



Barbour Nursery School

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

(please keep this booklet to refer to during the school year)

School Address: Barbour Nursery School
73 Ashmount Gardens
Lisburn
BT27 5BZ

Telephone: 028 92 601796

Email: info@barbourns.lisburn.ni.sch.uk

Staff:

Mrs Tracey Cassells	<i>Principal (& Teacher Room 1) (4 days per week)</i>
Mrs Lois Wilson	<i>Principal (& Teacher Room 1) (1 day per week)</i>
Mrs Gillian Gordon	<i>Nursery Assistant</i>
Mrs Helen Malcolm	<i>Teacher - (Room 2)</i>
Mrs Susan Wilson	<i>Nursery Assistant</i>
Mrs Gillian McBratney	<i>Nursery Assistant (Room 1 & 2)</i>
Mrs Heather Brady	<i>Clerical Assistant</i>
Mrs Inga Vinciene	<i>Building Supervisor</i>
Ms Katharina McKain	<i>Dining Attendant</i>

School hours: 9.00 am to 1.30 pm

Further details about the pattern of attendance for the first few weeks at Nursery School will be provided as and when the school receives further guidance from the Department of Education

THE NURSERY DAY

9.00am - 1.30pm

It is preferable if you can bring your child as close to **9.00 am** as you can. A lot is packed into a Nursery day and your child will miss out if they are late! (Also a dinner may not be ordered for them!). The Nursery day finishes at 1.30 pm, but if you must take your child early any day, then please do so by prior arrangement with the teacher.



A typical day for your child in Nursery would be as follows:

9.00 - 10.40	Free choice of structured play activities
(9.00 - 10.00)	Self service healthy snack and milk available.
10.35 - 10.40	Tidy up routine
10.45 - 11.00	Story & Rhyme Time
11.00 - 11.45	Outdoor Play
11.45 - 12.00	Preparation for dinner/toilet routine/ music & movement
12.00 - 12.45	Dinner time (then tooth brushing routine)
12.45 - 1.00	Outdoor play
1.00 - 1.30	'Table top' activities / small group play / drama / P.E.

COLLECTING YOUR CHILD

Please inform staff if someone other than yourself is to collect your child any day. We **cannot** let the children leave the Nursery School with someone we do not know of. Children must be brought and collected by a responsible adult - **NEVER** by children of school age.



CURRICULUM

When your child comes to Nursery School he/she will be learning mainly through 'play'. Children have a busy working day, so do not be surprised when they come home exhausted! Each play activity is carefully planned and structured throughout the year to ensure that a variety of skills are developed and extended.



The learning planned for every child is called the 'Pre-School Curriculum'. Play activities offer different aspects of play and a variety of experiences which will meet the physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs of your child, taking into consideration his/her particular stage of development.

The NI Pre-School Curriculum is based around six areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Language Development
- The Arts (Art & Design, Music, Drama)
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The World Around Us (Science & Technology, Geography/History, ICT, The Environment)

Detailed planning notes for each month are available to parents. "You and Me Time" sheets with suggestions for activities that can be followed up at home are sent to parents monthly. We encourage you to practice singing the songs that are also sent home electronically.



ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

In order to ensure that all the Nursery School children are progressing in all the areas of development, staff will keep written, electronic and photographic records of their observed learning as they play. It is only in this way that we can identify gaps in individual children's learning and plan to fill these. Staff also use this information to find out the interests of individual children and plan activities to encourage participation.

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through termly individual parent - teacher consultations and a Transition Profile Report before entry into Primary School. Staff are available to talk to parents after 1.30 pm each day or by prior appointment, so please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher if you have any queries.



It is important that your child comes to Nursery School every day unless they are ill. It is only by coming each day that your child can fully experience all the different activities and make progress in their learning.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

When a child has Special, Individual or Medical Needs, every effort is made to enable them to make full use of all available activities. It is important that parents inform us of any **possible Special Needs or medical conditions** of their child **BEFORE** entry into Nursery. Teachers will visit SEN children at home before they start. The Nursery School staff regularly liaise with parents and professional agencies such as Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Social Workers etc, to exchange information and ensure the best possible provision for that child. SEN children may not be able to cope with a full day at Nursery School. This will be monitored and discussed with parents at each stage.

Also, if during the course of the year the Nursery School teacher identifies a Special Educational Need which may require investigation or evaluation, she (with the consent of the parent) will make a referral to the Educational Psychology department or Speech and Language therapist.

