

Ashleigh Nursery



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Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the best support to help them reach their full potential!

Nursery Team

	
Mrs Lauren Ellero Nursery Teacher	Mrs Penny Cowdry Nursery TA
	
Mrs Cherill McPherson Nursery TA	Mrs Gemma Roberts Nursery TA
	
Miss Justine Scott Nursery TA	Mrs Chloe Sharp Nursery TA
	
Mrs Jen Miller Early Years Leader & Assistant Headteacher	

Ashleigh Nursery

Welcome to our Nursery at Ashleigh Primary School! We look forward to getting to know you, working with you and for your child having an exciting, happy and inspiring year with us!

This brochure should help answer any queries you have as well as give you some insight into what takes place within our Nursery. If you have any further questions, then please do get in touch with us.



Facilities

Our Nursery has its own entrance with two welcoming indoor classrooms and a big natural outdoor classroom which is all part of our farm here at Ashleigh. The Nursery is well resourced with a wide range of play equipment and learning resources, both indoors and out. The children enjoy exploring and investigating in the large sand pit and getting messy in our digging area and mud kitchen, amongst many other things! We have beautiful, established trees which the children watch with interest as they change across the seasons. We have outdoor canopies that provide shelter and our very own 'Boot Room' to keep our wellies and outdoor clothes in. We have our own access onto the school field offering opportunities to explore Ashleigh Farm further and to go to Forest School. We enjoy planting and growing things in our outdoor classroom and often use them in our own cooking!

Aims of our Nursery

At Ashleigh we aim to provide high quality education in a happy, safe, inclusive and caring environment where every individual is valued. The Nursery follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Personalised learning is ensured through careful observations and appraisal of each child's on-going development.

Our Nursery aims;

- Feel happy, safe and secure
- Develop self-esteem and self-confidence
- Become interested and inquisitive learners
- Develop a sense of independence
- Develop positive relationships
- Develop the skills to think critically
- Develop learning skills - perseverance, collaboration and questioning

It is recognised that a child's experience in the Early Years has a major impact on their future life chances. At Ashleigh we support the children to develop their skills and knowledge through stimulating and challenging activities. The children have opportunities to explore, experiment, express themselves, solve problems, make decisions, collaborate, reflect and negotiate.

The role of parents in their child's development is crucial and we love to work in partnership with parents and carers to support the children's learning journey together. The activities and opportunities you give your child at home play a vital role in their learning. We build on this learning through strong home school links.

We value and actively encourage partnership with our parents through 'stay and play' sessions, activity events and regular learning updates, communication and Nursery information. We actively encourage home contributions in your child's learning story on Tapestry online.

Staffing & the role of the adult

Ashleigh Nursery is staffed by highly qualified and experienced Early Years Teachers and Teaching Assistants. At times students working towards a recognised qualification such as NVQs or diplomas are a valuable addition to the Nursery team.

Mrs Ellero is the teacher for all children in our Nursery. As well as this, each child is designated a member of Nursery staff as their own key person. The key person has special responsibilities for working with a small number of children. This is to ensure that individual needs are met thoughtfully through reflective practice; however, do feel free to speak to any one of us at any time as we all get to know the children equally.

We are part of Ashleigh School and enjoy sharing learning and special events across the school. Please see the school brochure for further school information, policies and procedures and the school's weekly newsletter for important dates and events.

The role of the adult is crucial in Nursery. They play a key role in supporting, engaging and extending the children's development and learning. We create interesting and purposeful opportunities, in an exciting environment. We value working collaboratively with parents.



Early Years funding

The universal entitlement for all 3 and 4-year-olds of 15 hours a week (5 sessions per week) for 38 weeks of the year is available to every child. You do not need to apply for this funding. Each term we will issue every family with an Early Years Claim form.

Working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds may be entitled to **30 hours** of funded childcare and early education per week, for 38 weeks of the year if certain criteria is met. This is known as the Extended Offer. Ashleigh Nursery will be offering 30 funded hours to working parents who qualify for the additional hours.

You can claim the 30 hours entitlement from the claim period after your child's third birthday, provided a 30-hour code is obtained from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Claim periods start on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September. You must apply before the claim period starts.

You will continue to receive 30 hours funded early education and childcare throughout the year, if your code remains valid.

