

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2024



SNOW!

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding during this past disrupted week. There is a lot of consideration put into making decisions regarding the school/nursery opening or changing operating hours, and these decisions are not made easily. Hopefully that is the worst of it past now and we can all get back to normal. 😊

PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS

Online applications for Primary One close at the end of the day today, Friday the 19th of January. The link to the online registration form is available on the 'register for Primary One' page of Aberdeenshire Councils website.

If you wish to apply to Westhill Primary School but you are out of the catchment area, you **MUST** complete firstly a P1 application for your zoned school, then an out of zone application for P1 at Westhill Primary.

Please get in touch with Mrs Borthwick if you have any questions or require support completing the form fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

NURSERY APPLICATIONS

The nursery registration period opens next week, Monday the 22nd of January and remains open until the 2nd of February.

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter 19th January 2024

PLEASE NOTE: you must complete a new application for each year your child attends with us, therefore, even if your child is already with us, you must complete a new application for the school year 2024/25.

A nursery place can be applied for, for any child born between the 20th of August 2019 and the 13th of April 2022.

Application forms can be found online at Aberdeenshire Council's website or you can follow the link below (but not until the 22nd of January).

You do not have to be in zone for a nursery place as you do for school. Nursery age children can attend any early years setting.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/applyForNurseryPlace>

If you have any questions regarding the application and admissions period, please get in touch with Mrs Borthwick who will be happy to help
fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

We are delighted to offer our very popular Stay and Play sessions. These will run right through to Friday the 28th of June 24'. The sessions will run every day and you can choose a morning session, 10am to 12pm, or an afternoon session, 1pm to 3pm, depending on what best suits you.

These sessions are offered to all our families, and we welcome (only one adult per family at a time but you are welcome to book more than one session if another family member wishes to join us) Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles and any other family members over the age of 16.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate siblings during these visits.

During these sessions you will get a taster of what your child gets up to at nursery and how our routines run. You will be on the floor with your child (who will enjoy giving you a tour) and their peers. At the end of your session, we ask for you to complete a short feedback form to support us to improve and evaluate our practice.

If you would like to attend a session, please pop an email to Mrs Borthwick fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk stating the day and either morning or afternoon session you wish to join. We have a maximum of 2 adults/families per session.

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2024

AFTERNOON TEA

The children are really enjoying having their lunch in the nursery and it offers the opportunity for a calm and quiet time where they can be independent and take the time they need to eat.

Afternoon tea is another successful time in the nursery, however, we have observed recently that some of the children are really quite hungry by the time afternoon tea is served. Therefore, we plan to move our afternoon tea time to 3.30pm instead of 4pm as a trial next week (22nd to 26th Jan). We will try this for the week then confirm with you if this is to be a long term change.

Please note, this means that children not staying for afternoon tea require to be collected by 3.30pm and the earliest time you can collect your child if they are staying for afternoon tea is 4.15pm.

STAFF LEADERSHIP AREAS

Each of the Early Years Practitioners in the nursery have a leadership of Learning area and we would like to share these with you. Starting in next week's newsletter, one member of staff a week will share a little blurb with you about their area, why they have chosen it and what the learning intentions are.

Leadership areas have been running for over a year now, but it is something that has taken us time to get right and now we are in a really positive place. We hope to offer your children targeted activities and experiences in all areas of the curriculum and the staff have worked very hard in their particular area.

We look forward to sharing our areas and learning with you! 😊

DONATIONS

We are still looking for some donations for our role play area, items we require are hats, scarves and 'clippy cloppy' shoes (not too high!). If you have any old items you would be happy to donate, please hand them to a member of staff at the gate. Thank you! 😊

REPORTING ABSENCES

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2024

If your child is going to be absent, please either call the nursery 01224 472900 ext 3 (will take you right through to speak to a member of the nursery staff) or email fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

***DO NOT** call or email the school office as we do not have access to the answer machine or school mailbox so will not get your message.*

Council and Care Inspectorate guidance stipulates that we must know where every child is who is expected to be in nursery. If we do not receive a call or email, then we will work through your emergency contacts list. Policy states that if we do not get an answer then we would contact Social Work and the Police.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We have new online forms this year to be completed if your child has any dietary requirements, for example, allergies, intolerances, or lifestyle choices. Please follow the link below if your child requires a special diet. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/hDnuMFnpjx>

SPARE CLOTHES

We have a stock of spare clothes in the nursery in case the children require anything, but we are currently running low on trousers. If you have any spare or old leggings or tracksuit bottoms (age 3/4/5yrs) at home going spare, please could we have them as donations? Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is located to the left of the main nursery door at the ramp. You are welcome to come and have a look at any time if you have lost any items.

WESTHILL NURSERY FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep up to date with the latest info, key dates (Parent Council meetings, pyjama day and the likes!) and get to know other parents and carers. All are welcome, it's a great way to keep in touch and arrange playdates or track down muddled-up jumpers, and we can also share any queries or concerns with the PTA team. Search Westhill Nursery on Facebook to join, or click here:

www.facebook.com/groups/westhillnursery.

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2024

PARENT COUNCIL

If you would like to get in touch with Westhill Primary School Parent Council, please use the email below.

wp.parentcouncil@googlemail.com

NURSERY UNIFORM

If you would like to order nursery uniform, please follow the link below.

<https://www.schoolwewearmadeeasy.com/badged-school-uniform/r-w/w/westhill-nursery>

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

If you would like to get in touch with the after-school club, please use the email below.

outofschoolclubwesthill@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather when they arrive at nursery. If they come to nursery in wellies, then please provide a pair of indoor shoes to change into as wellies are not the comfiest for the children to wear all day. Please ensure they have plenty of warm clothes to go with their jackets, for example, hats, gloves, and scarves. Please also remember to **NAME ALL** items as this will make it much easier for us to find should they get lost.

NURSERY DAYS

Westhill Nursery is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year. The nursery will close to the children on in-service days, occasional days and public holidays as well as for 2 weeks at Christmas. We offer two sessions a day morning session 8am to 1pm and afternoon session 1pm to 6pm.

For your convenience and to offer you flexibility, we have a soft start and finish at either end of the sessions as follows:

Morning session – drop off between 8am and 9am

1pm pick up – collect between 12.45 and 1pm (please no later than 1pm as we have more children arriving for the afternoon session)

1pm drop off – drop off from 1 to 1.15pm

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2024

All children in afternoon/full day sessions – pick up from 3.15pm to 5.55pm

Each day you arrive with your child you will be asked who is collecting them and at what time. If this changes during the session, PLEASE DO get in touch with us and let us know by calling 01224 472900 and pressing for ext 3 which will take you right through to speak to a member of the nursery team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February
OCCASIONAL DAYS – no children attend.
- Monday 12th February
LOCAL HOLIDAY – no children attend.
- Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th February
IN-SERVICE DAYS – no children attend.
- Monday 1st to Friday 12th April
EASTER HOLIDAYS – only all year children attend.
- Monday 6th May
MAY DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – no children attend.
- Monday 8th July to Friday 16th August
Summer Holidays – only all year children attend.

Mrs Fiona Borthwick and the nursery staff. 😊

fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01224 472900 (ext 3)