

# Welcome to Knowsley Lane Primary School



## NURSERY CLASS INFORMATION BOOK 2022-2023



'Learning @ Knowsley Lane inspires us to discover, explore and use our knowledge, skills and understanding to develop ourselves as citizens of tomorrow.'

Thank you for choosing our school.

We hope this handbook will help to answer any questions you may have and provide you and your child with the relevant information that will help to make starting in Nursery a happy time and a smooth transition between home and school.

Obviously we will not be able to answer every question in this booklet or cover every circumstance or eventuality but we will always do our best to keep you informed on a regular basis and welcome any questions that you may have.

### Meet our team...



**Miss Charlotte Henshall**  
*Class Teacher*



**Mrs Laura Weir**  
*Class Teacher*



**Miss Lorna Barry**  
*Teaching Assistant*



**Mrs Nicola Barton**  
*Teaching Assistant*



**Miss Mandy Owens**  
*Teaching Assistant*



**Mr Simon Bramwell**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Mrs Linda Lord**  
*Principal*



**Miss Catherine Martin**  
*Acting Deputy Principal*



**Miss Emma Fitzgerald**  
*Early Years Lead/ Class Teacher*



**Mrs Susan Whittle**  
*Learning Mentor*

# **Starting in the Nursery Class**

## **Getting to know your child**

We understand that starting school is an extremely exciting time for both you and your child. But we also understand that some parents and children may have a few small worries. We believe that parents are our 'partners' in developing children's learning and we foster this culture at Knowsley Lane. You should have been given a 'Getting to know your child' questionnaire during the welcome meeting. Please complete this and return to us on your stay and play session. The information you provide will help us to get to know your child a little better, ensuring their transition into school is a smooth process. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office on 0151 556 9999 to request a conversation with the Principal, Mrs. Linda Lord, or EYFS lead, Miss Emma Fitzgerald, who will be delighted to speak to you. We encourage you to keep an eye on our school and Trust social media accounts: @KnowsleyLanePS on Twitter and website: <https://knowsleylane.knowsley.sch.uk/> to see all the latest updates from our special community.

## **Settling In**

Your child will be given a start date during your home visit, which will take place during the first academic week in September. The length of the 'settling in period' is flexible and will continue until your child feels happy and secure. This may take longer for some children than others but please don't worry, all the staff are very used to these situations. We will discuss your child's individual needs with you.

## **General Information**

### **Session times:**

The Nursery school day starts at 8:45 am and ends at 11.45am. The classroom door is open from 8.45am until 8.55am. The children enter from the gate near the Astley Road Entrance. Please can all parents and carers remain off the ramp at hometime so we can ensure the safe dismissal of all children.

### **Attendance**

Regular daily attendance is vital to help boost your child's self-confidence and independence and help them to achieve good educational progress. If your child is unable to attend, for whatever reason, please telephone 0151 556 9999 text 07786201169 or email [kpoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk](mailto:kpoffice@vantageacademies.co.uk) to let us know straight away.

### **Snack**

During the school day, we provide a free daily snack, which is either milk or water with fruit and a slice of toast. We aim to encourage healthy eating and to develop independence, sharing, and social skills. The children help themselves to their snack and get their own drink. Please send your child with a bottle of water, each day.

## **Birthdays**

We love to celebrate birthdays and the birthday person will be sung to and made to feel special. Some parents like to bring in a cake for the children to share which is fine, although we do ask that they are shop bought-with a list of ingredients for us to check. **We ask that you don't send in any chocolates with nuts, toffee lollies, etc. as some children would not be allowed to have them due to allergies or religious reasons** and we want everyone to be able to celebrate your child's birthday.

## **Safety**

- ❖ We will only allow you or a named person on our list to take your child. If a friend or relative is coming to collect your child instead of you, please phone the school office beforehand.
- ❖ Your child can not go home with an older brother or sister; there must be a responsible adult (someone over the age of 16 years).
- ❖ Please let staff know if you are going to be late collecting your child. It is quite distressing for young children to still be waiting when the other children have gone.
- ❖ Please keep us updated on any changes to emergency contact numbers, and addresses.
- ❖ Please inform the school if your child has any allergies or dietary requirements.
- ❖ If your child is asthmatic and requires an inhaler, please bring this into the office in its original box. You will be asked to complete a medical consent form. The inhaler can be kept in the classroom for swift access and should be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- ❖ If your child has any other medical conditions please inform the school immediately as a care plan may be required.

