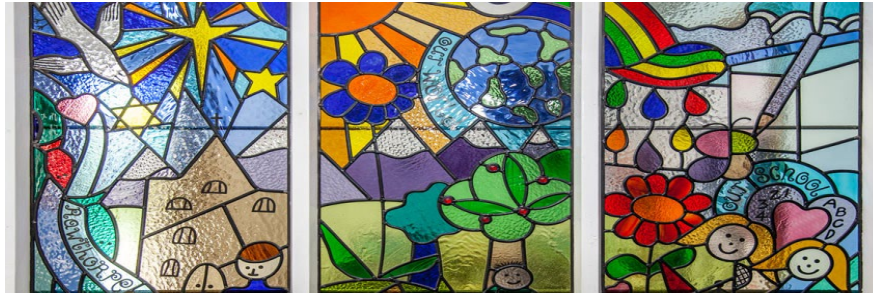




Welcome to
Netherhall St James CE (VC)
Infant and Nursery School



Nursery Information Booklet

Starting Nursery marks a new and exciting stage of life for both a child and his/her parents. This booklet has been put together to provide some information about Netherhall St James Nursery and briefly describes the aims and practice of nursery education. We hope you find it useful.

Session times: 12:15pm – 3:15pm

Contact Details

Telephone: 01484 226601

Email address: infants@nlconline.org.uk



The Curriculum - Learning Through Play

At our nursery, we believe that **children learn best through play**. Through exploring, creating, talking, moving and playing with others, children develop the skills they need to become happy, confident learners.

Every child starts nursery with different experiences and at different stages of development. We take time to get to know each child as an individual, celebrating their strengths and supporting them in the areas where they need encouragement. Our activities and environment are carefully planned to help every child make progress at their own pace.

Our nursery follows the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** curriculum, which is designed for children from birth to five years old. The EYFS recognises that young children learn best through hands-on experiences, both indoors and outdoors.

We place a strong emphasis on three key areas of development:

- **Communication and Language** – helping children to listen, understand, speak confidently and share their ideas and feelings.
- **Physical Development** – supporting children to develop their large movements, such as running and climbing, as well as smaller movements needed for drawing, painting and early writing.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** – helping children to build friendships, develop confidence, understand their feelings and become more independent.

Alongside these, children also explore:

- **Literacy** – enjoying stories, rhymes and songs, and beginning to develop early reading and writing skills.
- **Mathematics** – learning about numbers, counting, shapes and patterns through everyday play and practical activities.
- **Understanding the World** – finding out about people, places, nature and the world around them.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – exploring creativity through art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play.

Most importantly, we want every child to feel **safe, happy and excited to learn**, developing a love of learning that will stay with them throughout their school journey.

Recording your child's learning

The Nursery Teacher keeps a record of the children's learning in a floor book. These books aim to serve as a record of progress and learning in school. The Floor Books also help children to reflect on their learning and see the progress they are making. We will look back at these on a regular basis. Parents/Carers will be able to see the floor books if they attend our Stay and Play sessions. Alongside this we use Class Dojo to keep you informed of your child's learning and school day by sharing photographs. At the beginning of each session staff are available for you to pass on quick messages or ask questions. If you need a more private moment, or need to speak to us at length you can make an appointment to see the Nursery Teacher. Please pass on your email at registration to be given access to the apps.

Clothing and weather

Nursery is about active learning and this involves a range of activities both inside and out. We provide aprons to protect clothing but sometimes accidents happen and clothes may get paint or mud on them. We value outdoor play experiences and therefore use our outdoor area in all weather. Please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately for all weathers. It is really helpful to bring a change of clothes.

During winter please try to provide wellies, gloves, scarf, hat and a suitable coat. In summer please try to provide your child with appropriate clothing and a sun hat. As your child will be climbing and running no open toe sandals are allowed in nursery. We ask parents to take responsibility for applying a sun screen to all exposed areas of children's skin before nursery.

To make life easier for your child to use the toilet independently we feel it is best to put on clothes that are easy to manage and that belts are avoided if possible.



Bringing and Collecting from Nursery

It is vital we know who is collecting your child from Nursery. Please let us know if someone different is coming, other than those named on your child's record, need to collect from school then you **must** inform the teacher or school office and you will be given a password to use. We never let a child go with an unknown person. Nursery children must be brought into and collected from nursery by a responsible adult. Children who are late must come to the main school office to be signed in.

Healthy snack

During each session the children have a healthy snack consisting of milk or water and fruit or vegetables and occasionally biscuits or something sweet. No snacks need to be brought from home unless your child has an allergy.

Please advise staff if your child cannot drink milk or has any allergies to **any** food.

Nursery Readiness – 6 Key Things to Support at Home

Using the toilet

Encourage your child to use the toilet independently where possible and to tell an adult when they need help.

Managing simple self-care

Help your child practise washing and drying their hands, feeding themselves, and attempting to put on their coat and shoes.

Communicating their needs

Encourage your child to speak to the adults in school if they need help.

Playing and sharing with others

Give your child opportunities to play alongside other children, take turns, and begin to share with support from adults.

Separating from parents and building confidence

Help your child become comfortable spending short periods of time with trusted adults and reassure them that you will always return.

Every child develops at their own pace. These skills are not expected to be mastered before starting nursery—they are simply helpful experiences that support a happy and confident start.

Documentation

Please ensure that all forms you have been given by the school are completed and returned before your child starts Nursery. It is vital that we have all the information we need to ensure that your child is safe and happy. If there are any changes then please notify us immediately.

