



Monkhouse Primary School



Welcome to Monkhouse

The start of an exciting journey!

Our Nursery Staff

Mrs Odessa Stephenson
Nursery Teacher
& Early Years Lead



Miss Angie Brown
Teaching Assistant

OUR VISION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Monkhouse we believe all children will be **ambitious**, **courageous**, **respectful**, **resilient** and **kind** so that they fulfil their unique potential and become active members of the wider global community.

Our curriculum is designed to
INGNITE passion
INNOVATE thinking
INSPIRE everyone
and shape the future for all

And it all begins right here, in
the Early Years Foundation
Stage!



Getting to know us

We are offering everyone the chance to visit Nursery, prior to starting in September.



Having your child starting Nursery is a big step, both for children and parents. We can promise you that we will work as hard as we can to ensure you and your child have a happy start to life at Monkhouse. Children constantly amaze us with how resilient and adaptable they are, and we are sure they will be just fine.

If there are any 'hiccups' along the way, we will work with you and your child to sort out any worries or difficulties.



We can promise, there will be more tears from the adults than the children on those first days!

Morning Nursery Sessions:

8.45 - 11.45 am for all children, 5 days a week

12.25-3.25 pm (*15 additional hours for families who are eligible*)

This allows parents with older children in school to coordinate drop-off and pick-up times.

Starting dates

In order to allow the children to settle in the best way, we have a graduated start to Nursery.

Our office staff will provide you with copies of all the dates you need.

Every child is unique, and if a longer settling in period is required, this can easily be arranged.

The School Day.

- Entry to Nursery is via the main gate and then Nursery gate next to the main school yard. Security is a high priority and all doors are fitted with electronic systems of entry which can only be opened from the inside.
- At the beginning and end of Nursery sessions, parents are asked to wait outside until a member of staff opens the door and welcomes them.
- If your child is to be collected by anyone other than their parent/carer or the usual person who picks them up, please let school staff know. We ask all parents to provide a password which can be shared with any other adults who collect your child.
- Rise and Shine provide wrap-around care over the lunch time period. It is vital that this is booked in advance. Rise and Shine also provide wrap-around care for before and after nursery and afternoon sessions for families who are not entitled to the additional 15 hours. All Rise and Shine sessions are paid for by parents.

School Uniform

- Grey or black skirt or pinafore dress – please no cullottes dresses, these make independent toileting difficult!
- Grey or black trousers, jogging pants or leggings – whatever your child can manage best for toileting (beware of trousers with tricky fastenings!)
- White polo shirt
- Red and white gingham dress
- Red sweatshirt or cardigan
- Sensible, flat velcro fastening footwear that children can remove and put on themselves with a little help. These must be suitable for indoor and outdoor wear.
- White, black or grey socks.
- A named pair of wellies to be kept in school



We also ask that children are 'weather-ready'

- A warm, waterproof coat or jacket
- A hat and gloves in cold weather
- Suitable sunscreen has been applied before school and a hat provided for when the weather is hot. If your child will be attending for the whole day please send sunscreen in a named bottle.
- No jewellery

Please:

No expensive clothing!

We will be getting messy



I'm sorry I got messy today but..

I've been exploring the water and learning about emptying, filling and pouring. Sometimes I might spill a little bit - the muscles in my hands are still developing.

There was flour in our messy area today. I was so interested in how it would make clouds if I threw a little into the air.



I loved the texture of the playdough, but I rested my arm on a little bit as I reached across the table. I didn't realise it would stick to my sleeve!

I was learning about what happens if I mix two colours together.. It's messy work, but the green paint on my jumper comes from the blue and yellow that I mixed!

This mark is from a pen. I'm trying really hard to learn to hold the pen and make marks on the paper.

The mud kitchen is very dirty, but it's so much fun! Playing there helps me develop my imagination and explore my understanding of the world. I watched you cook at home and I wanted to try by myself.



**Early
Childhood
and Family
Service**

Additional Needs

- Mrs Stephenson is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator. She works closely with staff to monitor the progress of all the children. This close liaison enables us to identify and quickly respond to needs of any child who may have learning difficulties or physical/emotional needs etc.
- Wherever appropriate, Nursery staff work closely with other professional practitioners e.g. community health, Speech Therapy, Language and Communication team, Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy etc to identify needs and provide the best possible early learning opportunities.
- The staff in Nursery constantly observe children at work and play and this allows us to accurately assess each child's individual strengths and areas for development. This helps us plan to make sure all children are:
 - ❖ Having fun
 - ❖ Appropriately challenged
 - ❖ Achieving

What can I do at home?

Encourage your child to develop their independence and self-help skills.

Eg

- Toileting and washing hands
- Putting shoes and wellies on and off
- Pulling pants and trousers up and down
- Beginning to put legs into pants and trousers that have been laid out flat
- Putting arms into a coat that is held up for them
- Pulling up a zip that has been started
- Using a spoon, fork and knife with help
- Help them to learn to wait and take turns. "I'll help you as soon as I've finished this", "First I'm going to finish my coffee, then we can play"
(There are lots of children in Nursery, and waiting for a turn can be hard at first.)