HOME - SCHOOL LINKS



The Nursery School aims to achieve strong home/school links to enable parents and staff to work together for the benefit of the child. Staff recognise the parents' role as the child's first educator and will endeavour to gain as much information as possible about the child and their interests before starting Nursery School.

Parents are asked to keep staff informed of any changes or events in the child's life that may affect them in school e.g. moving house, separation, family dispute, new baby etc. This will help your child's teacher to understand your child's difficulty and to make allowances for changes in behaviour. **All information is treated with the utmost confidentiality.**

Parents can also become involved by visiting the classroom, helping on school trips or by sharing their job or a skill e.g. sewing, painting, hairdressing, singing etc. If you have any talent/skill that may be of interest to the Nursery School, please inform the teacher. 'Parents' Notice Boards' within the school, online Apps and the school website help to keep you informed of all that is going on in Nursery School. You will receive weekly Nursery newsletters and can view classroom events in our entrance hall through photo and video slide shows.



CLOTHING

Children will come in contact with sand, water, clay, dough, paint and glue every day, so please make sure that they wear comfortable clothes that must be washed every day due to the current Covid 19 advice. Clothes that are easy for children to put on/take off themselves encourage them to be independent, particularly at toilet time. ***Please do not send girls to school in tights or leggings - jogging bottoms only please.***

Please do not be cross if children come home covered in paint or mud! It just proves that they have been working hard and having fun.



It is possible to purchase a school uniform that provides ideal clothing for Nursery School life (although uniform is not compulsory). Please make sure that ALL items are labelled with the child's name, including coats, hats, gloves etc. The following items are available to buy from McCalls, Market Street, Lisburn.

School Sweatshirt	£12.99
Jogging Bottoms	£15.99
Polo Shirt	£9.95
Baseball Cap (with sun protection flap)	£7.99



Nursery children will be involved in physical play every day (indoor and outdoor) including climbing, therefore **shoes** should be comfortable with **no laces**. *Open-toed sandals and mules/Croc types can be dangerous, so please avoid these.* Children should also provide a pair of well-fitting welly boots at the start of the year. Children must also come to school wearing a warm, waterproof coat that they can put on and take off by themselves. These will be worn for outdoor play.

(Please note that football shirts are not permitted to be worn in school).

For the safety of all the children we would ask that your child wears NO JEWELLERY other than stud earrings to school.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Unfortunately we cannot start all the children on day one in September! There are 26 children to be brought into each class. Due to the current Covid 19 pandemic, we will bring in small groups at a time for short sessions and then mix the groups over the course of a few days/weeks. We gauge how all the children in the class are coping before we mix them.

The "settling in" time does mean a few weeks of inconvenience for parents, but if you are patient and settle your child properly then you should not have problems later on. Your patience and support at this stage is very important to your child and greatly appreciated by the Staff.



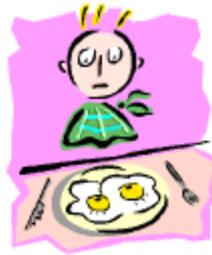
Your child's time in the school will be built up gradually. The teacher will do this depending on how well your child and others in the group are settling. At the time of writing, we are unclear of if or when we will be serving school meals this year. Please note that your child will only stay when we feel they are ready and they can cope with their time in school.

YOUR CHILD'S FIRST DAY

On the first day, your child will come to Nursery for **approximately 45 minutes**. The **one** parent/carer settling him/her will be asked to stay in the classroom for that time. Due to the current Government Social distancing regulations parents will not be permitted in the school building after the first day. *Please do not bring other siblings with you on the first day.*



DINNER AND SNACK / CHARGING POLICY



Barbour Nursery School is a Department of Education Controlled Nursery School, under the control of the Education Authority Northern Ireland. The Curriculum at the nursery school is provided free of charge.

Due to financial constraints in Education generally, all schools try to exist on an extremely unrealistic budget. The budget allocation the school receives now does not even cover the cost of minimum staffing levels and basic running costs. There is no funding to purchase equipment or additional supplies on a yearly basis. Therefore the school relies totally on termly contributions from parents to pay for all snack items, basic resources, extra treats, and visitors.

It is the policy of the school to provide opportunities and activities which enhance and enrich the curriculum and which are additional to those provided through the school's delegated budget. These include snack food every day, parties, outings, visitors, cooking & gardening activities and additional apparatus, equipment and resources.

