

A decorative border made of many colorful handprints in various colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red, purple) arranged in a circular pattern around the edges of the page.

# Welcome to Simonside

We are delighted to be working with you and your child in what will be a new and exciting stage in their development.

We aim to provide you with a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which you and your child feel safe and secure.

Please feel confident that we are working to give your child the very best start in their early learning and we welcome you to support us on that special journey.

## **Nursery Welcome Booklet**

### **2019 - 2020**

## How can I help my child before they start Nursery?



Please help your child to confidently go to the toilet by themselves. If your child is likely to have the odd accident, please bring a change of underwear and clothes to leave on their peg. If school have to provide a change of clothes, we ask that they are returned within one week, washed and dried.

Please help your child to put on their own coat and shoes.

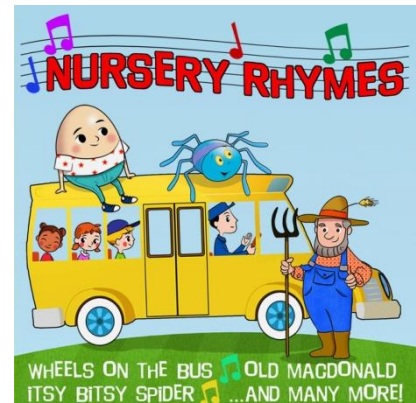


## Nursery Rhymes and Songs

Here are a list of the nursery rhymes and songs that we sing with the children. You could develop their confidence by singing them at home too.

### Nursery Rhymes

Hickory Dickory Dock  
Incy Wincy Spider  
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.  
Humpty Dumpty



### Songs

Miss Polly had a dolly  
I'm a little teapot  
Wind the bobbin up  
5 little speckled frogs.  
Tommy thumb  
Heads, shoulders, knees and toes  
1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive



# Helping your child settle into Nursery

## What can you do to help?

- Help your child understand that they will go to Nursery everyday (some think it is a one off!)
- Even if you are worried about your child settling in happily, try to keep these worries to yourself.
- Make it clear to them that they are here to have fun!
- Make it clear to them that you will stay for the first few days but then you will leave for a short time.
- If your child is worrying about being left, don't rush them. Assure them you are staying and prepare them when you leave. When you have decided to leave do this straight away, don't linger!
- Let them know what you will be doing while they are at Nursery, i.e. shopping, going to work.
- Always collect your child on time as they will be waiting for you.
- Be patient. This is a short process and if you spend this time in the beginning your child will feel more secure.



## What can we do to help?

All staff in the Nursery are here to support you and your child. They will get to know you both and help with the settling in process.

## What should my child wear?

The school uniform can be purchased from:



Tots to Teams  
Unit 10b  
Airport Industrial Estate  
Kingston Park  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tel: 0191 2715454



Please dress your child in comfortable clothes that are easy to undo and fasten, also clothes that they will not be too upset about should they get them dirty or wet. Please do not let your child wear necklaces, bracelets or earrings for school as they can be dangerous if they get caught on something.



## **Easy shoes**

When buying shoes for Nursery please consider whether your child will be able to get them on and off by themselves. Many shoes now have Velcro fastenings. Shoes that are flat and rubber soled, make it safer for your child to climb.

## **Names in clothing**

Please write your child's name in ALL clothing they have at school including coats, hats, shoes. Many shops now sell fabric pens that don't wash out or iron on labels that you can put inside clothes.

## **Being dressed for outdoors**

We will be spending lots of time outside everyday, so please could you provide a pair of wellies with your child's name on marked inside them and a warm coat.



## What happens if my child is sick?

When your child starts school they come into contact with a large number of children for the first time.

This may expose them to more general illnesses. If your child does become ill, PLEASE keep them off until they are fully recovered.

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they will need to stay at home for 48 hours.

It is also important to let the school know about any illness or other reason for absence as soon as you can on that day, and each day of absence.



