

I am going to Locks Heath
Infant & Nursery School



Our Vision – The Nursery Ethos

Locks Heath Infant & Nursery School offers a nurturing environment where *'pupil's personal development is at the heart of the school and adults understand the children's needs and care for them sensitively'* (Ofsted 2023). This approach is extended into our nursery provision and we are committed to developing good mental health for early year's children, developing self-regulation skills with responsive care from reliable, dedicated and empathetic trusted adults.

We are committed to providing high quality early years learning in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Our most recent Ofsted report (2023) stated *'Children's learning journeys start well in the early years. Children participate in a range of useful activities that support their learning across the curriculum.'* Our Ofsted grade for Early Years provision was GOOD and the overall grading for the school was GOOD. The nursery curriculum will develop confident and curious learners who are able to build positive relationships with others.

The Curiosity Approach

The Curiosity Approach is an educational philosophy that emphasises child-led learning through exploration, play, and discovery. Drawing inspiration from pioneers of early childhood education, Reggio Emilia, Montessori, and Steiner, it blends their principles to create a nurturing and stimulating environment and works hand in hand with the schools ethos and learning values.

Children in our nursery will benefit from aspects of this approach, experiencing a home from home environment, which is bursting with authentic materials. We try incredibly hard to provide the children with a wide range of open ended resources, including china, glass jars and stainless steel, moving away from plastic as much as possible. Messy play will be a huge part of our day and a dirty uniform is a sign of a good day!



Meet the Nursery Team



Mrs Lauren Casson
Nursery Manager
Clownfish Key Person



Miss Katt Motherwell
Dolphins Key Person

Other staff that may help us in our school



Mr Rick Jump
Headteacher



Miss Debra Burden
Assistant Headteacher
Penguins Class Teacher

The Transition to Nursery

Starting nursery is a big step for you and your child.

At Locks Heath Infant & Nursery School, we aim to make the transition between home and nursery as smooth as possible.

We will work in partnership with you to ensure that your child feels happy and safe whilst they are in our environment.

We have stay and play sessions for you and your child. These sessions are designed to offer the children an opportunity to play in the nursery environment and to meet their key person and peer group. It is also an opportunity for you to get to know the staff that will be caring for your child and to discuss your child's needs, likes and dislikes. This is so we can ensure your child is fully supported when they start with us.

While most children will settle into nursery easily, it is important to remember that every child is different and some will take a little longer and need more support and encouragement.

Key Person

Each child will be assigned a key person. This person will be your main point of contact and plays a vital role in supporting your child, learning, development and overall wellbeing. You will receive a leaflet containing the details of your child's key person.

Our Classroom

This is our nursery classroom. We will begin our day here and enjoy an exciting array of invitations to learning. The nursery staff will ensure that the classroom is always inviting and has lots of interesting things for us to explore.



Our Garden

We are incredibly lucky to have such a big outside space to enjoy. We have our own area that we can free flow into, as well as the use of the early years playground.



Other Areas in Our School

We are incredibly lucky to be able to use other areas within our school. The nursery team will ensure that the children have regular visits to the hall, music room, library and of course our wonderful nature reserve. We may also visit the KS1 playground from time to time as well.



A Typical Day

Our nursery opens at 09.00 and the children will be welcomed by a member of nursery staff. Parents will not be permitted into the classroom, but there will be an opportunity for parents to let us know if there is anything we should be aware of.

The children will hang up their belongings and self register, before going to explore our classroom and outside area.

Once the children are settled, we will gather together for our circle time and spend time with our key person

Our snack time will be from 10.00. Children will pour their own drinks and sometimes help prepare the snacks. After the children have finished, they will wash up their own plate and cup.

Our morning session will finish at 12.00. Some of us will go home and some of us will stay for lunch. We might also welcome some more friends who have come to play for the afternoon.

Please note, drop off & collection at 12.00 will be via the main school door

During the afternoon session, we will enjoy more time in our classroom and outside areas, as well as time with our key person. Our afternoon snack time will be at 14.00.

We will then work together to put our nursery to bed, ready for another busy day! The children will enjoy stories, games and songs before collecting their belongings ready to go home.

Our nursery day finishes at 15.00. Pick up will be from the playground. Nursery staff will ensure children get to their adult safely. The nursery staff will also give parents a brief handover about their child's day. Should you wish to speak to your child's key person in more depth, please speak to a member of the nursery team to arrange a convenient time.

Lunchtime

We will all enjoy a packed lunch from home. Please kindly refer to the packed lunch policy on the school website for more information on the types of foods to provide for your child. The nursery staff will sit with the children and have lunch together.



Uniform

Nursery children will wear the same uniform as the rest of the school. Please kindly ensure that your child has the following



Navy jogging bottoms
or leggings



White polo shirt



or



Blue polo shirt



or



Navy sweatshirt



Navy cardigan

White, grey, navy or black
socks
Black/grey tights
Black/navy Velcro shoes or
black/navy Velcro trainers

Spare Clothes & Other Items your child will need

We will be spending time outdoors in all weathers. Please kindly ensure your child has a couple of changes of clothes in a bag which can be kept on their peg. This should consist of trousers/leggings, t-shirts, jumpers, socks & pants. Your child will also need a pair of wellington boots & a puddle suit. Please ensure children have a full water bottle with them every day. If necessary, please kindly provide your child with a sufficient amount of nappies, wipes and nappy sacks for their session.

Toilet

We will use the early years toilets



Learning at Locks Heath Infant & Nursery School

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage. Every child has access to a broad and balanced curriculum. It is important to remember that every child is different and they learn in different ways. They are individual with their own needs.

Children learn through play and learn when they are happy. The nursery staff will ensure that both the indoor and outdoor environments meet the needs of the children by following their interests. Staff will then observe the children at play and enhance the environment.

How to Help your Child Prepare

It is important to talk to your child about their move to nursery. Sharing this booklet with them and looking through the pictures together at home, will help familiarise your child with the nursery environment and staff.



Partnerships with Parents

It goes without saying, that parents are a huge part of their child's journey through Locks Heath Infant & Nursery School and beyond.

Our online learning journal is called Tapestry. This is a fantastic tool which allows Early Years Educators to add observations and link these observations to the early years foundation stage framework. This, in turn, allows professionals to determine what a child's next steps should be and identify any gaps within their learning.

Parents are also able to add observations. Whilst these observations will not be linked to the foundation stage, they do provide a valuable insight into what a child does at home and any milestones a child may have reached. This can be something as simple as using the toilet for the first time!

We also involve parents as much as we can and will hold 'open events' throughout the school year.

Parents are kept well informed of upcoming events or changes etc through the weekly bulletin, my start of term newsletter and also by the upcoming events poster situated by the front door.

If at any time you or your child have any concerns or worries, no matter how trivial they might seem, please let us know and we will resolve the issues together. Please tell us good news as well!

Wishing you & your child a very happy & successful journey at Locks Heath Infant & Nursery School.