All Nursery children might have their dinner in school when the teacher feels that they are ready. There are currently neither facilities nor staffing ratios to accommodate packed lunches. School meals currently cost £2.50 per day, therefore £12.50 per week, which **must be paid every Monday morning in an envelope marked with the child's name, class and number of days dinner required**. Parents should complete a 'free meals' application form if they think they might be entitled to free school meals. All school meals must be paid for in advance until such times as the school receives confirmation from the Education Authority that the child is entitled to receive Free School Meals. Dinners missed due to absence / illness will be carried forward to the following week. Please note however, that refunds cannot be given for school dinners paid for until Free School Meals are confirmed.

Children's Snack & Activities Fund: (to be reviewed September 2020)

In order to raise the necessary finance for the purchase of daily snack foods, parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of approximately £12 per month (£40 per term or £3 per week). This ensures the provision of a fresh healthy snack each day purchased from a local fruit supplier. This is **in addition to** the school meal provided each day. Any surplus money accruing in the Snack & Activity fund after food items have been purchased is utilised for other activities.

Children's Snack & Activity fund is self-funding and receives no other monetary contributions other than a small amount of commission from the sale of school photographs, and fundraising activities undertaken by pupils and parents.

Parents who are willing to make this voluntary contribution are asked to sign their consent as part of the data capture exercise conducted during the induction period.

Failure to contribute to the Snack & Activity fund may not preclude any child from regular additional activities or experiences. However, the type and frequency of these will be governed by the amount of money contributed, as the school cannot subsidise additional school expenses using other families' contributions. Parents may also be asked to provide fruit on a weekly basis to ensure that there is enough to enable their child to participate in the snack routine.

School Trips / Coaching / Theatre shows

Additional activities to enhance children's learning at school are frequently organised by staff. This often involves considerable cost to the school, as the allocated Education Authority budget does not cover such expenses. The school is pleased to be able to offer these activities at a well discounted rate when parents have been willing to make regular contributions to the Children's Snack & Activity Fund. Where parents have chosen not to contribute to Snack & Activity Fund, the school will have no option but to pass on the full cost for the child of the trip / coaching / visitor to each family concerned.

In the event that parents do not wish for their child to take part in the additional trips / visits, there is the option of non-participation. Each child will still be involved in the classroom learning surrounding the topic, but need not take part in the supplementary activity on school premises if

that is the parent's wish. *This excludes school trips, as members of staff cannot remain in school when pupils are engaged in off-site learning. If parents' do not wish for their child to participate, they should not attend school on the day of the trip.*

The school appreciates that it is difficult for some families to pay the full amount for the year (£120) at once, although this would be preferable to cut down on administration time. School Governors are agreeable if parents wish to pay £40 for each term. *In exceptional circumstances parents may make alternative payment arrangements or pay off a little at a time as they can afford it.*

At regular times during the day, the children are asked to take part in hand washing and toilet routines, so please prepare your child before starting Nursery to be able to manage themselves completely in the toilet area - how to use toilet paper, how to flush and ALWAYS washing hands for 20 seconds.



Your child may be tasting new foods. It is important that you have a positive attitude to this from home, because very often children do not want to try new things and yet when they do, they find they love them!

We would appreciate it if your child would avoid bringing any items or food, sweets, chewing gum, drinks etc to school. Under no circumstances should any product containing nuts be brought into the building (even in applied sun lotion).

SICKNESS AND THE NURSERY

Children **should not attend** school:

- If they have a cough of any type
- have a temperature
- if vomiting during the night / morning
- have diarrhoea in the night / morning
- when taking antibiotics
- with a headache
- with stomach pains
- with severe cold symptoms, runny nose, persistent cough

Please check for rashes and spots, if unsure, your child should be checked by a doctor before coming to school. Please refer to the list included overleaf for exclusion periods.

If a child is sent to school unwell, all the children and staff are at risk of infection. A child who is not fit cannot benefit from the education provided.



It is essential that we are able to contact you or your childminder in the event of an emergency e.g. accident or illness during the school day. You will be asked to provide us with **reliable contact information**; names / addresses / telephone numbers that we can use if we need someone to come and collect your child or change them if they have a toilet accident i.e. wet / soiled. **Please provide us with these details on your child's first day and let us know if any of these numbers change during the year.** *If it is thought that emergency treatment may be required, the Principal will call an ambulance - regardless of whether the parent has been contacted. Every effort will be made to contact the child's parent/s as soon as possible.*

A GUIDANCE ON INFECTION CONTROL

Below we have listed a guide for parents suggesting **minimum** periods that children should be kept away from school if they are ill. Please remember that staff cannot administer non-emergency medication, therefore if a child is taking antibiotics they should not attend school.

