



Mrs C Liku B.Ed (Hons)
Headteacher
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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the School Uniform?

Our uniform is simple-black joggers or leggings, white polo, school jumper and sensible shoes (preferably Velcro and no open toes). Remember they will get mucky so we ask that all children have an adequate set of spare clothes. We do know that lots of parents of little girls choose to put their child in pinafores/skirts. This is fine however leggings/joggers are more appropriate in the winter. There is also a waterproof/fleecy lined school coat available and although they are not compulsory, they are advisable! All uniform can be purchased from Boydell's, the school jumper is £12.00 and the school coat is £25.00.

Please ensure all items brought into school are clearly labelled.

Do they bring a bag?

School bags are available from the school office for £5.00 each. These are handy to use for spare clothes. Our 15 hour children are required to bring their bag in every day and our 30 hour children will leave it in school unless it needs to be taken home for a new set of clothing.

Who is my child's keyworker and what do they do?

Staff work very much as a team at Birchfield and all children will be supported by the whole team however, your child's keyworker is your point of contact and the person who will be available at the end of session if you ever have any questions. They will also be the main point of contact regarding progress or any emerging needs although all staff are very aware of all children. We are always on the front door at start of session if there is anything you want to ask or pass on.

What happens when we come into nursery?

Children will be welcomed at the front entrance by Mrs Liku and another member of staff and from there we help them organise their coats and move safely into nursery where they get straight to 'work' in the environment. We ask that parents support children in transition by offering positive messages about separation. Children pick up very quickly on parental anxieties and this is often the reason for tears. We are very proud of how happy children are in nursery and we want this first separation of the day to be a positive one.

What are the Funded Session Times?

Monday to Friday – Term time only

9:00 to 12:00

12:45 to 3:45

Lunchtime cover is available for full time children (30 hours) on a paid for basis.

How do I get a 30 Hour Code?

If your child is accessing 30 hours, we ask that you to check your eligibility by www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-tax-free-childcare. Once you have accessed your code, please email it along with your expiry date to office@birchfield.halton.sch.uk

What are your charges?

We rely heavily on donations to cover the cost of additional services/non-essentials and we do try to keep these requests to a minimum. Payments can be made via our School Spider App and we will send you further information about how to set this up during your child's transition weeks. Please inform us if you intend to use alternative methods, e.g. Childcare Vouchers or Tax Free Childcare.

15 Hour Children	30 Hour Children
£5 per week for Snack, Dance and PE	£30 per week for Snack, Dance, PE and Lunchtime provision

Do they get a snack/drinks/lunch provided or do they need to be sent?

Snack is provided and costs are covered by your weekly payment.

30 hour children will require a packed lunch. Please do not worry or overthink lunches. We know that could be easier said than done! Keep lunch simple and involve your child in preparing it/planning it so that they know what is in the box and will eat it! Better to send in three beige items they will eat than a colourful concoction they will not. There are many ideas on the internet for lunch boxes. **No nuts or products containing nuts.**

What if my child is ill?

Illness happens - we understand! You can report an absence by using the School Spider App or by calling the School Office on 0151 424 4681. If your child falls ill in school we will contact you as soon as it is felt necessary so please ensure contact details are up to date. If your child has regular medication (e.g. asthma inhaler) please bring into school with the label intact to keep on site, you will also be required to sign a permission form.

Do you have a timetable?

We are of course a nursery **school** and as such we balance care and nurture with a high-quality early year's education. This is delivered through our enabling environment; and through a structured timetable that takes into accounts the ages and stages of each child.

Block 1	Keyworker time-a time when children choose freely in the environment and where keyworkers use observations of prior learning to support next steps/priorities. This session is punctuated by learning session 1 This is the first adult led session of the day and is tailored to meet the need of each learning group. This session could be 'The Big question' from our 'Learning Challenge Curriculum, Phonics or early maths.
Block 2	Learning time 2; investigation, number or phonics dependant on the day and group. All activities are planned to be fun, engaging and full of learning
Block 3	Child-initiated time. This is when our outdoor area is opened and children can flow freely across the environment supported by staff, following their own interests
Block 4	Tidy-up time!! This is where the 'Tidy up Rhumba' Youtube-search it and familiarise your child and it REALLY works!
Block 5	Story time. Stories are an integral part of our day here at Birchfield and support and complement our 'Learning Challenge Curriculum'
Block 6	Getting ready for lunch/home time

Afternoons in our 30 hours room are flexible and allow children time and space to be a little more relaxed. The nursery and staff continue to maximise any learning opportunities but also, particularly in term 1, allow children opportunity to rest and enjoy calmer activities.

Do you offer wrap around care?

We offer a breakfast club and after-school club with 8 places per session. Places can book up fast therefore please let us know asap if you require a place as we are unable to guarantee a place once the session is full. Session times are as follows:

Breakfast Club Mon-Fri	8:00 to 9:00	£5 per session
After-school Club Mon-Thur	3:45 to 4:30	£5 per session

Where can I park?

Parking is a nightmare around most schools and we are unfortunately no different. There is NO ACCESS to the staff car park apart from disabled and permit holders. If you are a disabled badge holder please show this to the front office and we will issue a permit. We ask that parents try to park away from the nursery driveway and do not use the drive as a turning point-this poses a huge risk to children on their way into school.