



A huge welcome to Birchfield Nursery school, a setting where your child can look forward to being cared for, and educated, by a team of caring, committed early years teachers and practitioners within a setting that provides comfort, challenge... but most of all fun!!

Here at Birchfield we build on a history that reaches back 78 years!! Making us one of the oldest nursery schools in the country and yet we are a setting that never stands still! We are passionate about providing the very best for your children, our 'Birchfielders', making memories that will hopefully last a lifetime and providing a platform for future success.

To support you in getting ready for this transition we have put together, some of what we feel, is the most important organisational information



SAYING GOODBYE

Is never easy but it is a part of the journey all children make as they step into the world. We understand the anxiety and fear this move can bring but please be reassured we will view your child always as precious and our first priority is to keep them safe and happy. Our advice is always to provide positive messages to your child, as hard as this can be. Helpful phrases such as "You are going to have so much fun", "Your teachers will take care of you". Phrases that can cause anxiety can change the course of a child's day and even whole journey onto separation. If you are particularly concerned about this peak to a member of staff at open evening or during the transition period.

SESSION TIMES

Morning session starts at 9.00 and we encourage you to arrive as promptly as possible.. We support our children at the start of the day in a highly engaging activity that promotes teamwork and friendship building. It fosters positive relationships with staff and provides a secure routine for your child. all of these are factors that promote independence, confidence and engagement.

Afternoon session begins at 12:45.

Our day ends at 12.00 for morning children or 3.45 for afternoon and 30 hours. If you wish to collect your child early to support sibling primary pick up we have one collection time of 2:45 which must be arranged via prior communication with Mrs Rice to ensure safeguarding across the school.





UNIFORM

Uniform consists of school jumper, white polo and black joggers/leggings. School branded items (coat, jumper, hat) are all available from Boydell's and are competitively priced. Polo shirts and joggers are easily available at most supermarkets. We hope our uniform is accessible to all so branded items are kept to a minimum and are in place to support safeguarding and a sense of belonging to our Birchfield family. We have a stock of good quality spares which will be available free of charge at transition events. We ask that children wear safe footwear that they can put on and take off with minimal support.

LUNCHES

Unfortunately we do not have facilities to provide hot lunches but are constantly reviewing this provision. Children require a lunch that will healthily sustain them through the day. Guidance for this is available on our website or <https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/sections/preschool/preparing-the-perfect-packed-lunch/>

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES AND RISKY PLAY

Hidden at the rear of our site is an extensive area to explore nature and promote healthy outdoor play and physical development. This will be led from September by Mrs Young and Mrs Royle. Highly skilled staff who will ensure that your children experience being 'wildlings' in our garden. Children will benefit from an element of 'risky play' that develops confidence and independence. We will be running a workshop dedicated to this in the Autumn Term for you to find out more.



CURRICULUM

We support all of our children to thrive and learn through an ambitious, exciting curriculum that promotes all areas of development in an entirely age appropriate way. Children are encouraged to explore in a play based enabling environment (See our video) which is enhanced to provide exciting and diverse opportunities throughout the year. More details can be found on the curriculum tab of the website

PAYMENTS

Unfortunately Government funding does not fully meet the cost of our provision and consequently we request contributions for services provided that are not covered. Full details of this are available on the payments tab of our website.

As a nursery we are passionate about providing the best experience possible for your child, including experiences that provide cultural and intellectual capital and fun experiences! Services that require contributions include dance lessons weekly, trips, external visitors including Chinese dragon dancers and the farm, music teachers and much more. We keep costs to an absolute minimum and these can be paid using tax free childcare vouchers.

We cannot make these contributions mandatory however if we do not receive them we cannot provide these services.

Should you wish for your child to be excluded from receiving any of these services please speak to Mrs Liku or Mrs Rice at the earliest opportunity.



PREPARING TO START AT BIRCHFIELD

There are lots of things that you could do to prepare your child but here are some simple things that will really help.

- Support toileting- children should be toilet trained before they start with us. If they are not we will support this but ask that you speak to us about this before summer for us to help you on the way.
- Asking grown ups for help
- Communicating needs and wants e.g. Can I have a drink
- Experience time with other children tolerating delays and taking turns
- Listen to stories and sing songs/rhymes
- Follow simple instructions e.g. Get your shoes please
- Using manners-never underestimate the power of 'Please' and 'Thankyou'
- Drinking out of age appropriate cups