COVID 19	2 weeks self-isolation
RASHES AND SKIN CONDITIONS	<i>Recommended period to be kept away from school</i>
Chickenpox	For five days from onset of rash or until all spots have scabbed or dried up completely
German measles (rubella)	Five days from onset of rash
Hand, foot and mouth disease	For five days or until rash has cleared
Impetigo	Until lesions are dry & crusted or healed
Measles	Five days from onset of rash or until rash has cleared
Ringworm (Tinea)	Until rash has cleared
Scabies	Until treated
Scarlet fever	Until rash has cleared and/or five days from commencing antibiotics (and these have finished)
Slapped cheek or Fifth disease	Until child is well
DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESS	<i>Recommended period to be kept away from school</i>
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (with or without a specified diagnosis)	Until diarrhoea and vomiting has settled (i.e. neither for the previous 24 hours)
Salmonella	Until diarrhoea and vomiting has settled (neither for the previous 24 hours)

RESPIRATORY	<i>Recommended period to be kept away from school</i>
'Flu' (influenza)	Until child is fully well
Whooping cough	Five days from commencing antibiotic (and this is finished)
Heavy cold	Until nose / eyes have stopped streaming
Persistent cough	Until coughing has stopped and medication finished
OTHERS	<i>Recommended period to be kept away from school</i>
Conjunctivitis	Until infection is cleared and medication finished
Glandular fever	Until child is fully well
Mumps	Until glands are no longer swollen
Threadworms	Until after treatment
Tonsillitis	Until child is well and medication finished



Please provide a box of tissues during the first week of Nursery. This helps to keep us going for a while!



Please show your child how to use a handkerchief and clean their nose before they start Nursery School!

INTIMATE CARE

All children should be independent in toilet use before starting Nursery School. If a child has a toileting accident (wet / soiled) a parent or carer from the contact list will be contacted to either come to school to change and clean them, or to take them home.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

The Board of Governors and staff of Barbour Nursery School wish to ensure that pupils with medication needs receive appropriate care and support at school. The Principal will accept responsibility in principle for members of the school staff giving or supervising pupils taking prescribed medication during the school day where those members of staff have volunteered to do so and where the medication is deemed to be life preserving (e.g. for asthma or severe allergies). ***Please note that products containing any nut ingredients should not be brought into school at any time, including sunscreens containing nut oils.***

In these instances parents are responsible for providing the Principal with comprehensive information regarding the pupil's condition and medication. Prescribed emergency medication will not be accepted in school without complete written and signed instructions from the parent and doctor.

Full details of the school's Policy on the Administration of Medication is available on request.

Staff will not administer any other form of medication (e.g. Calpol or antibiotic) and such medication should not be brought onto school premises under any circumstances.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

All children are expected to behave in a reasonable manner. Certain rules are applied in the Nursery School to:

1. Ensure the safety of the children and staff

2. Safeguard the right of play of the other children.



The school's Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy outlines the following procedures that are undertaken consistently by all staff:

1. If behaviour is unacceptable or anti-social, the child will be given **one** verbal warning to stop and told that they will be removed from that particular activity if it persists.
2. If the unacceptable behaviour continues, the child will be removed from that area, so that energies can be channelled into a more productive activity.
3. If the unacceptable behaviour still persists, the child will be calmly withdrawn to sit on a chair in the classroom for one minute of every year of their life (i.e. no more than 4 minutes).

During this behaviour management process staff will state the reason for withdrawal and label how it is making others feel.

Staff believe that children should be encouraged to feel responsible for their actions and develop peaceful ways to deal with problems when they find them. If discipline is a persistent problem for an individual child, parents will be asked to work closely with their child's teacher to help overcome problems.

The school's **Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy** emphasises the use of praise and positive reinforcement. Barbour Nursery School uses "**Incredible Years**" strategies to teach positive behaviour and social rules. Children will also be involved in drawing up rules where appropriate. Such an approach aims to raise the child's self-esteem, promote self-discipline, and avoid any instances of anti-social behaviour or "bullying".

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD PROTECTION - A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Everyone has a duty to protect children from abuse and/or neglect.

The Department of Education (NI) has clearly set out the roles and responsibilities of staff, and requires every school to develop, to review and to follow their own Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

This leaflet sets out to explain what staff at the school need to do if they are concerned about possible neglect or abuse (abuse may be physical, emotional or sexual in nature).