## What happens if my child has head lice?

Despite all that has been done to eradicate them, the problem of the common lice still emerges from time to time. If you find them in your child's hair don't worry and carry out the following procedure.

Smother the hair in conditioner, Go through the hair very carefully with the special comb. Follow this procedure regularly for two weeks.

## **What are the children learning?**

The Nursery is open plan indoors and out. The children have access to many different learning experiences in order to explore, play and learn.

### **Creative**

This space encourages creativity through painting, printing, model making, glueing, collage and drawing. Children will use a variety of techniques and materials and are encouraged to do this independently and with their own ideas.

### **Sand and Water**

This space encourages the children to learn about the natural world, through textures, filling and emptying, wet and dry sand, adding animals, vehicles, using jugs, buckets and spades.

### **Playdough**

This area encourages the children to work with malleable materials. They can mould, squash, squeeze, press, roll, bang, shape and use cutters. They can link this to their imaginary play by making the tea, or support their mixing skills when making playdough from scratch.



## Role Play

We will change this space regularly to allow the children to dress up and play imaginatively in a range of situations, from home to shops, to clinics, themes from stories and faraway lands!

## Maths and Construction

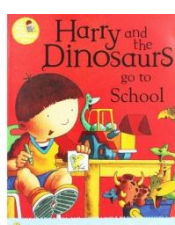
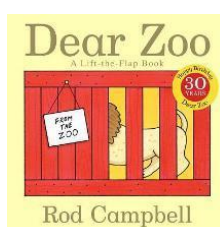
The children will use a variety of equipment to learn about shapes, patterns, small world, numbers and construction. They will be provided with a range of equipment from table top games and puzzles to large bricks and lego.

## Language and Literacy

The children are provided with a large variety of writing equipment to support their emergent writing and drawing skills, i.e paper ( lined and plain) cards, envelopes, stencils, pens, crayons, rulers, magnetic letters and tracing paper.

There is also an extensive range of jigsaws that promote manual dexterity and pattern matching.

The children will also have access to a mini library for you to share and read books at home.



### How long will my child be at Nursery?

Every Nursery aged child in the country is entitled to 15 hours of free childcare per week.

From September 2019, Nursery aged children will start Nursery the **term after** their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. In most circumstances, children who start Nursery in September and have 3 full terms with us before Reception will be offered a full time place if numbers allow and we have sufficient staffing. This will be Monday to Friday 9 - 3pm term time only.

Children who start Nursery in January or Easter will be offered either a morning or afternoon place and will usually be offered a full time place for their final 3 terms before Reception.

### Where do I bring and collect my child each day?

Please bring children to the Nursery doors for 9a.m prompt. Please do try to be on time. The doors will be closed at 9.05 a.m. Late comers will need to report to the school office. Children will need to be collected from Nursery at 3p.m prompt.

If you have older children in school, they will need to be taken to their relevant entrance for 8.50 a.m i.e before you bring Nursery children to us.

At the end of the school day please collect Nursery children at 3p.m before collecting older children in school.

### **Am I entitled to the 30 hours extended childcare offer?**

In order to receive 30 hours free childcare, you'll need to be able to answer 'Yes' to the following questions:

1. Will my child be aged 3 or 4 when the scheme starts?
2. Are both parent/carers working (or am I as a sole parent/carer, working)?
3. Does each parent/carer earn (on average) the equivalent of 16 hours a week at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage?
4. Does each parent/carer have an annual income of less than £100,000?
5. Do I live in England?

The easiest way to find out whether or not you're eligible is to use this free online calculator.

To find out more and apply online please visit  
[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### **School Website**

We use the class 'Blog' on the school website to share the wonderful things your child has been learning in class. Don't forget to take a look and feel free to leave a comment.

[www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk)

### **Open Door Policy**

We operate an open door policy and are available to speak to if you have a problem or a query. Staff are available morning and after school.

We look forward to seeing you and your child in September. We wish you all a fantastic Summer.