## **Preparation for school**

- ❖ Please help your child to begin to learn to put on their own coat and become more independent with toileting.

## **School Uniform**

Children attending school must wear the school uniform. It looks smart and encourages the children to feel part of a team. The uniform consists of:





- Blue Knowsley Lane sweatshirt or cardigan (available to purchase from the school office)
- Blue jogging bottoms (available to purchase from the school office)
- Plain white polo tshirt
- Grey socks
- Black, sensible shoes or trainers with Velcro fastenings or slip on.

No jewellery is allowed for safety reasons.

Our Knowsley Lane jogging suits are most suitable for Nursery children. They allow the children to freely play in comfort and are easy to manage during toileting times.

**PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN ALL CLOTHING. We struggle to return items without a name.**

Sew-in/iron-in name tapes are best. Pen is OK but often washes out and needs re-applying.

### **Clothing for Outdoor Play**

As we give equal value to the play experiences planned for outdoors as those indoors, the children have continuous access to both areas – whatever the weather – throughout the year.

They need suitable outdoor clothes to allow them to do this:-

A coat they can put on themselves fairly easily, or at least have a go.

Hat, mittens/gloves in cold weather, sun hat, suncream when hot, and a pair of wellies (to stay at school if possible).

PLEASE NOTE: - Some of the outdoor work can be quite messy, so coats or jackets need to be practical.



Children will be provided with insulated rainsuits for outdoor learning sessions.

## **Learning in Nursery**

What and how the children learn in The Nursery Class is based on a range of learning experiences designed for our youngest children. It is called THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM (EYFS). This goes from birth and continues up to the end of the Reception class.

At Knowsley Lane, we believe that Nursery Class children should experience a balanced combination of self-initiated, open-ended play and direct teaching in adult-led activities. We are flexible practitioners, who follow children's interests, respond to their ideas for

developing play activities, and provide structured activities (which can also be playful) to teach specific knowledge and skills.

**We are committed to the four themes of The Early Years Foundation Stage, which are:-**

A Unique Child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Enabling Environments – The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Positive Relationships – Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

Learning and Developing – Children develop and learn in different ways and learn at different rates and all areas of learning and developing are equally important and interconnected.

**THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM** is organised into seven areas of learning:-

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- ❖ To be interested and concentrate on activities
- ❖ How to share and take turns
- ❖ How to put their own coat on/use the toilet
- ❖ To develop confidence and become independent
- ❖ To know what is 'right' and what is 'wrong'



### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

- ❖ Getting exercise and using outdoor equipment
- ❖ Learning how to use tools and scissors
- ❖ Being able to thread and sew
- ❖ Knowing how to stay clean and healthy

- ❖ To become part of a group and understand other people's needs and views

### **COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE**

- ❖ To listen to stories and books
- ❖ To follow instructions
- ❖ To answer questions
- ❖ To speak to adults and children
- ❖ To make up own stories



## **MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT**

- ❖ Learning to count and recognise numbers
- ❖ Learning to subitise to 5
- ❖ Naming and describing shapes
- ❖ Being able to sort, match and make patterns
- ❖ Learning about size and measuring



## **LITERACY**

- ❖ Children learn rhyming language in stories
- ❖ They are exposed to initial sounds
- ❖ To begin to orally blend CVC words
- ❖ To understand what they have read and talk about it



## **EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN**

- ❖ Art and craft activities- painting, gluing, making models
- ❖ Music and dancing
- ❖ Imaginative play such as dressing up and shop play





## How the Nursery class space is organised

At Knowsley Lane, the indoor and outdoor spaces are organised to allow children to move around, to work on the floor and on table tops- individually and in small or larger groups. For much of the time both classes have equal access to both classrooms and outdoors.

For this reason small 'workshop areas', both indoors and out, have been created to allow the children to learn through:-



For most of the sessions, children have continuous access to the indoor and outdoor 'workshops' but children are guided to specific tasks as well and provided with short bursts of intensive focused teaching.

Equipment is organised and labelled so that children know where to find what they need and can be independent.

