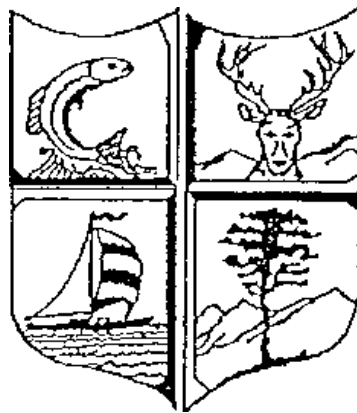
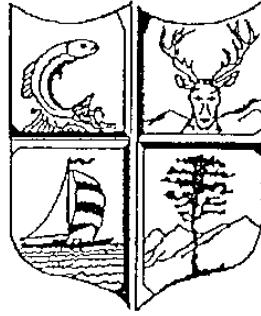


# Shieldaig Nursery Brochure 2024-2025



**Shieldaig Nursery**  
**Shieldaig**  
**Strathcarron, IV54 8XN**

**Head Teacher: Mrs Alison MacLennan**  
**Early Years Practitioner: Mrs Lyndsay Dacker**  
**Early Years Worker: Mr Thomas Grant**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Shildaig Nursery. We are a small, friendly and approachable nursery. We are very proud of our open door policy and very pleased to be working alongside you from the very earliest stage of your child's education. At Shildaig Nursery we believe in putting every child at the centre of their own play and education, and we aim to develop close working relationships with you to ensure that your child is safe, secure and happy in their learning environment.

We hope you enjoy reading this nursery brochure. It is our aim to provide you with useful information about the day to day running of the nursery. Lyndsay, Tom and I are always very happy to answer any questions you may have, so if you can't find the answer you are looking for in this booklet, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We all look forward to our time together and hope that your child enjoys their time with us at Shildaig.

Mrs Alison MacLennan  
Head Teacher

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# Our Aims as a Nursery

At Shildaig Nursery we aim to:

- Provide a safe and stimulating environment, where children feel happy and secure.
- Encourage the emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of children.
- Promote the welfare of children
- Encourage positive attitudes to self and others and develop confidence and self-esteem.
- Create opportunities for play both inside and outdoors
- Encourage children to explore, appreciate and respect their environment
- Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination
- Extend the children's abilities to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways
- Offer parents / carers opportunities to become involved in their child's pre-school learning and development and provide regular information about their child's progress and development
- Arrange appropriate professional development and training for all staff.



# CURRICULUM

## *Curriculum for Excellence*

Our nursery curriculum is delivered through the experiences and outcomes set out in a Curriculum for Excellence. During your child's time in school and nursery we aim to provide them with opportunities which enable them to reach their full potential in 4 key areas:

*Successful  
Learners*

*Confident,  
Individuals*

### **Curriculum for Excellence 4 capacities**

*Responsible  
Citizens*

*Effective  
Contributors*

You can find our more information about these four capacities and the nursery curriculum by asking a member of school staff, on the school and nursery notice boards, school website and on the Education Scotland website: <https://education.gov.scot/>.

# Why Play?



- Through activity based learning the brain and body are stimulated and active.
- It provides pleasure and enjoyment which in turn will motivate children to further their learning by persevering, overcoming difficulties and concentrating for longer periods of time.
- It helps to build confidence in themselves and their abilities.
- It allows the child to tackle new experiences in a non-threatening situation.
- It can provide an escape, relieve boredom, allow for relaxation and the opportunity for solitude.
- It helps the child to judge the many variables within social interactions and develop perceptions about other people.
- Skills can be practiced and repeated as many times as is necessary for confidence and mastery.
- Opportunities for sensory experiences which are the foundation of intellectual development are provided.
- It provides reasons children can understand for acquiring the skills and knowledge adults value.
- Play created context for language development

## Children are given a wide range of opportunities including to:



- Listen to stories and rhymes
- Sing and take part in a range of musical activities
- Draw and write
- Visit and explore their local environment
- Investigate the properties of sand and water
- Bake
- Model with play dough and clay
- Paint
- Create pictures, collages and junk models
- Play board games
- Build with construction toys eg. Duplo, Lego, Bricks etc.
- Engage in a variety of role play activities eg. home corner, hospital, shop etc.
- Take part in physical play and games





## Nursery Enrolment:

This takes place at the school in February/March. Parents will be notified of dates by way of the local press and from the school. More information on nursery enrolment and all the necessary forms can be found at: [www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment](http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolenrolment) .