SCHOOL PROCEDURE AND THE ROLE OF STAFF

Schools like to keep in close contact with parents about their children's progress. If there are any day-to-day concerns, these can be discussed between the parents, the teacher and sometimes the Principal.

If there is a range of concerns or a single, more serious issue, school staff will need to pass their concerns on to Social Services as outlined in the School's full Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

If a teacher or anyone working in a school:-

- Is told by a child that they are being harmed or abused, or has witnessed domestic violence
- Notices any unusual, unexplained marks or bruises on a child
- Is aware of inappropriate sexual language or behaviour from a child
- Observes signs of serious neglect

the adult will listen and write down what they are told, or what they have observed.

Staff have a legal duty to tell the school's **designated teacher (Mrs Cassells; the Principal)** or in her absence the **deputy designated teacher (Mrs Malcolm)** who will consult with Education Authority, South Eastern Region's designated Child Protection officer and if considered necessary, notify Social Services. Social Services will then have a duty to investigate.

The designated teacher will usually let parents know this is happening, but if there is concern that in telling parents the child is put at greater risk, then parents will *not* be notified until the matter is investigated by Social Services.

When a Child Protection referral is made, Social Services must contact the police to decide whether Social Services or the Police will investigate.

A Social Worker will talk to the parents and the child involved and will consult with the school and other agencies so that they can get a full picture of what has happened.

Possible Signs of Neglect

Constant hunger, poor general hygiene, constant tiredness, frequent lateness or non-attendance at school, untreated medical problems, destructive tendencies, low self-esteem, neurotic behaviour e.g. rocking, hair twisting, thumb-sucking, no social relationships, chronic running away, compulsive stealing, scavenging for food or clothes.

Possible Signs of Physical Injury

Unexplained injuries or burns, improbable excuses given to explain injuries, refusal to discuss injuries, untreated injuries, excessive punishment, fear of parents being contacted, chronic running away, withdrawal from physical contact, flinching at sudden movements, arms and legs kept covered in hot weather, fear of returning home, fear of medical help, self-destructive tendencies and aggression towards others.

Possible Signs of Emotional Abuse

Physical, mental and emotional development delay or disturbance, excessive punishment, over-reaction to mistakes, sudden speech disorders, fear of new situations, inappropriate emotional responses to stressful situations, neurotic behaviour e.g. rocking, thumb sucking, hair twisting, self-mutilation, fear of parents being contacted, extremes of passivity or aggression, drug/solvent abuse, chronic running away, compulsive stealing and scavenging for food or clothes.

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse

Disclosure, compulsive masturbation, sexual drawings, sexualised play with explicit acts, explicit sexual stories, vivid details of sexual activities, exposing of private parts, running away, gender identity difficulties.

CHILD PROTECTION: THE ROLE OF PARENTS

It is extremely important for parents to keep the school fully informed of family developments that may eventually give rise to questions regarding pupil welfare and child protection. For example, the reason for:

- Unexplained injury or bruising
- Repeated absence from school
- Untreated medical problems
- Constant hunger/no breakfast
- Upset at witnessing family dispute
- Sudden mood swings

Parents may speak to the class teacher about any of the above, or any other issue relating to child protection. However, parents are advised to provide written explanations. These will be stored securely and will be available for referral at a later date should the need arise.

Useful contacts:

Education Authority, South Eastern Region
Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald, BT16 2HS
Tel: 028 90566200

Department of Education (NI)
Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down.
Tel: 028 91279000

South Eastern Health and Social Services Trust, Lisburn Health Centre,
Linenhall Street, Lisburn. OR Gateway Team, Tel: 0300 1000 300
Tel: 028 92665181

Helplines:

NSPCC	808 800500 (free)
Childline UK	800 111 (free)

Full copies of the school's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy are available from the office upon request.

If you have any queries about the information in this leaflet, or want more information or advice, please speak to the Principal; Mrs Cassells.

CHILD PROTECTION: COMPLAINTS

If a complaint about treatment of a child or possible child abuse is made against a member of staff, the Principal must be informed immediately. The same procedures as for Child Protection will be followed and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors will be consulted. A decision on whether to refer the complaint to Social Services will be made and the member of staff against whom the complaint was made will be informed accordingly. If it is decided to refer the complaint to Social Services, the member of staff will be removed from duties involving direct contact with children and may be suspended. In the case where a complaint is against the Principal, it must be reported immediately to the Deputy Designated Teacher who, in turn, will inform the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. The same procedure as for above will be followed and carried out by the Chairperson.