In a 'normal' nursery class there are up to 26 children. Children are amazing, and very quickly develop more independence. It's wonderful to see how proud they are of achievements such as putting shoes on by themselves.

- Developing a "growth mindset"

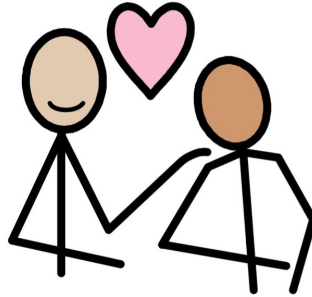
"You have a try first, then if you need help I will help you."

"You can't do it yet, but if you keep trying you'll get better and better".

Monkhouse Values



ambitious



kind



respectful



resilient

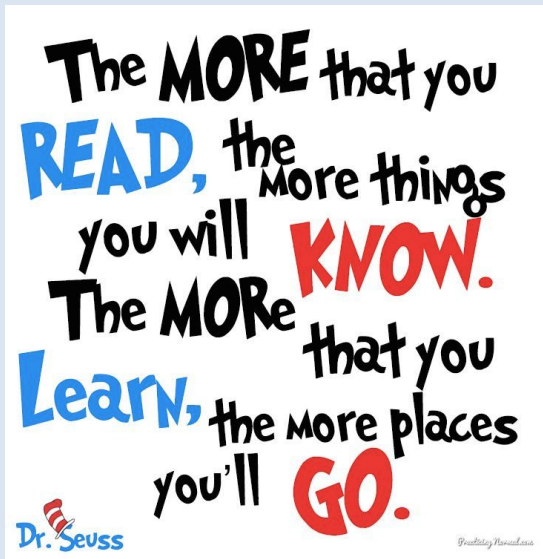


courageous

Reading in Nursery

Whilst listening to stories in Nursery, a love of reading is promoted as well as developing children's awareness of the structure of a book.

- Children will often want to read the same story over and over again, this is ok! In fact it is highly recommended!
- We also make up and tell stories, act out stories and use Talk for Writing to develop our storytelling skills.



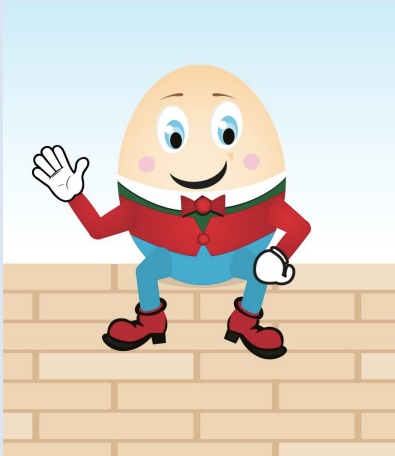
SO READ AND ENJOY STORIES TOGETHER.

It's a fact that children who have more stories read to them develop better speech and language skills

Talk to your child about the pictures in a book. Who can they see? What is happening?

Can they predict what might happen next?

When reading familiar stories, pause at points and encourage them to say the next word.



Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight. - Mem Fox, Reading Magic.

So enjoy rhymes and see how many rhymes you can learn together. Try to learn one a week, and say or sing it over and over so your child really remembers it.



There are lots of rhymes and stories available on Cbeebies and on YouTube.

The North Tyneside BorrowBox scheme allows you to borrow e-books and audio books free of charge. Find out more <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/1020/e-books-and-audiobooks>

“What else can I do to help my child?” - You're probably doing lots already!

- ✓ Encourage them to ask questions and listen to others
- ✓ Sing counting rhymes together – 5 Little Speckled Frogs, 5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer, 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive.....
- ✓ Count and talk about numbers as you play and do jobs together
- ✓ Talk about the sounds you hear as you are out and about – traffic, wind, birds, waves.... this will really help with learning letter sounds later.

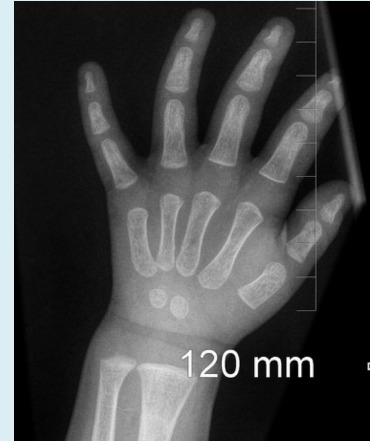
- ✓ Count out everyday objects such as knives and forks, socks, fruit in the fruit bowl
- ✓ Develop your child's imagination by providing dressing up clothes, small-world toys e.g cars, the farm, dolls houses etc.
- ✓ Encourage physical activity- riding bikes/scooters, visiting the park, threading beads/pasta, holding pencils and paintbrushes, scissors and tools

Really, it's all about the **talk**, the independence and resilience, the **talk**, the physical development, and the **talk**.

