

AVIEMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

Welcome to Aviemore Primary School Nursery

We very much hope that both you and your child enjoy your time with us. We have a well established nursery with a wide range of equipment and a fenced outside play area. The Nursery is managed and operated by the school and has a distinct curriculum which follows pre-school guidance provided by the Scottish Office. The children also share the facilities and join in the activities of the school.

Your child is at a crucial stage in his/her development as it is now accepted that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years of their lives than at any other time. Therefore, it is very important that the children are given every opportunity to develop their potential.

As a parent you play the most important part in the process and this booklet is intended to give you some information about the nursery. Please feel free to get in touch with us at any time if you have any further queries.

How to Get in Touch with us

We welcome meetings with parents or enquiries about the Nursery at any time. We can be contacted in the following ways:

Address: Milton Park, Aviemore PH22 1RR
Telephone: 01479 810343 e.mail: aviemore.primary@highland.gov.uk
Fax: 01479 810980 rona.smith@highland.gov.uk
jean.gordon@highland.gov.uk

Nursery Staff

The staff work very much as a team, planning for the best provision for the individual children and then working together to achieve their aims. All are there to help and assist you and your child at any point in the year. Please do not hesitate to speak to them at any time.

The Nursery Team is comprised of:

Mrs Linda Barlow Nursery Co-ordinator Teacher
Mrs Cathy Johnson Nursery Assistant
Mrs Alison Sharkey Nursery Auxiliary

Our aims for Nursery Education are:-

1. Provide a safe, happy well-resourced environment for pre-school children.
2. Provide a broad range of appropriate pre-school experiences for children through play activities.
3. Deliver pre-school education experiences in line with National and local advice including –
 - ☺ Emotional Personal and Social Development
 - ☺ Communication and language
 - ☺ Knowledge and Understanding of the world
 - ☺ Expressive and aesthetic development
 - ☺ Physical development and movement
4. Offer parents/carers opportunities to become involved in their child's pre-school learning and development.
5. Provide parents/carers with regular information about their child's progress and development.
6. Arrange appropriate professional development and training for all staff.

In Aviemore these aims are met, not merely through organising our many excellent and varied resources, but by ensuring that all staff, through their words and actions, communicate positive attitudes and values to the children.

Clear expectations are set by the staff regarding learning and behaviour of the children in our nursery. Within these, nursery children are introduced to the Golden Rules which form part of the behaviour policy of the mainstream primary school. This clarity of expectation enhances the quality of relationship between staff and children and also aids co-operation with parents and the wider community. Ensuring contact with the community is held to be of high importance throughout school life. Links with the community and exploring the wider environment are encouraged.

Nursery Hours

Currently the Nursery is open each weekday morning from 9.15am to 11.45 am.

Holiday dates for 2005/2006 are as follows:

School Opens

Monday 10th January 2005
Monday 11th April 2005

Tuesday 16th August 2005
Monday 24th October 2005
Monday 9th January 2006
Tuesday 18th April 2006

School Closes

Thursday 24th March 2005
Friday 1st July 2005

Friday 7th October 2005
Thursday 22nd December 2005
Friday 31st March 2006
Friday 30th June 2006

The school will also be closed to pupils for 4 staff training days throughout the year, long weekend in February and May Day Holiday.

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Clothing

All children should have a suitable pair of indoor shoes for gym days in the Nursery. It would be appreciated by all staff if the shoes were easy to get on and off. Please make sure that all children's clothes and shoes are clearly marked with their name.

Illness and Attendance

To get the most out of Nursery your child should attend for as many sessions as possible.

In the unlikely event of your child becoming ill or having an accident while attending Nursery we will contact you by phone. If it is impossible to get in touch with you we will contact the emergency numbers you have given to us. For this reason it is vitally important that the information you gave to us when you enrolled your child is kept up to date. Please notify the school office of any changes.

If your child is unwell before the Nursery starts it really is better that they stay at home with you. You are the person they will want to be with if they feel under the weather.

Early Closure

Should the Nursery close earlier than normal you will again be contacted by phone if prior warning has not been given. In the event of very bad weather the safety of the children must be the first consideration. The decision as to whether or not your child comes to Nursery or not remains with you as their parent.

Please listen to BBC Radio Highland and Moray Firth Radio both of which issue bulletins on school closures in the event of bad weather. There will also be up to date information on the Schools Information Line 0870 0546999 (pin no 041460).

Each year you will be sent a copy of our Adverse Weather Procedure in November so that you know what happens in the event of bad weather

Public Broadcasts

Radio Stations request that, since telephone lines are always busier at such times, parents should not telephone in for advice, but listen to appropriate broadcasts.