Parents and carers can check funding options and apply for funding on the following websites:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> and <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/>

Nursery session times and charges

At Ashleigh we are delighted to offer a wide range of session times. The funded Nursery session hours are between 8:30 to 11:30am, and 12:15 to 3:15pm. Additional Nursery unfunded hours will be charged at a rate of £4.66 per hour where applicable. All other times are wrap-around care which are **not** included within the funded hour's offer (these are only available to use in the Nursery sessions) and will be charged for as follows:

Time	Session	Charge
7:40-8:30am	Breakfast Club	£3.50 per session (breakfast provided)
8:30-11:30am	Nursery am session	£4.66 per hour if in addition to funded hours
11:30am-12:15pm	Lunch Session	£3.50 per session
	School Lunch	£1.65 ordered online
	Home Packed	No charge
12:15 – 3:15pm	Nursery pm session	£4.66 per hour if in addition to funded hours
3:15-5:00pm	After School Club	£9.00 per session (meal provided)
3:15-6:00pm	After School Club	£10.50 per session (meal provided)

Please note: Prices are subject to change

Forms for you to fill in

Before your child starts Nursery you will be asked to complete forms about your child for our school records and provide a copy of your child's Birth Certificate. These are confidential. It is very important that we have a **two** daytime telephone contact numbers in case of emergency.

Beginning in September

You will be invited to book a visit to Nursery with your child to meet the Nursery teacher and other staff to discuss your child and ask any questions you may have, on the first two days of the school year. During the first weeks of Nursery we will work closely with you to support your child's transition into Nursery. Our aim is of course to establish warm relationships with the children and their families so that you feel at ease, and your children can enjoy their Nursery experience.

What to wear?

We recommend that the children wear practical clothes and Velcro shoes, as the Nursery session is usually very active. Although there is no compulsory uniform in Nursery, sweatshirts and t-shirts displaying the Ashleigh logo are available from Birds of Dereham. The feedback from parents and carers suggests that school sweatshirts are ideal.

Birds website is www.schoolwear-uk.com Click on 'The School Shop' where you will see Ashleigh Primary School listed. Click on the school name to be taken to the uniform items for sale. To qualify for free delivery to school you must enter the code **ASH15** (all upper case).

A change of clothes should be left on your child's peg in case of accidents, although we do keep some spare clothes in the Nursery. Please make sure that **all bags and belongings are named**. We also request that a pair of wellington boots are kept in the Nursery Boot Room at all times as we love to explore the outdoors whatever the weather!

Snack time

Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery has Healthy School status and promotes healthy eating. A healthy snack will be provided each day. Water is available for children to help themselves to throughout the session at the snack bar. They are also welcome to bring their own water bottle filled with *water*. Milk is also provided free of charge each day.

It is important we are informed immediately of any allergies or special dietary requirements your child may have.

Our Nursery Day

- Play and self-registration in homeroom: The children organise their belongings for the day and find their name to show they are here.
- Circle time to register, say hello, count how many children are here today and do our calendar and timetable for the day.
- Activate, dough disco and other active sessions to wake up both the body and brain!
- A choice of a balanced range of activities which are adult initiated, child initiated or adult led in our free flow indoor and outdoor classrooms.
- Number skills, phonics and topic sessions are taught in class or small groups.
- Teamwork tidy time: An important part of the day, children work as a valued member of the team to tidy away resources, taking ownership over their learning.
- Talking time in small groups with Mrs Ellero or your key person.
- Circle time - stories, songs or sound work.

At lunchtimes, we all eat lunch together and Nursery staff and other school lunchtime staff will accompany the children. We enjoy listening to different music whilst we eat and talk to our friends. There will then be quiet time activities for the children to choose from.

If children require rest during the day we have cosy restful areas in both Nursery rooms.

There are many variations to our day; each day is carefully planned and action packed! We aim to help the children become independent and active learners, taking shared responsibility for their time and actions.

The Curriculum

Children learn best through play, first-hand experience and exploration. The Nursery rooms are divided into different areas: for example, a construction area and an imaginative play area. In each session the children are given time to choose activities they would like to explore, as well as completing tasks planned for them by the Nursery staff. We allow time each day for children to discuss their own particular interests, observations and ideas; and these inform our planning and activities on both a daily and weekly basis.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is followed by all young children in England.

The Foundation Stage has three prime areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

and four specific areas of learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

It is through these areas that we plan and assess what our children do. These areas do not happen in isolation and it is very likely that, in their play, children will be exploring learning in several different areas at any one time!

Communication and Language

Children develop their speaking, understanding, listening and attention skills. They take part in role play situations and develop imaginative play. They develop early literacy skills such as retelling events, engaging with the characters and thinking about what may happen next in a story. During the children's time in Nursery they will be provided with broad and rich language experiences, be encouraged to talk, expand their vocabulary and practise speaking and listening through a variety of contexts.



Physical development

Children extend and improve their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. They develop confidence and control in their small and large movements, by using, for example, painting equipment or exploring the large play equipment. Children are supported to gain self-assurance in what they do and to feel positive about being healthy and active.



Personal Social and Emotional development

We support and encourage our children to be confident individuals, take an interest in the world around them and to be able to describe their own needs and feelings. They begin to understand the difference between right and wrong, to get along with others in the group and develop empathy for each other. They learn to respond to instructions and develop an interest in all aspects of Nursery life and their learning. They develop their ability to concentrate and work independently and extend their 'self-help' skills.



