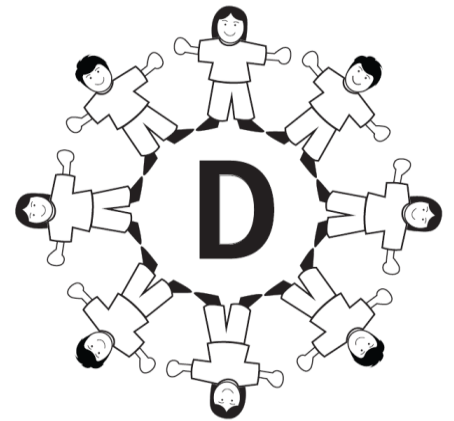


Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School

Information booklet
for Parents and Carers of children in
Foundation Stage 1 - Nursery
2025-26



Welcome to Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School

May we offer you a very warm welcome to Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School. Your child will receive the best teaching, love, care and attention during their time here.

Our School

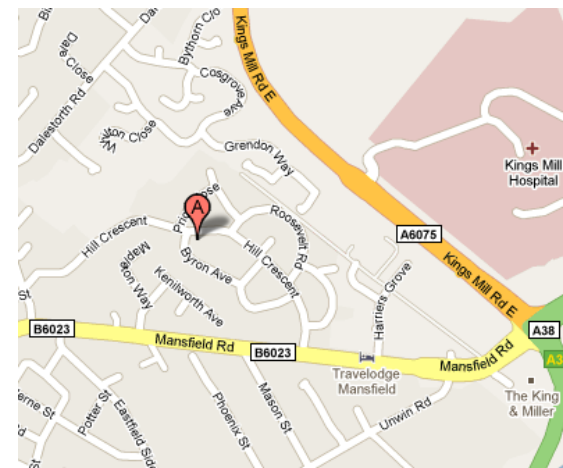
Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School
Hill Crescent
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Notts
NG17 4JA



Telephone:	Main office 01623 459339
Head Teacher:	Mr C Robertson
Deputy Head:	Mrs H Claxton
Chair of Governors:	Mrs J Wain

Type of School: Community Co-educational Day School for children aged 3-11

We are here.....



Welcome to Dalestorth

Nursery/Foundation Stage 1

Staff you will meet:

Mrs R Torr	FS1 Teacher
Mrs J Dwyer	FS1 Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Weston	FS1 Teaching Assistant (Mon)
Mrs L Doherty	FS1 Care Assistant (Tues-Thurs)
Mrs J Bailey	FS2 Teacher and Foundation Lead (Mon-Weds)
Mrs Redfern	FS2 Teacher (Thurs-Fri)
Miss C Wood	FS2 Teacher
Mr C Robertson	Head Teacher
Mrs H Claxton	Deputy Head

We often have other Teaching Assistants and students helping us too

WE ARE ALL HERE TO HELP YOU!

Our Foundation Unit

The aim of this booklet is to inform you of what we do in Nursery/Foundation Stage 1.

FS1 has 36 places for children in the morning and 36 places for children in the afternoon.

Places are offered the term after a child reaches the age of 3 (September, January or April). This may be either a 30 hour place or a morning or an afternoon place, whichever is available.

Children are allocated places dependant upon which catchment area they live in, in order of age regardless of how long they have been on the waiting list. Places are allocated as 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions and children should attend for all 5 sessions. In extreme circumstances when a child attends another setting for 1 session per week this must be agreed by the Head Teacher and the school will claim funding for all 5 sessions. Parents are therefore responsible for the funding of the other placement.

Parents should also be aware that FS1 places are not compulsory and therefore if a child's attendance is found to be poor then the place may be withdrawn by the school.

Session times are: Morning 8.30 – 11.30 a.m. Afternoon 12.30 – 3.30 p.m.

30 Hours Funded Entitlement

Some working parents may be entitled to 30 hours childcare funding for 3/4 year olds. Parents are required to complete an online eligibility checker and complete a Parental Declaration Form providing details and the reference number to confirm their eligibility for 30 hours funded childcare.

At Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School we will aim to offer places to eligible parents where places are available. Due to operational circumstances places will be offered on a 30-hour basis only. These hours will be available whether or not the parent decides they require their child to attend for the whole 30 hours.

Therefore, if a parent requires additional hours at another setting the parent will be responsible for payment of this.

Extended hours funding only covers the Nursery session times (8:30-11:30 and 12:30-15:30). There will be an additional charge for childcare over the lunch time period. Alternatively you may collect your child during the lunch hour. Parents are asked to provide a packed lunch and drink for their child.

Criteria for Allocation of Places

Places will be allocated in date of birth order from the oldest child with the following criteria:

1. Children who live in the school's catchment area:
2. Children who live outside the school's catchment area but within the area of a school without Nursery/Foundation Stage 1 provision (Croft Primary);
3. Children who live outside the school's catchment area if places are available.