Assemble your school toolkit!

Your child will use lots of tools in school; pens, pegs, pencils, crayons, paint brushes, scissors, screwdrivers, hammers, knives, juicers and graters to name a few.

We teach children to use tools appropriately and talk about the difference between 'toys' that we play with and 'tools' that are used in a careful way to do a job. Using a variety of tools is important for ensuring children's hands and coordination develop in the right way.



2 years old



10 years old

- Ensure your child has some 'mark-making' tools – eg felt-tips, crayons, chalks, paintbrushes
- Be brave and get some child scissors – snips like those pictured are great and really help develop hand-strength and coordination





Dummies

Speech therapists advise that dummies should not be used during the day as they inhibit the good development of speech sounds.

We do not allow children to use dummies in nursery.

“If your child is older and you want to stop using a dummy, it often helps to involve your child. Get them to help you find all the dummies in the house. I know some families that have spoken about how grown up the child is now and ‘exchanged’ the dummies for a little gift or toy. I also know some families that say that they are sending the dummies to the dummy fairy or to little babies that need them. Then you pack up all the dummies with your child and actually post them somewhere!

How should dummies be used?

If your toddler is still using a dummy, always remove it if they are trying to talk.

Only use it for a few minutes to help settle your child.

Remember that crying is a communication. Try and work out what your baby/ child wants first rather than using the dummy straight away.

Try and limit dummy use to sleep or nap time.”

Toileting



We know, from experience, that by September most of the children will be independently using the toilet, though they may have occasional accidents. As with all things, children learn at different rates and there are usually one or two children who begin Nursery without being fully toilet-trained. If your child isn't there yet, please **don't** panic, but **do** continue to work on toileting over the Summer.

If September comes, and your child still isn't there, then that's OK. We will work together to help them learn this new skill, just as we do with other areas of learning.

Generally speaking, we don't use potties in Nursery, as our toilets are perfectly sized, so getting used to sitting on the toilet is a good idea. We don't routinely wipe bottoms either, though we do support the children with this where necessary, so please practice this too, and help your child to learn a good hand-washing routine.

If you have any concerns, or need advice around toileting you can speak to staff confidentially, or your health visitor should be able to offer advice.

Please:

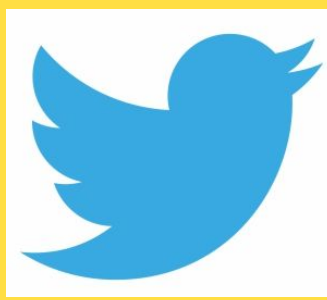
Let us know about any worries — starting school is a big step for the whole family! We won't think you are 'being silly', and would much rather know about any concerns you have.

Communicate with us about your child — use Tapestry to share the things you enjoy at home and things that have made you proud. If there are changes at home that might affect your child, then let us know so we are ready to support them.

Name EVERYTHING! We try our best, but one Monkhouse jumper looks much like another, and if they are not named they get mixed up. Please name shoes if possible — we change in and out of shoes and wellies daily.

Be prepared for a bit of 'getting messy' — it's how we learn and have fun! We would much prefer children to wear clothing that's a bit stained, than for parents to buy new clothing because a few stains won't shift. There are no prizes for being spotless!

Keep in Touch!



Make sure you register for Tapestry once you receive the details.

It's easy to use if you download the app and you can see what we've been doing at school as well as add your own photos and videos.

@Monkhouse1

Observations / Making patterns using pinboards

← Newer Older →

Making patterns using pinboards


Authored by angela brown added 18 May 2023 02:49 PM
Approved by angela brown on 19 May 2023 10:29 AM

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Notes

we had to be very resilient and courageous today as had to make patterns using elastic bands and pin boards. we really had to get our eyes, fingers and brain to work together. we made different patterns and different shapes using the elastic bands. what a great job we done.

Flags

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Links for parents

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people> Lots of advice and ideas for activities to enjoy together

[Nursery Rhymes and Songs - BBC Teach](#) Lots of rhymes to join in with

[Activities for babies, toddlers and children - BBC Tiny Happy People](#) Lots of help, advice and ideas.

<https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/learning-to-talk/3-to-5-years/#3> - Information about supporting your child's speech development

<https://www.mrsspeechiep.com/post/routines> Routines, and why your child needs them

<https://www.lets-talk.scot.nhs.uk/tips-and-info/top-tips/babies-and-dummies/> - Giving up the dummy

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/potty-training-and-bedwetting/how-to-potty-train/> Potty Training advice

BEFORE YOU LEAVE TONIGHT

If your child has any allergies or medical issues then that is vital that you let us know so we can arrange to meet with you. This is vital so that we can put any necessary measures in place, and ensure we provide a safe environment for all our children.

In recent years, we have offered parents a 1:1 meeting with staff, but sign-up has been really low. Please email or phone the school office if you would like a meeting and we will arrange these.