Literacy

The children are encouraged to make marks which convey meaning to themselves and sometimes to others and to develop their independence in this. They experience a broad array of books engaging them in storytelling, discussion and role play. In addition, they have daily phonics sessions to develop their skills in relation to the world of sound.

Mathematics

Children undertake activities that will develop their mathematical understanding and problem solving skills. They begin to use and understand mathematical language. Children are encouraged to take part in practical and engaging activities including number songs, number detective games, counting rhymes and also a daily maths challenge. All of these number skills are best developed when experienced in everyday contexts and situations.

Understanding the World

Children are encouraged to take an interest in different places and various events in their and other people's lives. They develop their control of tools and understanding of different materials and are encouraged to make purposeful choices. They explore living and non-living things and talk about what they see, hear, feel, smell and taste. They experience ICT through the use of computers and other systems e.g. digital cameras, camcorders, interactive white boards and iPads, developing their independent use of these. They learn about their own culture and how this may differ to others.



Expressive Arts and Design

We aim to provide the children with a stimulating environment and activities that develop all of their senses, together with a range of resources enabling the children to express and explore their own ideas. Children work with a range of materials to broaden their experiences and to develop expression. They listen and respond to music and explore a range of musical instruments. They take part in dance, role play, drama and imaginative play. The children have plenty of opportunity to work independently as well as with the support of adults.



Our Outdoor Classroom



Cooking

Cooking is a great activity for children as it supports many areas of learning. The children practically explore the language associated with measure, capacity and early fractions, experience weighing, measuring, looking at recipes and following instructions, sharing ideas, taking turns, and of course eating yummy food!

We hold regular cooking sessions with small groups of children, using a variety of healthy and exciting recipes. We ask for a voluntary contribution per half term to cover some of the cost of the ingredients. The children also learn about healthy and balanced diets and explore many varied tastes and textures. We introduce them to different cookery skills such as chopping, mixing, rubbing in and kneading, which they are able to practise safely under the supervision of a Nursery adult. We also plan our cooking in line with various cultural festivals and events such as Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Easter.



Library books

The class visits our brilliant school library on a weekly basis, and the children choose books to bring to the classroom for their topic and books to share at home. Sharing books with children is very important in creating a positive attitude towards reading. We share a varied range of books with the children as often as possible and encourage you to do so at home too.

Records of Development and Progress

Children's interests, development and next steps will be recorded through Tapestry, our Early Years assessment tool. This captures on-going observations of children's learning at home and in Nursery and therefore supports discussions between Nursery staff and parents and between Nursery staff and Reception staff. You will be informed as to how to access Tapestry and how to add your own observations and comments to their learning journey. Parents receive a written report of their child's progress at the end of their final term in Nursery.

In class, we also use floor books as scrap books to record our learning as a whole class. Children contribute to these regularly to share and talk about our learning.

We value and recognise the importance of on-going discussions about your child's progress. There are also opportunities for more formal discussions with the Nursery team about your child's development during the Autumn and Spring Terms.

Assessment

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents, carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support' (EYFS Statutory Framework 2014). The records we keep are based on observations of children undertaking a variety of activities, either individually or in groups, over a period of time. Staff regularly share information between the team so that a balanced picture of the child's achievements and needs can be reached, and appropriate provision planned, shaped and provided.

Equal Opportunities

We aim to promote positive attitudes in pupils, staff, governors and parents. The school follows the guidelines issued by the LA Children's Services in promoting equal opportunities for all, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic origin, religion, disability or background. We believe that we are 'All Different, All Equal and All Learning' at Ashleigh Primary School & Nursery.

Have a happy year in Nursery!



If you wish to visit the Nursery class, or have any questions, please telephone 01953 602410 to arrange an appointment.



What People Say About Us!

Parents Comments:

“My daughter has had such a fantastic year in Nursery. All of the Nursery staff are a great team and it shows in their approach to the children’s education and needs.”

“I am confident my child has received a very well balanced foundation to her education.”

“All staff are great and *very* approachable. It is clear to see they all genuinely care for the children.”

“It’s been a friendly happy place to send her with a real family atmosphere.”

“The best thing about Nursery is the way the children are made to feel happy and confident in all they do.”

“... very successful year feeling very happy and secure always wanting to come in and this must be down to the staff, facilities and way the days are run.”

“We know he has been happy, stimulated and safe.”

“There is a great range of equipment and learning materials.”

Ofsted Comments:

‘Outstanding work with parents and carers is appreciated by many’. Some parents or carers wrote, “Ashleigh is a caring, exciting environment”.

‘The children become curious and responsible learners through varied play opportunities’. One parent or carer wrote about their child, “she loves the opportunities to learn through play”.

‘Children make particularly good progress in their personal development in the Nursery and learn to consider each other and take responsibility for the equipment they use. The carefully organised transition from Nursery to Reception means that children continue their good progress especially in developing calculation skills and learning letter sounds to help them read and write’.