Admission to School

Admission to the Nursery/FS1 class does not constitute an entitlement to a place at Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School.

School admissions are dealt with separately by Nottinghamshire County Council and Dalestorth Primary & Nursery School are not involved in this process. Please see the school website or Nottinghamshire County Council's website for full details of the admissions process.

Early Years Pupil Premium

Parents are given a Parental Declaration form at the first meeting. If you or your partner do not work it may be that school will qualify for a small amount of extra funding. Please complete this form and return the form in order for us to assess whether or not this is the case.



Our Vision

All of our children will be successful because they are always at the centre of what we do.

Our Aims

Our children will be kept safe and we will support our families at all times

Our children will be provided with a high-quality curriculum which consistently excites and challenges them and enables them to build a wide body of knowledge.

Our children can apply and reason about the body of knowledge they develop over time.

Our children will be the best version of themselves that they can be by the end of Year 6.

Our children will be kind and caring to adults and other children at all times.

Our children will understand the value of forming positive relationships with both children and adults.

Our children will become brave and resilient individuals who are able to cope and learn from difficulties and change in their lives.

Our children will grow into excellent friends who are trustworthy and respectful of others.

Our children learn about their community and play an active role in it.

Our Five Busy Bee Values

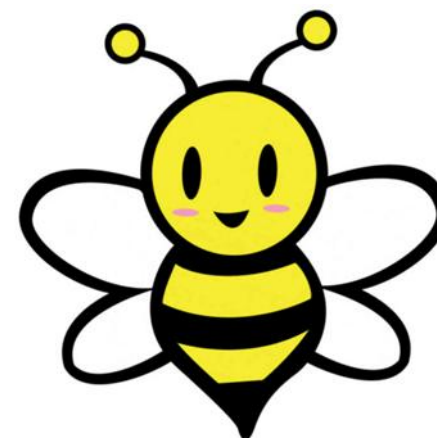
Be kind

Be honest

Be brave

Be a friend

Be you



Starting in Foundation Stage 1

You will receive a telephone call/letter informing you that there is a place for your child in Foundation Stage 1. Once you have accepted the place you and your child will be sent a welcome letter and an invitation to our nursery new starters meeting. You will also receive an acceptance of place form which must be signed and returned immediately.

First visit

On your first visit to FS1 you will receive a FS1 brochure, an All About Me booklet and a Data Capture form this will include things like names, dates of birth, address, religion, emergency telephone numbers and addresses etc. You will also receive a Parental Declaration Form to complete. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate or medical card to confirm their date of birth, also some proof of residency such as a council tax form.

The aims of the visits are ...

- To make the transition from home to FS1 (Nursery) as smooth as possible.
- For us to get to know you and your child so we can provide them the best possible start to Nursery.
- For you to meet our FS1 team and find out what happens in our Nursery.
- To come and have some fun!

If you and your child are unable to attend the sessions, we will arrange separate visits at a later date.

The First Day

We understand this is a big step for many children (and their parents) and that for some it may be the first time that they have been without you for a period of time. Each child will have had a variety of experiences prior to starting in our Nursery and it is our aim to settle them in as quickly as possible. It is not our intention to take over your role of parenting, but to compliment it. We are a very experienced and caring staff. We have dealt with many children before and hope that we can reassure you. We are happy to discuss any worries that you may have.

Sometimes you may have to leave your child when they are crying and do not want you to go. Please try not to worry if this happens, we find that the children are usually happily playing within a few minutes after you have left. However, if they did not settle, we would not hesitate in contacting you. You are also welcome to ring and see if your child has settled if it will put your mind at rest.

Fruit and Milk

During each session we offer the children a drink of milk or water and a piece of fruit both of which are free. School will register your child with 'Cool Milk' who co-ordinate the delivery of milk to schools even though milk is free to children under 5 years of age.

We ask for a half termly contribution of £3 (or 50p per week) towards the cost of baking activities, playdough, craft items and other items we may need throughout your child's time in our Nursery.

Foundation Stage 1 Routine

Morning Session	Afternoon Session	Details
8:30	12:30	Doors open
8:30-9.00	12:30-13.00	Children gather in their group for register and an appropriate group activity including phonics activities and topic work
9.00-10.00	13.00-14.05	Outdoor play
10:00-10:15	14:00-14:15	Maths time
10:15-11:00	14:15-15:00	Indoor play and snack time
11:00-11:10	15:00-15:10	Story time
11:20	15:20	Doors open for parents to begin to collect children
11:30	15:30	Doors close – end of Foundation 1 session

This timetable is subject to change depending on the needs of the cohort. Your child will spend time on the Turtle carpet with Mrs Dwyer or the Jellyfish carpet with Mrs Torr. The children may change which carpet they are on depending on needs and changes to class sizes. All adults will work with all of the children within the provision.