We can accept enrolment from children as soon as they turn 3 years of age. If you would like your child to attend nursery before they are entitled to their funded place, please contact the school and we will be happy to provide further information.

## Nursery Hours

We are offering 1140 hours of nursery, Monday to Friday from 9am - 3pm. Parents can choose how they use our nursery within those hours.

Please could all children be brought to the nursery and collected by an adult. If collection arrangements change during the course of the session, please can you contact the school to let them know.



## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**



### **Attendance and Illness**

It can be a difficult decision to keep your child off nursery due to ill health especially when many children feel they want to come anyway. However, it is important that children do not come if they are unwell so that infections do not spread to other children or the staff. If your child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea, please be aware that they must be clear of these symptoms for 48 hours before coming back to nursery. It is important on occasions that children will not be in nursery, for whatever reason, that you contact the school office to let us know. This ensures the safety of the children. If your child becomes ill, or has an accident while attending the nursery, we will contact you by telephone. If there is no reply we will ring your emergency contact number. Please ensure these are always up-to-date e.g. if mobile numbers change during the year.

### **Early Closure / Adverse Weather**

Should the nursery need to close earlier than normal you will be contacted by telephone if prior warning has not been given out. Please ensure your details are always up to date and any changes are given to the Office. In the morning, if there is extreme weather parents should contact the Schools Information Line on 0800 564 2272 + the school's PIN 04 2940 where they will then hear a recorded message informing them of any closures. They can also access the winter weather website at the following web address:

<https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures>. Please click on the relevant geographical area for local school closure information. Parents can also listen to local radio stations which will report any closures due to adverse weather.

**NOT COMING IN?**

**CHANGE OF PLANS?**

**LET US KNOW . . . .**

**Please do not use facebook to notify the school of absences – thank you.**



## **Nursery Term Dates 2024 - 2025**

### **Autumn**

Autumn term starts - 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Autumn term ends - 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### **Winter**

Winter term starts - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Winter term ends - 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Spring**

Spring term starts - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **Mid-term break - 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Spring term ends - 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### **Summer**

Summer term begins - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Summer term ends - 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

### **Public holidays**

**May Day - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

### **In-service days**

- 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024
- 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025



# What to Bring?



## Clothing.

The children should come to nursery in comfortable play clothes and bring a suitable pair of indoor shoes. Please make sure that all the children's shoes and clothes are labelled clearly with the child's name. As learning opportunities outside are given daily, we ask that the children always come prepared for the weather e.g. warm waterproof jacket, sunscreen on. Highland weather means that the school grounds are often wet. A pair of wellies for outdoor play each day is a great idea! We now have waterproof suits for every child.

## Toileting.

We understand that in some cases young children are not quite independent when it comes to toileting or may still be in nappies/ training pants. Please, let us know as soon as possible if this is the case so that we can discuss the best way of supporting your child with this. At all times, the child's dignity and privacy will be ensured and consent for personal care is sought. As far as possible we ask you help by keeping fastenings on clothes very simple and to the minimum. If children have zips or buttons on trousers, please practise with them so that they can tie these unaided. In this way, we can help the children to become independent. Children of this age often have little accidents. Please provide a labelled bag full of spare clothes to be kept on your child's peg in case they need to be changed.

## Snack and Lunch

A healthy snack is provided free of charge every day and usually consists of milk/water to drink and fruit, toast or crackers. Children will be given the opportunity to help with the preparation of snacks. This time is also used to encourage independence, social skills, healthy eating and cultural awareness. Baking is also regularly completed with the children. If your child has any allergies please be sure to let the nursery staff know.

Since 2022 Nursery Children are entitled to have a free school meal. The children have their lunch in the designated area in the Nursery.

## **Cluster Arrangements.**

Shieldaig Primary is currently part of cluster arrangement with Auchtertyre Primary School. This means that the school 'shares' a non-class committed Head Teacher whose time is divided between the two schools. This arrangement has allowed the school to have dedicated teaching staff that are fully focused on providing high quality education to the children in the school. The two schools work closely together to the benefit of staff, children and the community.

## **Links with other centres.**

We currently have good, strong links with other centres. We also take part in events organised by the schools feeding into Gairloch High School. Recently this has included attendance at shows and workshops. We value these links as they provide opportunities for our small group of children to socialise with others.

