

Parental Involvement

Parents are welcome in our Nursery and Playgroup at all times. We want to work in partnership with you and are grateful for all of your input. We greatly value the help and encouragement that we receive from the families of our children and the local community.

Our staff are available to meet with parents at the end of each session, if you wish to discuss any issue in greater depth than is allowed in the morning. The Head teacher and/or other senior staff are usually in the foyer of each building in the mornings ready to help parents in any way possible.

Parents and children are invited to a welcome meeting before they start Nursery and Playgroup and spend a couple of hours in the setting together to get to know the classrooms and outdoor area. For Nursery age children, this generally takes place in June or July, during the summer term before they officially start in September. In Playgroup, children will have a visit just before they start to attend regularly.

Our nursery staff will carry out a home visit to meet new children and their parents or carers before they start in September to talk through any information that parents may wish to discuss.

Through the year, parents are invited to meet their children's key-workers at Parent Consultation Meetings and one of these is organised for each term so that parents can be kept informed of their child's progress and targets. Parents/Carers are often invited to come into Nursery to join in with special activities, such as Healthy Cookery Workshops, willow-weaving etc. We also plan performances to allow the children to entertain their carers, parents and grand-parents. These include Harvest Festival, Christmas Concerts and Summer Sing-a-long. Whenever we need a bigger space for special events, e.g. when we have performers visiting school, we book the Walker Central Football Club Hall so that parents/carers can be invited too and share in the entertainment with their children.

Many of the staff organise workshops during the year to help parents/carers find out more about our curriculum and to get to know what happens inside the setting. These have included Jolly Phonics, Maths, Reading and Book Start workshops amongst others. Look out for posters and information about these when you are in Nursery and Playgroup.

We have an active Family Learning Programme that is managed by Mrs. Wright. She runs sessions for parents and children to work together most Wednesday mornings and these often include visits e.g. to the Theatre or Seven Stories Book Museum. As part of this programme, parents are also encouraged to take on exams and many have achieved additional qualifications with us. We also run Tuesday Family Learning sessions whenever we can.

We regularly have parent helpers working in the classrooms and we support parents to find training schemes if they are interested in studying towards a Childcare qualification so they can gain accreditation while they work with us in the classrooms. Mrs. Howson, our Children and Families Support Worker can also help parents with many other things e.g. financial management, job-seeking, training enrolment, family support etc. She is often in the Foyer in the mornings or at the end of sessions if you would like to speak to her. She also has an office in the Family Centre Building where you can meet with her privately.



We often celebrate festivals from a range of cultures and religions. We like to welcome parents into the setting during these activities so they can join in, especially if parents have 1st hand knowledge of the festivals that they can share with our children.

We regularly hold 'Stay and Make' sessions first thing in the morning so that parents can stay for a while and carry out fun activities with their children. Staff vary the theme of these stay and make sessions to fit in with the topics that interest children. We usually have one Stay and Make session every half term. Sometimes, these may be 'Stay and Read' sessions where you will have the chance to sit down in the setting and share a book with your child at the start of the day.

Termly newsletters and frequent 'flyers' are sent home to try to keep carers/parents informed of all of our events/activities and we also have a text messaging and email alert service to keep in touch with updates, reminders and news.



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