We hope that you and your child will enjoy your time at Barbour Nursery School.



If at any time you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to talk to his/her teacher.

SCHOOL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

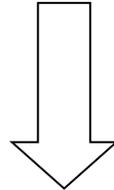
The Board of Governors together with the Principal set the direction and tone of the school in all that they do and are committed to working with parents in the best interests of their children's education. If for any reason parents have a complaint against the school or any member of staff or Governors, and this cannot be resolved informally, there is a formal procedure that must be followed. The purpose of the Complaints Procedure is to address complaints raised by parents/guardians in a swift, full and fair manner. A copy of the policy is posted on the Parents' Notice Board in our entrance hall.



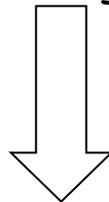
Barbour Nursery School

What should parents/guardians do if they have a comment or complaint about the school, a member of staff or student?

1. All queries or concerns should be first addressed by a parent/guardian to the **teacher** of the class in which their child is a pupil.



2. If satisfaction cannot be gained from this initial query, parents should contact the **Principal** of the school, Mrs Cassells, who will investigate the matter.



3. If parents are still dissatisfied with how their query or complaint is being handled, they may address their further concerns in writing to the **Chairperson of the Board of Governors** of the school (Dr Vivienne Crawford), who will in turn investigate the matter.



Barbour Nursery School

SCHOOL VISITORS / EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

**Parents or Visitors in School / on trips / Classroom
Volunteers must observe the following Code of Conduct:**

- The code of conduct ensures that **respect** for any individual is maintained at all times and that neither peers nor others expose any pupils to risk of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or harassment at any time.
- **Smoking, drinking and use of illegal drugs** or mind altering substances are strictly forbidden during any occasion in school or on trips.
- Adults and pupils should demonstrate appropriate **relationships** amongst their peers and any other party that they may come into contact with.
- Adults should ensure the **security** of their own personal belongings within school and on trips.
- Adults and children should display acceptable **manners** and general **behaviour** thereby promoting enjoyment by all.
- Adults should ensure **equality** of opportunity for all.
- Under no circumstances should persons other than official group members join the party when on a school trip.

The school has the right to refuse any pupil or adult from participating in any school visit or on trips, whose involvement may be considered to be a danger to him/herself or to the group.



Birthdays - we are keen to note the birthday of any child. If parents are happy to provide a cake or party items, we are happy to celebrate with friends in school. Please ensure that no nuts are present in any item.

COMMON SENSE TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Speak to your child in a positive way about school and his/her teacher
- Look through the "About My School" booklet with them several times & become familiar with staff names
- Talk about the "**Classroom and Family Rules**" (included in children's About My School booklet)
- Make time every day to find out what your child has been doing at school.
- Always check notes / messages sent by the school.
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement ... be interested and get involved in school life ... your child will benefit.
- Never compare your child's work with that of others.
- Don't sit on problems ... tell the teacher, it may help her understand your child better.
- Try and reinforce the school rules at home.
- **Don't allow too much TV/Video/Computer play at home! (and not within 1 hour of bedtime)**

A NURSERY CHILD'S WISH

Love me, don't spoil me.
Tell me, but don't yell at me.
Hold me, but don't keep me tied to you.
Mind me, but don't wrap me in cotton wool.
Show me how, but don't make a show of me.
Correct me, but don't forget to say why.
Say no to me, but don't give in as soon as I cry.
Listen to me, but don't make fun of my fears.
Let me get dirty, but don't let me get nasty.
Let me explore, but don't let me get lost.
Let me kiss you, but don't make me kiss anyone.
Encourage me, but don't bribe me.
Forgive me, but don't you forget to apologise.
I'm like you, but don't try to make me the same.

SOME FINAL ADVICE & REQUESTS

Before beginning Nursery School children should be encouraged to:

- Use the toilet, clean their bottom and flush
- Wash their hands for 20 seconds: using soap
- Put on and take off their own coat (progressing to doing up buttons and zips as the year goes on)
- Find their own photo / peg and hang up their own coat
- Put on and take off their own shoes (in preparation for using Wellington boots)
- Use a tissue and dispose of it in the bin
- Use a fork to eat with (not a spoon or fingers); progressing to using a knife
- Drink out of a cup (without a lid) - *no dummies or bottles should be brought to school*
- Not use a dummy at any time!
- Eat fruit with the skin on
- Practise saying the names of all staff members
- Say "good morning" or "hello" when greeted by others