learning to co-operate with adults and other children is perhaps one of the most difficult tasks a three or four year old has to overcome.

Starting Nursery can be a daunting experience for some children. We hope this booklet will give parents some practical advice and an insight into our Nursery.

AIMS OF THE NURSERY

At Mount Pleasant we aim to give the children the very best possible start to their education.

We will do so by providing a carefully structured curriculum in a well-planned and well-organised environment. The children will learn actively through rich, stimulating and purposeful experiences.

We value parents as partners in their children's learning and will work closely with you to ensure that the children make good progress and establish solid foundations on which they can build.



THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

Play underpins all development and learning for young children. The Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged three to five provides well planned, balanced experiences and opportunities based on spontaneous play, both indoors and outdoors, through which children can develop. The Foundation Unit encompasses both Nursery and Reception and children have opportunities to access learning in both areas.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is important in its own right and in providing a sound basis for lifelong learning. Children develop rapidly during this time; physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a time when children particularly need quality care and learning experiences and this is what we aim to provide in Nursery.

THE CURRICULUM



In the Early Years Foundation Stage the curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning:

3 Prime Areas:

- **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development.**
- **Communication, Language and Literacy.**
- **Physical Development**

4 Specific Areas:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World.**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Characteristics of Good Learning

Our aim is to develop pupils so that they are:

- ✓ Independent motivated learners
- ✓ Able to persevere when faced with a difficult task and not give up
- ✓ Respond well to feedback

THE DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES AND EARLY LEARNING GOALS

For each area of learning there are goals that children are expected to achieve by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage. (End of Reception year).

These **Early Learning Goals** are broken down into 'developmental stages' which show the developing knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes that the children need to achieve by the age of 5.

PLAY

Play both indoors and outdoors is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. Through play the child exercises curiosity and experiments and explores the world around.

We aim to encourage and stimulate the child to enable him/her to develop socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Through a varied range of activities such as physical play on wheeled toys and apparatus, experimental and discovery play in the sand/water/clay and the use of construction toys, a child's manipulative and motor skills are developed. Social and language skills are developed through imaginative/dramatic play in the home corner, organised games, stories and poems in listening/talking sessions, rhymes, songs and adult/child or child/child conversations.

THEMES

Each Term we plan a wide variety of activities related to a Theme. We aim to provide experiences covering all six areas of learning, including pre-reading and writing skills and communication skills.

Visits to the library, farm and other places of interest that are appropriate to the age of children are an important part of the Nursery curriculum. We also invite visitors into Nursery such as Firefighters, the Road Safety Officer etc.



ORGANISATION IN THE NURSERY

There are 30 spaces at each session in the Nursery. The children are divided into three family groups each with a key worker (up to 10 children in each family group).

The children begin the session with 'free play' then a small group time where the register is taken and Numeracy and Literacy activities take place. After 'family group time' there is time where the children are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities with the Teacher, Teaching Assistants, students and voluntary helpers.

The children have milk and fruit either in family groups, when circle time and language sessions are held, or in the **Sunshine Café** snack area where the children are encouraged to choose their milk and snack independently.

They join together for activities such as Outside Play, PE, Dance, Music and Stories.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Governing Body of Mount Pleasant has produced an Equality Plan, this can be found on the school website. The plan sets out the school's commitment towards ensuring that every child and adult who accesses the school site can do so without prejudice. The plan covers all aspects of school life and ensures that every child regardless of race, culture, religious background, gender or disability has equal access to all that the school has to offer.

The plan endeavours to act upon any incidences that are contrary to our ethos and policies such as racism or bullying. Any pupils who are perpetrators of such actions will be subject to the school's disciplinary procedures. Their parents are likely to be informed and invited in to school to discuss the incident. All incidents of a racist nature are reported to the Local Authority and the Governing Body.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

In the Nursery, all children are given opportunities to achieve their potential through carefully structured activities. Some children may need additional support in order to make progress. We will endeavour to identify and meet the needs of individual children. Each child's progress is carefully monitored. Records and assessments of each child's achievements are kept. Parents have opportunities to discuss their child's progress throughout their time in Nursery and share and add to their individual learning journey.