Please make sure that you collect your child on time. This is important as we often have to attend meetings and set up for the next session. It can also be distressing for your child if you are late collecting them.

Every child must be brought to and collected from the Nursery by either a parent/guardian or a responsible adult.

If there is to be a change of person bringing or collecting your child it is important to let a member of staff know beforehand. You will be asked to provide the FS1 team with a password, this is in case someone unknown to the Nursery staff is collecting your child.

Communication

We will use Class Dojo to contact you and send information to you. FS1 specific messages may still be sent via Tapestry memos, but whole school messages and reminders will be sent through Class Dojo. Therefore, it is vital that you follow the steps below to create your free Class Dojo account so you don't miss out on important dates and information.

Each child will have an account set up and their individual login will be sent home. Simply download the Class Dojo app for free or go to www.classdojo.com on a computer, enter as a student and scan the QR code on the login sheet. Once they log in at home, your child's egg will hatch.

Clothing

Practical clothes -

Lots of the activities at our Nursery can be messy! Although we provide aprons, it is useful if your child wears clothes that are easily washable. If your child's clothes get glue or paint on them, always soak in cool water before washing.



Manageable clothes -

Your child needs to wear clothes that they can get on and off easily in order to be able to go to the toilet by themselves.

Personal possessions -

Please keep your child's toys, sweets, money and jewellery at home, we do not want them to get lost or broken.

Sensible shoes -

that are easy to get on and off! Trainers are good but not baseball boots. Peep-toe sandals can be dangerous especially when playing outside.

Name Tags -

It is useful if name tags are sewn into coats, hats, scarves, gloves, Wellingtons and other clothing (and a peg to clip wellies together).

Accidents -

Please send your child each day with a small bag with spare clothes in. If they do have an accident the staff can quickly change them into some dry comfortable clothing. We do have a stock of spare clothes in case of 'accidents'. Please don't worry about this, just wash and return our spare clothes as soon as possible.

Absence

If your child is ill or if you suspect that they may be ill, please keep them at home to avoid spreading infection.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, please keep them off Nursery for at least 48 HOURS AFTER THE LAST ATTACK.

If your child has a contagious illness e.g. measles, chickenpox, mumps etc. please let us know so that we can inform other parents (this is especially important with German Measles as some of the ladies coming into the Nursery may be pregnant!).

Although it is not compulsory for your child to attend in Foundation Stage 1 we cannot stress enough the need for regular attendance. Remember this is an important part of your child's education and also there is a long waiting list of other children who would like to come. Therefore, if a child's attendance is found to be poor then the Foundation Stage 1 place may be withdrawn by the school.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please ring and let us know.
The **school office** number is **01623 459339**.

How we learn in Foundation 1

Play – ‘nature’s way of developing the intellect’.

Playing is the most natural way that children learn about their world. It helps them to broaden their language, to understand and form relationships with people, developing many skills in readiness for school.

We encourage the children to participate in a wide range of activities. Through play, the children work towards a number of ‘early learning goals’. These goals are part of the foundation stage which goes from 3 years to the end of the reception year.

The three prime areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**– ‘involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
- **Communication and Language** – ‘giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.’
- **Physical Development** – ‘involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive, and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.’

The four specific areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage

- **Literacy** – ‘involves encouraging children to link sounds to letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.’
- **Mathematics** – ‘involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.’
- **Understanding of the World** – ‘involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.’
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – ‘involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.’

(Taken from the Revised Statutory Framework)

How we monitor your child's progress

We monitor the progress of all of the children in our Foundation Unit very closely. This is done through observations and assessment by spending time with the children both in groups and on a one-to-one basis at times. All of the activities in the Foundation Unit have clear learning objectives and we keep careful records of the children's development.

We assess the children once a term. At Dalestorth we use an online learning journal system called 'Tapestry' you will be asked to provide an email address so we can link you to your child's profile. You will find out more details about Tapestry at the meeting.



Special Educational Needs

We often need to make referrals to outside agencies for a variety of reasons such as, speech and language delay/disorder, hearing disorders, behavioural difficulties, support for the family etc.

If we feel that your child would benefit from a referral, we would always consult you first and talk over with you any worries that we may have. We cannot refer without your written permission.

If, however, our concern is of a child protection issue e.g. that of abuse, be it emotional, physical, neglect or sexual it is our duty to refer the matter directly to Social Services who would then conduct their own enquiries.

How can I help my child learn?