## **Visits**

Visits are an important aspect of life in the nursery. The details of any visit will be given to you in writing and your written consent will be asked for. On all visits children will be accompanied by an adequate number of adults. We will also ask you to sign a consent form annually for times when your child leaves the school grounds for walks and visits to places of interest in the village.

We also like to invite people into the nursery to share their skills and knowledge with the children. This gives the children opportunities to broaden their horizons and interact with other adults. The children recently enjoyed a visit from Safe Strong and Free. The Oral Hygienist and Health Visitor are also regular visitors to nursery.

# GET TO KNOW US

You are more than welcome to come and have a look around the nursery and Shieldaig Primary School before your child starts to see the kind of activities your child will be involved with and the environment in which they will play and learn. Once you have made a decision and enrolled your child, you and your child will be offered play and stay sessions alongside others joining the nursery. These will give your child a chance to familiarise him/herself with the nursery, staff and the other children. You are welcome to stay for all or part of these sessions. Details about these sessions will be given or sent to you and are completely flexible to allow you and your child to build confidence and relationships.



## TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

Children normally spend up to two years in nursery and will then transfer into school as a P1. Nursery work closely with school throughout the year taking part in activities alongside the older children e.g.: joining in at breaks, assembly, performances, World Book Day activities, the Big Bird Watch, Christmas play etc. In this way nursery children are made to feel part of Shieldaig Primary School from the very start. In the Summer Term before children transfer into school the teacher will spend time in the Nursery and the children will go through to the classroom too. The younger primary children will work alongside the nursery children on a shared learning topic. The children's 'Profiles' are shared and discussed with the class teacher so that learning targets and other information about the children are clear.



### NURSERY PROFILES

You are always very welcome to come in to nursery to see how your child is progressing. Each child has a file called their 'learning profile'. Examples of the children's work is contained within these files, including observations, comments and photographs. Every child also works towards personal targets. These will be discussed and shared with you on a regular basis.

### NEWSLETTERS

News updates are regularly emailed.

### PARENT Play and Stay Sessions

Parents will be invited to play and stay sessions once a term where they can see their children in the setting and will have an opportunity to speak with Mrs Dacker and/or Mr Grant. We operate an open door policy, and informal discussions take place before and after the nursery session on a daily basis.

### HEALTH VISITOR

The Health Visitor is the Named Person for your child until they enter school. If you want to get in touch please call 01463 702617

### CHILD PROTECTION

The school follows the national strategy known as 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC). Getting It Right places children's and young people's needs first and provides co-ordinated help where this is required. Services involved could be Social Work, Health and Police. The named person with overall responsibility is the Health Visitor, but all nursery staff have had training in GIRFEC and are aware of their role in supporting children. Copies of Child Protection policies are available from the school office or online at

[https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare\\_and\\_family\\_care/438/child\\_protection](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1361/childcare_and_family_care/438/child_protection)

## COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

We hope you will enjoy your child's time at our nursery and welcome comments or suggestions, which could help us to improve our service. However, we are aware that difficulties can occur from time to time and if you feel you have reason to complain, then please follow the procedure outlined below. Please use the open door policy and speak to the person in charge of the nursery, either at the beginning or end of a nursery session. If you prefer, an appointment can be made to speak to the Early Years Practitioner in private. It will then, in consultation with the parents/carers, be decided if the matter needs to be taken further, in which case, the Head Teacher will be informed and a meeting arranged.

From here, if necessary, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Care and Learning Manager who will decide what the next steps should be. Parents will be kept fully informed at each stage and will be invited to attend any meetings being held. Should you feel unable to speak to the person in charge of the nursery, please make an appointment to speak directly with the Head Teacher.

Care and Learning Manager  
FAO: Ms. Mhairi MacDonald  
Fingal Centre,  
Viewfield Road,  
Portree  
Isle of Skye  
IV51 9ET  
Tel: 01478 613697

### SCSWIS:

The Nursery is regulated by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS)

Web site: [www.scswis.com](http://www.scswis.com)

e-mail: [enquiries@scswis.com](mailto:enquiries@scswis.com)

Telephone: 08456009527

WANT TO SEE OUR LAST INSPECTION REPORT? GO TO ...  
<http://www.careinspectorate.com/>





## VOLUNTEER

We welcome volunteers, but all volunteers in school and nursery must have a police disclosure check to ensure the safety of your child. If you would like to help out in nursery, please speak to a member of staff and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

## PARENT COUNCIL

It's never too soon to join the Parent Council once your child attends nursery or school. Please do get in touch with school or Parent Council members if you are interested.