All areas of the curriculum are covered by different experiences and activities that reflect the children's interests and build on their knowledge and skills. Many activities are based around IEYC units which may last for several weeks. Each unit is based on our children's current interests and will be planned around what they say and do. Some work is seasonal such as Winter or Spring but will still be based upon what the children need at the time.



## **The Role of the Adult**

The role of the adult is vital in supporting children's learning through planned play and extending and developing children's spontaneous play. They enable children to explore, develop, and use their curiosity and imagination to help them make sense of the world. They allow them to practise skills, build up ideas and concepts, think creatively, and communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems.

## **Monitoring and Assessment**

All children are assessed continuously, in an informal way, whilst they are in the Nursery Class. Staff observe and monitor their skills as they work in the different areas. This enables us to plan our activities to suit each child's needs and to further develop their knowledge, skills, and understanding in all the important areas of learning. Observations and assessments are regularly planned to inform our preparations for the 'next step'.

## **Parental Involvement**

In the Autumn and Spring terms, there are Parent-Teacher Conferences but parents are always welcome to speak to anyone in the Nursery Class team; please arrange to come in at any time if you are worried or concerned about something. It is vital that parents and staff work together, as this has such a positive impact on your child's learning and development. We run many workshops throughout the year and we encourage all of our parents to take part. We have found that our parents thoroughly enjoy learning alongside their child.

## **Reading at Home**

We encourage our Nursery children to take home a storybook from our Nursery 'library'. The library is stationed near to our Nursery door and the children are invited to choose a story to take home and share with their adults.

## **Class Dojo**

This is an online communication app that will keep you updated with what is happening in the reception class. We recommend that all parents and carers download the app and keep connected. We also love to hear of children learning outside of school so you can share pictures and messages with us.

## **How you can help your child at home**

- Make time to talk through what your child has done that day.
- Share books (including the ones we send home from school), songs, and games with your child and talk about them together.
- Encourage your child to use pens, pencils, chalk, paints, and simple tools such as scissors.
- Talk to your child, introducing new words whenever you can. Children learning English as an additional language need first to develop confidence in their home language.
- Help your child to recognise shapes, colours, numbers, and words in familiar places such as food packets, street signs, and advertisements.
- Provide opportunities for your child to investigate and ask questions about the world around them.
- Introduce the language of counting during activities such as cooking and shopping.

- Provide opportunities for running, climbing, kicking a ball, and chasing – a visit to the park is free!
- Let your child enjoy and invent sounds, words, songs, music and rhymes.
- Ensure your child has enough sleep – in bed by 7.30 p.m. at the latest!

## Continuing the Journey

Your child's journey with us continues from Nursery, to Reception, into KS1 and KS2 and the transition is carefully planned at every stage to support your child. During their time at Knowsley Lane, we aim to provide our children with many memories and qualities to support them in their teenage years. Knowsley Lane is an IPC school and therefore, has specific Personal Learning Goals. :



Enquiry

### Enquiry

Being able to ask questions and then plan and carry out investigations related to those questions, collect evidence from a range of sources and think about the wider issues.



Adaptability

### Adaptability

To know about a range of views, cultures and traditions and to respect others, to approach new ideas with confidence and to be able to suggest ideas and solutions in a range of situations.



Resilience

### Resilience

To be able to stick with a task until it is completed and to learn to try again if unsuccessful the first time round.



Morality

### Morality

To learn about the moral issues associated with different subjects and to respect alternative viewpoints as well as give reasons for their own.



Communication

### Communication

To be able to make their meaning clear using different ways of communicating and a range of tools and technologies to aid their communication. To learn how to communicate in more than 1 language.



Thoughtfulness

### Thoughtfulness

To be able to use a range of thinking skills in solving problems whilst considering others points of view. To reflect upon what has been learned and its implications on their own lives and the lives of others.



Co-operation

### Co-operation

To understand that different people have different roles to play in groups and to adopt a different role depending on the activity and the needs of the group. Be able to work alongside and in co-operation with others



Respect

### Respect

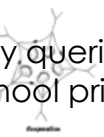
To learn about the varying needs of other people, living things and the environment and to show respect for the world itself.



Thoughtfulness

We are so excited to welcome your child into our school and look forward to meeting them.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mrs Linda Lord (school principal) or Miss Emma Fitzgerald (Early Years Lead) on **01515569999**.



Co-operation