You are your child's first educator and we value the input already made by yourself. We hope that together we can continue to aid your child's development in all areas. Although we do not always realise it, many of the everyday things that we do can help our children to learn. Here are just a few examples:

- Encouraging your child to manage daily routines by themselves e.g. dressing/toileting/blowing nose/putting on and fastening shoes and coat/washing hands.
- Drawing your child's attention to:
 - colours around them e.g. doors/cars/clothes etc
 - numbers around them e.g. doors/buses/shopping etc.
 - shapes around them e.g. circle/square/triangle/rectangles
 - familiar words e.g. McDonalds, Asda, family names etc.
- Counting – steps as you go up/down them, apples etc. into the bag as you are shopping, buttons as you fasten them (the list is endless).
- Sorting and matching e.g. buttons, socks, toys etc.
- Involving your child in tidying up after play.
- Singing songs, Nursery rhymes, counting songs and rhymes.
- Helping your child to learn and remember their full name, how old they are and where they live.
- Giving your child the opportunity to play games where they have to listen and pay attention e.g. games, snap, dominoes, matching, threading etc, jigsaws, crayons and paper/colouring books (try to encourage your child to hold their crayon/pencil correctly i.e. with the correct grip).
- When writing your child's name together only use a capital for the first initial the rest should be in lowercase e.g. Thomas. Don't put pressure on your child to write their name, let them enjoy mark making

at their own pace, praise their work and offer them lots of different opportunities to make marks e.g. using paint, crayons, chalks outside, twigs in mud etc.

- Reading stories to your child is invaluable. Talking about the pictures and asking questions such as “What do you think will happen next?” or “How would you feel if that happened to you?” and encouraging an enjoyment of books with correct handling, holding the right way up, turning the pages carefully one at a time etc.
- **Most importantly talking to and playing with your child.**

Try not to put too much pressure on your child, especially with their speech – if your child says something incorrectly do not insist that they repeat it after you, but give them the correct version after they have finished speaking e.g. Child: “Look goggy runned” Parent: “Yes the dog is running”.

If your child stammers/stutters when they are talking try to be patient, do not finish what they are saying for them, but give them time, without putting pressure on them, to finish what they are saying. Young children often stutter and it is extremely important not to draw attention to this as they are often unaware that it is happening. They usually grow out of it but if made aware of it, they may see it as a problem and it can then become one.

The most important thing to remember is that each child is an individual and that all children develop at different rates – their own rate. Some children will be better at some things than others – do not let this worry you, try not to put pressure on your child to keep up and most of all remember that learning should be FUN!

Helping Your Child With The Curriculum

Many parents ask how they can help their child with reading, writing or mathematics. Here are some ideas that you may find helpful to use at home.

- Talk to your child, in detail, about something that has happened during the day.
- Share a book or story together each day.
- Teach them how to handle books properly.
- Let them make shopping lists.
- Look at shop signs, food labels, etc.
- Write on people's birthday cards.
- Give your child time to use felt tips, crayons and paints.
- If your child is interested, show him/her how to write his/her name. (Only the first letter should be a capital please).
- Count with your child.
- Set the table for a meal.
- Ask questions like – “How many green ones?” “How many people?”
- Look for numbers when out and about.
- Talk about the shape of things, e.g. triangles, squares.

Any time spent playing with your child and talking to them about the world around them is very valuable.

Parents as Helpers

We are always pleased to have your help and support in Nursery. Parents play a very important part in their child's education and it really does help if your child sees that you are involved and interested in their time in FS1.

Here are some of the ways that you could help within the Nursery.

Sewing, baking, mending, painting, reading stories to children, cutting paper, helping with displays, joining in with and leading activities such as games and the computer, playing with the children in order that they may achieve the required learning objectives, assisting with fund raising, bringing in old cards, old boxes, cartons, pots, wool, material, making dressing up clothes etc.

Fund Raising

We regularly raise funds for our Nursery and any contribution that you make is always gratefully received. Equipment is costly and the yearly budget covers the cost of essential consumable materials and a certain amount of equipment and apparatus. Any money raised allows us to purchase additional items for the children.

Transition to School

Parents of children who attend our Nursery will receive an application form through the post to register their child for school from the local authority. Parents are able to select up to three schools of their choice. All applications for school are dealt with directly by the local authority who will inform parents at which school their child has been allocated a place.

Dalestorth School: All children who reach the age of 5 during the academic year (1st September to 31st August) will be admitted to school at the beginning of the Autumn Term (September).

At Dalestorth we aim to make your child's transition to school as stress free as possible so we arrange for them to visit their new teacher/class as often as possible. Children usually have at least one visit to school before starting officially. We also spend a lot of time in school using the hall for singing, P.E., etc. so that the children get used to being in the school.

Please Note:

If a child attends in Foundation 1 it does not automatically entitle them to a place in school.