Mrs Woodhall is the school's SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator.) She is a member of the Senior Leadership Team, and ensures provision for children with additional needs is well met.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mount Pleasant Primary has a legal duty of care towards the safety and welfare of all children and adults. Nothing is more important to us than the safety and welfare of the children in our care.

We take rigorous steps to ensure that all children stay safe, this is called 'Safeguarding'.

At Mount Pleasant we aim to:

- create a safe environment
- ensure all adults working in school do not pose a risk to children
- ensure that staff are appropriately trained and know how to respond to concerns
- teach children how to keep safe.

The school's Designated Safeguarding Team are:

- Mrs S. Derbyshire, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs C. Grinsell, Assistant Head and Deputy DSL
- Mrs H. Robinson, Headteacher and DSL
- Mrs C. Woodhall, SENDCO and Children Looked After

Mrs A. Perry is the named Governor for Child Protection.

Every member of staff at Mount Pleasant has an enhanced disclosure and barring check. They receive training in all aspects of safeguarding. If a member of staff has concerns regarding a child's welfare, behaviour, emotional and mental wellbeing this will be discussed with Mrs Derbyshire and may result in a referral to the Health Visitor, the School Nurse, the SENDCO, Behaviour Support or to Children's Services.

If you have any concerns regarding a child or family, please speak to a member of staff, who will then discuss this with the Safeguarding Team.

The school will continue to work closely with families and outside agencies to ensure the highest level of care possible for every child.

Children Looked After – those children in Local Authority Care

Designated Staff Lead – Mrs C. Woodhall

Designated Governor – Mrs J. Goode



PARENT SUPPORT

As well as being a qualified teacher, Mrs Jones is a skilled practitioner who has been trained to offer support and advice to parents/ carers. She has completed a Positive Parenting course and is now a trained licensed facilitator. She is qualified to deliver the Positive Parenting programme to small groups or individual families. This usually takes place on a Monday morning for 6 weeks but can be flexible. The course promotes positive behaviour strategies such as how to build self-esteem, putting boundaries into place and active listening. Please speak to Mrs Jones at any time if you feel this may be helpful to you and your family.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON ARRIVAL AT NURSERY

At the beginning of the session a member of staff will open the Lodge door. Please bring your child into Nursery. Try to encourage your child to hang his/her coat on their named peg.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

At the end of the session please wait outside the Nursery doors. The Nursery staff call each child in turn as they recognise a parent/guardian or named adult to collect the child. It is therefore important to inform the staff in advance (by telephone if necessary) if your arrangements for collection change as children are not allowed to leave with an unauthorised person. We ask for a password from parents for security reasons.

NURSERY FUND



The children have free milk and fruit in Nursery. A voluntary contribution of £2.00 per week is asked for to support the extra-curricular activities we offer e.g.

- Christmas Party and Gifts
- Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day Activities
- Jungle Day
- End of Year Visit
- Other elements of the Early Years' Experience.

Funds are collected weekly on Mondays.

Without these funds we would be unable to provide such a wide variety of experiences.

There may be an extra cost for the end of year visit. This covers the entrance fee only as the cost of transport is funded from the voluntary contributions. This is a non-essential visit and therefore must be paid for in full.

ILLNESS

Children should be kept at home if they have a suspected infectious disease. If they have sickness or diarrhoea it is normally 24 hours after the onset before they can return to Nursery.

If your child is ill, you must notify the school as soon as possible. If no message is received the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

HOLIDAYS

A child's experience in Nursery lays the solid foundations for school, therefore, we would request that holidays in term time and other absences are kept to a minimum. Please complete a leave of absence request form if you are intending to take your child on holiday during term time. (The forms can be obtained from the Main School Office and must be completed at least 20 working days prior to the absence.)