BBC Radio Highland

6.55am – 7.00am 7.50am – 8.00am 12.55pm – 1.00pm 4.55pm – 5.00pm

In extreme conditions Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions, usually on the hour, to carry emergency bulletins. Nevis Radio will carry bulletins at roughly ten minute intervals between 7.00am and 8.00am and Lochbroom FM at quarter-hour intervals between 7.15am and 8.45am.

Moray Firth Radio

Normally hourly news bulletins and half-hourly summaries will carry local information on weather, roads and conditions affecting schools. In severe conditions normal programmes will be interrupted more frequently to carry emergency bulletins.

If at any time you are concerned about weather conditions in your area please let us know. Such advice is important in helping us ensure the children are safe.

Visits

We believe that taking the children out on a variety of visits is an important aspect of their Nursery education. The details of any visit will be given to you in writing and will be posted on the Nursery noticeboard which you should take the time to look at on a regular basis.

What is the Nursery Curriculum?

The curriculum in nursery refers to a framework which allows staff to plan activities and experiences which promote children's development and learning in five key areas:

1. Emotional, social and personal development
2. Communication and language
3. Knowledge and understanding of the world
4. Expressive and aesthetic development
5. Physical development and movement

The Nursery Day

Play is central to your child's learning in the nursery.

Children are encouraged to make their own choice from the range of activities which have been planned a particular day.

Activities vary from day to day so that there is always something fresh and new to interest the children.

All play activities offered to the children have an underlying educational purpose. Play is the process and means by which things are taught and children learn.

Nursery Activities Include:

Sand and water play
Baking Cooking
Playdough Painting
Jigsaws Drawing
Junk modelling
Gluing & Cutting
Board Games Gym
Construction toys e.g. lego, duplo
Building blocks
Music Books
Drama Computer
Outdoor activities
Imaginative play e.g. home corner,
the hospital etc

So Why Play?

Through play the mind and body are stimulated and active

It is pleasurable and enjoyable

It helps build self confidence

It allows the child to experience new things in a familiar situation

It can provide an escape, relieve boredom, allow for relaxation and the opportunity for solitude

It helps the child develop social skills and develop perceptions about other people

Skills can be practised and repeated as many times as is necessary for confidence and mastery

Opportunities for sensory experiences which are the foundations of intellectual development are provided

It provides reasons children can understand for acquiring skills and knowledge adults value

Snack

Snack costs 50p per day, or £2.50 per week

The children need take nothing to eat with them to Nursery as they will be given a variety of healthy snacks each day. The main purpose of this activity is to develop the range of social skills associated with eating.

The children are encouraged to prepare as much of the snack as possible themselves under adult supervision.

It is important that the Nursery is informed of any food allergies your child has; snack menus can then be planned with this in mind.

Toothbrushing

The children brush their teeth after snack in Nursery every day, each child will be provided with his/her own toothbrush and special individually named holder in a hygienic 'Brush Bus'.

This is seen as an opportunity for Highland Council and HPC NHS Trust to work together in a fun way to promote good oral healthcare.

Parents and the Nursery

Whilst we recognise that parents have other commitments we want to reassure you that we welcome parents as partners in your child's education. At several points in the year you will be invited in to the school to share in your child's work and progress.

Nursery parents are welcomed to both School Board and PTA meetings and to any mainstream parent workshop which will be relevant to you and your child in the future.

We display the weekly snack menu, all planned daily activities and the work topic e.g. people who help us, winter, that the Nursery children will be doing over the next few weeks.

We would like you to feel that you have an involvement with the work your child is doing so that you can share it with him or her. To this end the Nursery staff will always be available for an informal chat as you bring or collect your child.

Homelink Pack

This is a pack which will go home with your child once a week in Term 3 after the February holiday. It will contain a rhyme or a story which you can read **with** your child.

We will keep you up to date of your child's progress at Nursery throughout the year. You will be invited to attend Parents' Afternoon in the course of the session. We would also encourage you to attend open mornings.

Transition from Nursery to Primary School

Parents will be invited to an Induction Evening before your child enters Primary one.

A folder of information will be compiled throughout the session which builds up to a picture of your child's year in Nursery.

The profile is extremely helpful when your child transfers into mainstream primary school as it gives a clear indication as to your child's development in all key areas of the curriculum.

Information will be passed to the Primary 1 teacher before the start of the session so that your child's transition in to the school will be as happy as possible. The children are greatly advantaged at the transition stage as they and the mainstream staff are familiar with one another and the building, due to joint activities which naturally increase as the children near the end of their nursery education.

A specific morning will be set aside in the summer term when the children will attend the P1 class to have a taste of the 'big school'.

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Homelink Pack

Transition from Nursery to Primary School

This is

**Aviemore primary
School Nursery**

Welcome