

# Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

## 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2024



### MID TERM BREAK

Please note the school and nursery will be closed to all children from **Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> February inclusive**. During the occasional days, staff will be visiting other settings to share good practice, working on their leadership areas and presenting a wee presentation to the other staff and tracking and monitoring the children's progress through their observations. During the In-service days, we will be focusing on the new framework from the Care Inspectorate, looking in detail at specific areas of our practice and the experiences the children are being offered.

### NURSERY APPLICATIONS

***\*LAST DAY FOR NURSERY APPLICATIONS\****

Nursery applications are now open and remain remains so 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 bellow.

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>

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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 have had a very low uptake for these sessions this year. Please consider booking one, even far in advance as the children are excited to share their nursery and learning with you all.\**

We are delighted to offer our very popular Stay and Play sessions. These will run 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 afternoon session you wish to join. We have a maximum of 2 adults/families per session.

### STAFF LEADERSHIP AREAS

Miss Crighton – Listening and Talking

Post Covid, many families approached us regarding concerns with their children's speech as they had missed out on key social opportunities during lockdown. I am working with the children to support literacy in all it's forms.

At the mark making table I have provided their names to copy themselves or trace to practice forming the letters. I have been taking small groups of children to the snug room to enjoy games, songs and stories to promote their listening skills. Each week I ask the children what they have learned and what they have enjoyed whilst at

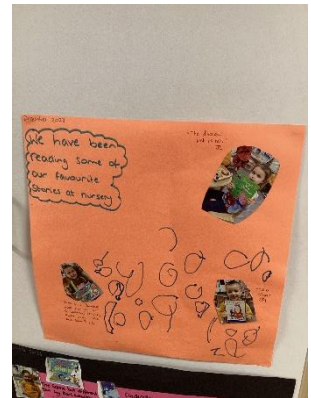
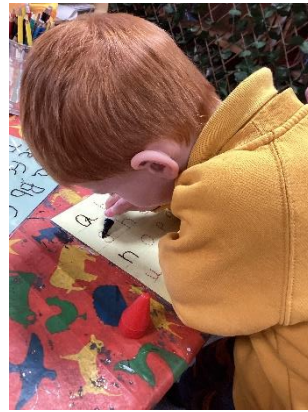
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nursery. I promote communication and chat during snack and lunch times as well as whilst at play.

The nursery environment is rich in literacy opportunities for all children to access, staff also work individually with children who require specific support in this area.

If you would like to support your child at home in this key area, you could perhaps ask them how their day has been or what have they learned. You may find they do not wish to talk about this when you first collect them, however given time and space they will let you know what they have been up to.



### DONATIONS

We were wondering if any of our bi, or indeed tri-lingual families would have any books written in their mother tongue that you would be happy for us to have. These would make a great addition to our story/reading area and support us to share some of the different languages spoken by our families. Thank you 😊

### 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.

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### 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).

### 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 bellow.

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

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### 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

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.**

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- 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)