TOYS/PERSONAL BELONGINGS

We do encourage the children to bring in items related to the Topics we cover in Nursery, particularly for colour displays. However, the children's own toys can get lost or broken and therefore are best left at home.

CLOTHES/DRESS CODE

We ask that all Nursery children wear:

- Light blue T-shirts – with or without the Nursery logo
- Plain** jumper/cardigan/sweatshirt – preferably navy if possible
- Skirts/leggings/trousers/jogging bottoms (no dungarees please)



Please ensure **ALL** items of clothing are named, especially coats! We suggest that children do not wear their 'best' clothes for Nursery as there are many messy and wet activities and children may spend lots of time outside even if it is cold and wet. Please could you make sure that children wear sensible shoes suitable for climbing and outdoor play. We would also ask that in hot weather you apply sun screen before the children come to Nursery as staff are not allowed to apply it.

Children are requested not to wear jewellery in Nursery. If ears are pierced one stud earring in each ear can be worn.

Mount Pleasant prides itself on pupils attending school looking smart. We ask that parents abide by our Behaviour Policy regarding hairstyles and other forms of dress e.g. sculpted hair patterns and 'Mohican' hairstyles are not acceptable in school

CHANGE OF CLOTHING

Occasionally, children have a "toilet accident" or they get wet in the water play. We do have spare clothes available for such emergencies.

P.E.

Every week the children have an astro turf session and also a football session. Please can you ensure the children wear sensible shoes or trainers.

Jewellery is not allowed for safety reasons. Could you please remove earrings before Nursery on this day as staff are not allowed to do so.

READING AND SHARING LEARNING JOURNEYS

Parents/carers are invited into Nursery each week to share a book or learning journey. The children are also able to choose a book to take home from the nursery library during this session.



BOOK BAGS

We have book bags with our "Mouny Mouse" logo on. These are available from the Nursery at a cost of £4.00 each. The children can use these bags for their library and reading books.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS AND HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER

These newsletters keep you informed of:

- Important dates for Nursery and School
- Current topics being covered in Nursery
- Helpful hints on how you can support your child's learning whilst they are in Nursery.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website www.mount.dudley.sch.uk contains up to date information about school activities, photographs of events and a list of school policies. We encourage to check regularly to see what our children have been up to!



REWARD SCHEME

At Mount Pleasant we have a reward scheme that involved the collection of badges. These badges are designed to help the children meet age related skills. In Nursery we work towards our blue badge.

As the children develop and master the targets on the blue badge card they are marked off. When a child has achieved all the targets they are presented with their blue badge. They then start working towards the next badge; red, yellow and green and in KS2 their owl badges. The blue badge is a clear indication that your child is school ready and we aim for most children to be at this level before entering Reception.

EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM

Once your child starts Nursery and if you meet the criteria (see attached letter), you may be eligible to apply for Early Years Pupil Premium status. If you think this may apply to you then please make an application, as the extra funding we will receive on your behalf will enable us to further improve the quality of our early years education.

We ask for a commitment from you.

We aim to establish strong links between home and school which we believe are vital to the progress/development of each child.

We look to you as parents to support your child and our Nursery practice in a variety of ways:-

- ❖ Encourage your child to talk about what happens in Nursery.
(Our topic work, any new experiences etc.)
- ❖ Encourage/help your child to find items about the topic to bring into Nursery and respond to the holiday news sheet.
- ❖ Look at and talk about your child's library book.
- ❖ Make a comment in the reading record sheet - a brief word or signature.
- ❖ Remember to bring in your child's book bag regularly.
- ❖ Attend open working days, assemblies and other events held in the Nursery.
- ❖ Try to accompany your child on visits whenever possible.

Child's Name: _____

Received by: _____ Date: _____

Received at: Pre-Nursery Evening

Home visit

Other time