Attendance

We know that settling into nursery is a big milestone for both children and families. Although attendance requirements for nursery-aged children are not statutory, we strongly believe that regular attendance gives children the very best start to their learning journey.

When children attend nursery consistently, they are more likely to:

- Feel secure and confident in their new environment
- Build strong relationships with adults and other children
- Develop positive routines and independence
- Take part in the full range of learning and play experiences
- Make the best possible progress over time

Once your child has completed their transition into nursery, we encourage them to attend regularly and on time each day. We monitor attendance in the same way as the rest of the school so that we can work together with families and offer support if any difficulties arise. Please telephone the school office if your child is going to be absent.

Illness Medical/Allergies

If your child should suffer from sickness or diarrhoea during the course of the year, please keep them at home for 48 hours. (This is in line with NHS guidance)

If your child has a minor accident, we will inform you with an accident form at the end of the session. If your child should bang their head, a "bumped head" letter will be sent to home. If your child becomes ill or has a more serious injury, they will be looked after by someone qualified in first aid and you will be contacted.

If your child should need medication giving during school hours, please fill in a form at the office. Please be aware we can only give medicine in a premeasured amount.

For the health and safety of our pupils it is important that we are made aware of any allergies which your child(ren) may suffer from. If we do not have this information on their records you could be putting your child's health at risk. If you require any prescribed medication to be kept in school could you, please ensure that this is labelled clearly with your child's name and taken to the school office. This request applies to all pupils, including those who bring a packed lunch, as there may be occasions when your child is involved in activities which include food tasting, etc.

What does my child need?

Uniform is available from most stockists but our preferred supplier is Term Time Wear or Natasha's.

School Jumper / Cardigan – with or without school logo

White Polo shirt – with or without school logo

Grey or Black Trousers / Skirt

Red Gingham Dress (summer)

Suitable Coat / Hat / Gloves (weather dependant)

Suitable footwear

Home Learning Bag

EVERYTHING must be clearly labelled

In the interest of safety, we request that children do not wear jewellery in school.



Queries or Concerns

At Netherhall St James, we pride ourselves on our open door policy. If there are urgent issues, then please see any member of the Reception staff. If you feel you need more time, you are welcome to arrange an appointment with your child's teacher as dismissal time can be busy. Dates of parents' evenings will be given to you in advance and can be found on the school website.

Our Christian Values

At Netherhall St James CE (VC) Infant & Nursery School, our school family, including children, parents, staff and governors, have reflected upon and selected four core values to live and work by. These are **RESPECT, LOVE, TRUST & COMPASSION**. Our Core Values have been chosen to enhance and bring meaning to our vision and our motto that at our school we LEARN TOGETHER IN GOD'S LOVE, and to help ensure that all members of our school family flourish and develop on their own personal spiritual journey.

As a welcoming and inclusive Church of England school, we believe that everyone is loved by God and we strive to ensure that our vision and values are lived so that every member of our school family can develop and grow to be the best that they can be in all aspects of their lives.

This is led by our vision statement:

OUR VISION STATEMENT



We strive to provide the children at St James Infant and Nursery School with an outstanding opportunity to learn in a caring, Christian setting at the heart of our community

LEARNING

High quality teaching and learning will be at the heart of all we do. Together we will develop a collaborative use of key skills for lifelong learning.

TOGETHER

Everyone will be supported and encouraged to thrive and enjoy their learning together in a safe and secure environment guided by our Christian Values.

IN GODS LOVE

Through nurturing confidence and independence together we will sow the seeds that enable everyone to achieve their full potential and harvest their successes in God's love.

We strive towards our Vision through our Christian Values: Respect, Trust, Love and Compassion.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 New International Version (NIV)

Our Values are considered in depth during collective worship and embedded in all aspects of school life. This aspect of education gives children the language to express themselves. It supports and encourages us to celebrate success, promote high self-esteem and support reflection. This approach is successful because our whole school team are committed to weaving the values into their school day.

Autumn Term 2026	
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 September 2026
First Day of Term	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Inset Day	Thursday 1 October 2026
Inset Day	Friday 2 October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2026
Inset Day	Thursday 26 November 2026
Inset Day	Friday 27 November 2026
Last Day of Term	Friday 18 December 2026 School closes to pupils at 12.30pm
Spring Term 2027	
First Day of Term	Monday 4 January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027
Last Day of Term	Thursday 25 March 2027
Easter Monday	Monday 29 March 2027
Summer Term 2027	
First Day of Term	Monday 12 April 2027
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027
Last Day of Term	Wednesday 21 July 2027 School closes to pupils at 12.30pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 18 December 2026 - School closes at 12.30pm
- EASTER MONDAY - Monday 29 MARCH 2027
- MAY DAY - Monday 3 MAY 2027
- Wednesday 21 July 2027 - School closes at 12.30pm

OCCASIONAL DAYS

- Tuesday 1 September 2026
- Thursday 1 October 2026
- Friday 2 October 2026
- Thursday 26 November 2026
- Friday 27 November 2026

Website

Please have a good look at the website. It has a useful translate button to change text to different languages.

The following information is available on our website

Web address: www.nlconline.org.uk
 Privacy Notice
 Holiday Dates

Meet the Nursery Staff

Mrs Berry

- Teacher (Tuesday-Friday)
- Assistant Head
- Safeguarding Responsibility



Mrs Pearson

- HTLA (Mondays)



Mrs Squires

- Senior Teaching Assistant



Meet the Staff

Mrs McGrath

Head of School

Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Dickinson

Safeguarding Responsibility

