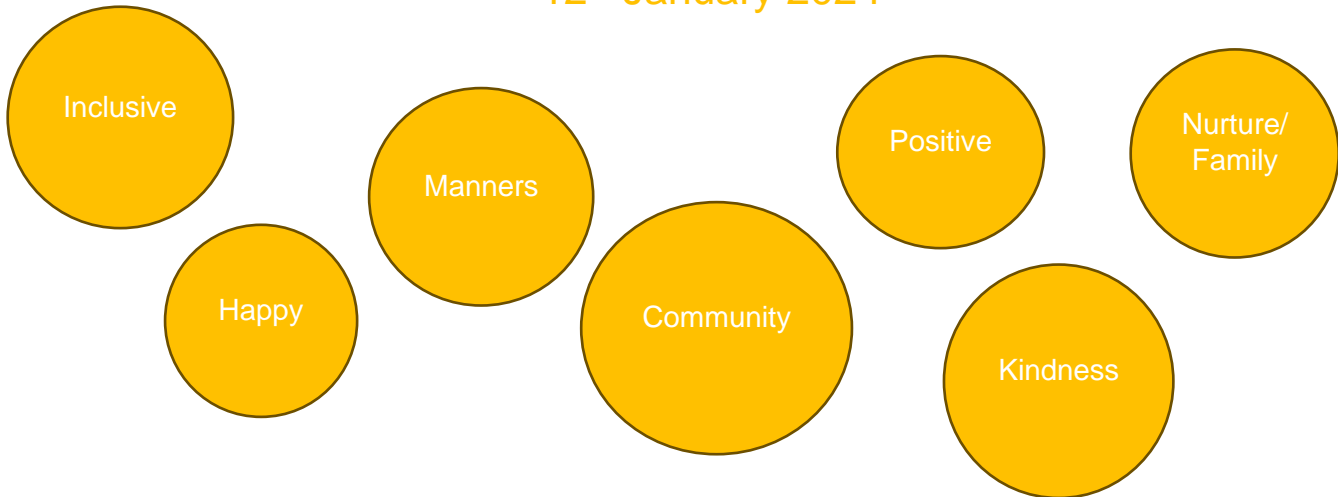


# Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

## 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We would like to welcome everyone back to our Nursery and hope you had a restful festive period. We also welcome five new families to our nursery and are looking forward to working with you and your children.

As usual we have hit the ground running this term and the children are already enjoying learning experiences and opportunities at nursery. We are looking forward to a busy and rewarding term with lots of fun for all!

### STAFF NEWS

Mrs Mann has now moved to a new post on the supply list and has some exciting plans in the pipeline. We would like to wish her all the best in her new venture but this means she will no longer be working at Westhill Nursery. Her post has been advertised and we are hoping to have a successful candidate join our team in the not too distant future. Please don't worry if Mrs Mann was your child's key worker, the other staff will pick up your children until we have another staff member in place.

### PRIMARY 1 APPLICATIONS

Online applications open for Primary One on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and close on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. The link to the online registration form will only be available during this period 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](mailto:fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

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### NURSERY APPLICATIONS

The nursery registration period opens on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and remains open until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

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 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 and the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

### STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

We are delighted to offer from next week our very popular Stay and Play sessions. These will run from Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, right through to Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) stating the day and either morning or

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afternoon session you wish to join. We have a maximum of 2 adults/families per session.

### SNUG ROOM/FAMILY NURTURE

You will notice a new display board on the wall to your left as you enter the nursery to collect your child. With our 'Questions of the Month', Mrs Hay collates the replies, and these will be displayed here alongside the new question of the month. You will also see the actions we have taken to address your answers through 'you said, we did' examples.

Please take the time to scan the QR code and vote with your child as your feedback is invaluable to us in continuing to improve our practice and the experiences your child enjoys in our setting.

### DONATIONS

We are 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! 😊

### TESCO TOKENS

This is the last week for collecting tokens for our garden fund. We are really hoping that we have done well and will receive a lovely amount of money. The box for our tokens will close on Sunday so please pop along and post as many last-minute tokens for us as you can! Thank you! 😊

### READ AT HOME WITH...

From next week the children will get the opportunity to take home one of our four soft toys for a couple of days. We are using these as a tool to encourage the children to enjoy a story at home with family or just with their furry friend. In the bag there will also be a notebook for you to share your child's experience and maybe pop a photo in of you all reading together (if you don't have the facility to print off a photo, please email one to Mrs Borthwick and we can print it out in nursery).

Your child can choose any of their own stories from home or if you would rather, we can provide a nursery book, just let us know. We look forward to the children sharing their experiences when they return to nursery with their furry friend!

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### REPORTING ABSENCES

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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/groups/westhillnursery).

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### 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](mailto:wp.parentcouncil@googlemail.com)

### NURSERY UNIFORM

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

<https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.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](mailto: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

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

Mrs Fiona Borthwick and the nursery staff. 😊

[fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

01224 472900 (ext 3)