

Arisaig Primary School Nursery

We hope very much that you and your child will enjoy your time at the Nursery.

Your child is at a very crucial stage in his/her development as it is now accepted that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years than at any other time. Therefore, it is really important that the children are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a parent you play a vitally important part in the process. We in the Nursery hope to play our part by treating your child as an individual and offering him/her a variety of experiences and activities that are designed to further the development process.

We hope that your child finds out that learning can be an enjoyable and worthwhile process.

This prospectus is intended to give you information about the Nursery but please feel free to get in contact with us if there is anything about which you are uncertain.

INFORMATION FOR NURSERY

ARISAIG NURSERY

ADDRESS

**Arisaig Primary School
Arisaig
PH39 4NH**

TELEPHONE

01687 450282

STAFF:

Head Teacher:

Mr. Martin Jones

Nursery Co-ordinator Teacher:

Ms. Mary Kordiak

Early Years Worker:

Miss Mary MacDiarmid

Early Years Auxiliary:

Ms Lorraine Crawley

Visiting Specialists:

Mrs. E. MacLellan (Health Visitor)

Dr. Stephanie James.

(Educational Psychologist)

ARISAIG NURSERY AIMS (adapted from the general school aims)

- **To provide a caring, happy atmosphere for the children and staff in the Nursery.**
- **To provide a safe and stimulating place where children can learn.**
- **To recognise that each child is an individual and as such will develop at his or her own rate.**
- **To encourage positive attitudes to self and develop self confidence and self esteem.**
- **To provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination through a wide**

If your child becomes ill or has an accident while attending Nursery we will contact you by telephone. If there is no reply we will ring your emergency number.

Early Closure

Should the Nursery need to close earlier than normal you will be contacted by telephone if prior warning has not been given out. The emergency contact will be telephoned if there is no reply at your home number. Children will not be permitted to leave the Nursery without being in the care of a designated adult.

SEVERE WEATHER HELPLINE

Tel NO: 0870 054 6999

Code: 04 1430

In the event of closure due to severe weather please phone the helpline which will be updated on a daily basis.

Visits

Visits out with the school are an important part of the child's education and we will try to take the children to places of interest throughout the year.

the beginning of the session we will ask you to sign a consent form to cover all such visits/outings. Risk Assessments are carried out for all off site visits.



CURRICULUM

Why is play so important?

Much of the children's learning will be through play where children are offered a range of activities, each with an underlying educational purpose.

Young children readily engage in play and enjoy playing. At the same time play makes a major contribution to all aspects of children's development and learning. It allows them to learn in a broad variety of ways. It allows them to listen and observe, to talk, to explore, investigate and experiment and to draw and test their conclusions and learn about the world which surrounds them. It allows them to express their ideas and feelings in many different ways, to inhabit imagined situations and act out and come to terms with experiences at home or with their friends. It allows them to be solitary or to play with others and develop their relationships. It allows them to relax or to consolidate previous learning or to be intensely involved and challenged in new learning. Play is important because it makes a powerful contribution to young children's development and learning.

Key aspects of the child's development and learning are:

- communication and language
- knowledge and understanding
- expressive and aesthetic development
- physical development and movement
- emotional, personal and social development

Through their play children learn to:

- co-operate with each other
- share
- listen
- talk
- measure
- weigh
- organise
- think
- become more independent
- develop self-confidence
- control their body
- develop their creative skills
- use appropriate vocabulary
- behave appropriately

A wide range of activities will be offered to the children ranging from:

- sand and water play
- baking and cooking
- play dough
- painting and junk modelling
- cutting and gluing
- jigsaws and board games
- construction toys, e.g. Lego, Duplo, etc.
- imaginative play
- story corner
- movement and music

Children will also be given opportunities to:

- listen to stories/learn rhymes and poems
- visit their local environment
- meet visitors to school, e.g. Policeman, Health Visitor, etc.

Snack

The Staff try to encourage healthy eating and fruit, savoury biscuits and cheese are served regularly. Milk is provided free of charge by the authority for each nursery child and this is served at snack time. The children are given a small snack every day. The main purpose of this activity is to develop a range of social skills associated with eating. The snack costs 40p. The money can be paid weekly and also covers the cost of baking materials, etc., used by the children.

All activities follow the “Your Choice to Healthy Living” guidelines issued by Highland Council and NHS Highland. Guidance is available from Louise.jones@highland.gov.uk our Health Promoting Schools Officer.

Toilets

The children will be taken to the toilets by a member of the nursery staff, as and when they need to go, and good practice of hand-washing and personal hygiene will be established as a matter of course.



DATES AND TIMES

The Nursery Class will follow Primary School arrangements for openings and closures and these are detailed below.

Nursery Opens

Nursery Closes

Session 2008 - 2009

2008	Mon	18th August (Staff only)
2008	Tues	19th August
2008	Mon	27th October (staff only)
2008	Wed	29th October

Fri	10th October
Fri	19th December

Nursery Opens

2009 Mon 5th January
March
2009 Tues 14th April

Nursery Closes

Fri 27th
Thur 02 July

May Holiday

Monday 4th May

February Holidays

School Closes
School Opens

Thursday 12th February
Wednesday 18th February

THE NURSERY DAY

Each day the activities in the Nursery will vary and are flexible, to a certain extent, depending on the interest and mood of the children. Variations on a daily basis may include baking, painting, junk modelling, sand/water play, play dough and other craft activities, whilst home corner, books, games, construction kits and manipulative activities are available every day.

Music and movement, singing and singing games, drama and story time all feature at some point in the daily routine. The benefits of such activities in Language Development, co-ordination and co-operation with other children are very important.

CURRICULUM INTERESTS

On-going work in the Nursery will include seasonal activities such as Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night, Mother's Day, Easter and Father's Day.

All children's interests will be developed during their time in Nursery. As part of our work on developing our ECO School we will be sowing and planting, re cycling and composting with the children. We also spend a lot of time outside exploring our local environment.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parental involvement is a welcome and vital part of Nursery Education and we hope that you will feel free to speak to us at any time, if there are any queries arising.

As parents, you know your child better than anybody, so it is helpful to chat and exchange information with nursery staff.

More formal meetings can be held by arrangement, if the need arises. If there is a matter you wish to discuss immediately, please contact the Nursery Staff in the first instance, and then the Head Teacher or Nursery Co-ordinator Teacher if necessary.

We will try to ensure a calm and relaxed atmosphere for your child but if they need the reassurance of your company this will be appreciated until your child is settled. We have found, by experience, that children settle very quickly - often after the disappearance from the scene of mum, dad or the main carer.

Each year in Winter Term parents may attend Webster-Stratton Parenting Classes. These happen weekly over the term on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8.30pm. All welcome for the course of classes. The techniques are used throughout the school and all staff have undergone training from Mr. Jones who is a qualified and experienced tutor.

We hope your child will enjoy and benefit from their time in Arisaig Nursery.



**Nursery Cluster teacher Mary Kordiak
learns how to colour in...with a little help.**