

# Getting ready for Nursery

## Things to Practise

There are a number of things that will help your child prior to starting Nursery. Don't worry if they are not able to do everything as we will work on these together.

**Encourage your child to use the toilet as independently as possible** (pulling down own clothes, wiping self etc), including washing and drying hands.

**Practise putting on and taking off coats, shoes and wellies** with as little support as possible.

**Practise recognising their own name.** Write it, and others, in lower case (eg Tilly, not TILLY) and see if your child can pick it out.

**Practise counting with your child.** Try and encourage them to count objects by pointing and/or touching each one as they say the number.

**Practise recognising colours.** At the beginning of term we will be doing a lot of work on colour recognition and using and mixing colours in paintings, drawings etc.

**Encourage your child to tidy up toys after they have played with them,** put puzzles away, put lids on pens etc. Tidying in Nursery is non-negotiable, so the sooner they get used to doing it the better! The quicker they do it, the more 'playing' (learning) time there is.

**Read lots of stories to your child.** Try and encourage your child to sit and listen all the way through the story. If they are struggling try and use a shorter book. Ask them questions about what they can see in the pictures.

**Speak lots with your child.** The more speech they hear and have to respond to, the more developed their speech will become. If your child has a dummy, try and limit it to bedtime only. The use of a dummy is a huge factor in not being able to speak clearly and can have a significant impact on behaviour if the child cannot be understood by others.

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Primary School

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## Frequently asked questions

### What does my child need to wear to Nursery?

Your child needs to wear their school uniform every day. They should wear black school shoes. Please try not to send your child in shoes with laces or buckles as we expect the children to put their own shoes on. All uniform must be named.

### What does my child need to bring to Nursery?

Please leave at least one full change of clothes in school. The vast majority of children are toilet trained before they start however accidents do happen. We do a number of messy activities, and whilst we do have aprons, sometimes arm sleeves in particular get soaking or muddy!

Your child will need a named water bottle and a named pair of wellies to be left at Nursery. We try and get outside every day, whatever the weather. If the weather is sunny please ensure your child brings in a sun hat and has sun cream on. As the weather gets colder please ensure your child brings in a hat and gloves. Mittens are best as they can be put on independently by the child.

We have our own waterproofs and snowsuits for playing outside, but will invariably use your child's own coat if it is cool/cold, but dry.

### Can my child bring things in to Nursery?

Please do not bring toys from home into Nursery. We have plenty of toys and we would not want a home toy to get lost or broken.

We would love it if your child brought in pictures/models that they have made at home, mementos of holidays on their return from one, or photos of things they have been doing. We can share these things at carpet time and we can put them away afterwards to come safely back home!

### Can my child wear jewellery in Nursery?

The school policy is no jewellery at all.

### Does my child need a PE kit and book bag?

No. Your child will not need either of these until they go into the Reception class.

### How do I go about staying for lunch?

Morning Nursery - If your child attends a morning session they will be taken to the school hall for lunch and should be collected from the Nursery doors at 11.45am.

Afternoon Nursery children should arrive promptly at the Nursery entrance

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at 12pm and the dinner staff will take them through to the Hall for lunch.

Full day Nursery session – we will make sure your child is taken to the Hall at lunchtime.

Nursery dinners cost £1 per day and can be paid online at [www.schoolmoney.co.uk](http://www.schoolmoney.co.uk). Alternatively you may pay by cash or cheque at the school office. Please ensure payment is placed in a named envelope.

If your child is having packed lunches please put their lunchbox in the box provided in the classroom. We are a healthy school, so please think carefully about what you are sending in for your child's lunch and see the school packed lunch policy for further information.

You can mix and match school dinners and packed lunches if you would like. A menu goes out termly so you can see what is on offer for your child.

If your child has any dietary requirements or food allergies please let us know as a matter of urgency.

## Can I go on holiday during school time?

Nursery is not mandatory however, please let the office know if your child is not in for any reason so that it is marked on the register. We do have to report high levels of absence to the Local Authority who say that persistent non-attendance may put your funded place at risk, as it could be offered to another child.

## When is the Nursery open?

The Nursery is open when school is open. If you are ever unsure, please look at the school website. Term times are also displayed on the Northumberland County Council website. We will also detail any closures on the newsletters that we send out.

## What time do I drop off and pick up my child?

For morning children, the doors open at 8.35 am and will be locked at 8.45am. If you arrive after 8.45am please signed your child in at the main office. If your child is not staying for lunch please pick them up at 11.15 am. If they are staying, it is 11.45 am.

For afternoon children, the doors open at 12.00pm. Please be prompt, as we need to get everyone through lunch and back in the classroom for 12.30pm. Please pick up your child at 3.00pm.

If you are likely to be late please call the office so that they can pass on a message.

## What should I do if my child is on medication?

It is preferable that you give your child medicine before and after a Nursery session. Staff are only allowed to give prescription medication. If your child has any emergency medication (inhalers, epi pens etc) please let us know. We store these within Nursery and can administer them as required.

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## What should I do if my child is poorly?

If your child is feeling under the weather the best place for them is at home so please do not worry about keeping them off if they are out of sorts. Your child will pick up all manner of bugs just by spending time with a range of other children. It is to be expected and all helps build up their immune system! We have a constant supply of tissues for runny noses!

Please be aware that if your child has been vomiting or had diarrhoea they are not allowed to be in school until 48 hours after the last bout. Please adhere to this rule as it helps to prevent the spread of infection.

If your child becomes unwell during school time the school office will call you and ask you to come and collect your child. Please ensure the office has up to date emergency contact numbers.

If your child has head lice (again, incredibly common when there are lots of children around) please let us know so that we can ensure that other parents can check their children's hair too. The only way of preventing it recurring is to make sure that everyone has checked properly!

## How do I let you know if someone different is going to pick up my child?

We have a sheet in the classroom that you can write on to let me know if someone different is picking up your child. Please try and prepare your child if it is going to be someone different so that their expectations are managed! If you need someone else to pick them up at short notice, please call the school office and they will pass the message on.

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## And finally....

Whilst a number of you are 'old hands' at this, with a number of children further up the school, we fully appreciate that for some this is an exciting, but rather scary step for you and your child.

**If you ever have any questions please just ask!  
We are here to support your child and also to support you.**

In the first instance please contact the office either  
**by phone on 01665 602267** or  
email **admin@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk** or  
**annabel.freeman@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk**

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