

# Welcome to our Nursery

Information for  
parents and  
carers

NORTH MOLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



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PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Harbour**  
Schools Partnership  
A guiding light for education



## Dear families,

**We would like to welcome you to North Molton Nursery, a part of North Molton Primary School, and hope that your child will enjoy their time with us.**

We are excited that you have chosen our nursery and are looking forward to getting to know you and your child in the coming months.

At North Molton Nursery we strongly believe in creating a positive partnership with our families. Please ask us about any worries you or your child may have, however small they may seem. You can let us know if you have any queries or questions at any time.

In this booklet we have included some important information about starting in Nursery which you might like to keep

for reference. Please read it carefully before your child starts with us.

You can find more information about the nursery on our school website.

We look forward to working with you and your child to make the time spent in Nursery both happy and rewarding.

**Emily Archer**

*EY Lead Teacher, North Molton Primary School*





## Meet the team

### Mr Pennington

Acting Headteacher

### Miss Archer

Early Years Lead Teacher & Nursery  
SENDCo

### Mrs Gear

Lead Administrator

### Early Years Assistants

Miss Cooper

Mrs Huxtable

Mrs Bendle

Ms Hunt



# All About North Molton Nursery

Set on the edge of Exmoor National Park, our Nursery is a truly wonderful, bespoke space for young children to explore, investigate and discover through play. The Nursery is a caring, friendly and nurturing environment where children are immersed in a language rich curriculum.

Our Nursery is the very first part of a child's journey at North Molton Primary School with the children enjoying the learning environment as part of the Early Years Unit with our Reception children. This enables our children to transition seamlessly into statutory school when they start in Reception.

Our unit is well equipped including a covered outside play area and access to the school playing field.

We have a dedicated and experienced team of Early Years professionals who support children to be happy and confident, eager to explore with independent and enquiring minds. Every day is a brand-new opportunity to 'Love Learning and Learn Well'.





## Our Day

### Our Session Timings:

Morning Session (3 hours): 8:50 to 11:50 (including snack time)

Afternoon Session (3 hours): 11:50 to 15:00 (including lunch time)

All day Session (6 hours): 8:50 - 15:00

Nursery children are welcome to attend the breakfast club from 8am which takes place in our school hall. Otherwise, nursery children and their parents/carers are met at the playground or top gate by a member of the Early Years team.

During each session, there are opportunities for adult-led and child-initiated activities with a good balance of time being spent indoors and outdoors. Nursery children and staff are frequently found exploring our school field. Nursery children also make use of the school hall for physical development activities.

**0800** Breakfast club.

**0850** The children are welcomed at the side door of the classroom

**0855** The session begins. This session consists of:

- Story and song time
- Adult led & Child initiated activities
- Individual story time

**1000** Snack cafe opens followed by:

- Outside play
- Adult led & Child initiated activities
- Maths groups
- Phonics and physical activity groups
- PE sessions

**1145** Story & singing time

**1150** Morning session ends and afternoon session begins

**1200** Lunch time & Outside play

**1300** Afternoon session begins with registration and adult led input

**1315** Adult led & Child initiated activities both inside and outside

**1450** Story time

**1500** Home time

## Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is play-orientated and based on the premise that children learn from the first-hand experience. Learning is further enhanced through adult lead learning with a member of the Early Years team. Our curriculum overviews and any other information about learning can be found on our school website.

THREE PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT:	FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT:
<b>Communication &amp; Language</b> - Listening, Attention & Understanding - Speaking	<b>Literacy</b> - Comprehension - Word Reading - Writing
<b>Physical Development</b> - Gross Motor Skills - Fine Motor Skills	<b>Mathematics</b> - Number - Numerical patterns
<b>Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</b> - Self-Regulation - Managing Self - Building Relationships	<b>Understanding of the World</b> - Past and Present - People, Culture and Communities - The Natural World
	<b>Expressive Arts &amp; Design</b> - Creating with Materials - Being Imaginative and Expressive

The core aim of the EYFS is to provide a strong and solid platform. To aid the early development of our children, we focus on the development of the prime areas when they first start with us. This begins with our youngest children at the tender ages of 2 and 3 who access our nursery provision. As children grow and progress, the prime areas will support them to develop skills in the four specific areas. The Characteristics of Effective Learning are threaded through, and central, to all learning in the EYFS curriculum. Emphasis is placed upon playing and learning, active learning and thinking critically which takes place both indoors and outside. Whilst the children's interests are at the heart of our curriculum, we ensure that we provide all pupils with a broad range of experiences and opportunities providing them with the cultural capital they need for future success.

We ensure activities support the Characteristics of Effective Learning to ensure learning takes place. These are:

Playing and Exploring – children investigate and experience things, and have a go.

Active Learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.

Creating and Thinking Critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things

## Uniform

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Please send a change clothes in a small bag for your child in case of getting wet or accidents.

- Red school logo jumper or cardigan
- Red polo shirt
- Leggings, joggers, shorts, skirts or loose trousers (that children are able to pull up/down and unfasten/fasten on their own) **no jeans.**
- Red gingham dress (no jumpsuit style ones due to toileting)
- Practical shoes (no crocs or open toed sandals)
- Pair of named wellies (to be left in setting)
- Warm/waterproof coat and gloves/hat/scarf in wet/cold weather.



## Dressing themselves

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Can your child get dressed by themselves? They will be happier if they can dress and undress themselves. Help your child by practising:

- jumpers
- zips
- buckles
- buttons
- shoes
- buttons

Please encourage them to use both hands when putting on shoes and socks.

## Marking clothes

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It is important that your child's clothes are clearly marked with their name.

Children's clothes may not only look the same but may also be the same size.





## **TAPESTRY Learning Journal**

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Tapestry is an important Online Learning Journal system where staff record your child's progress and activities using tablet devices (iPads) and PCs. Parents and carers can view their child's journal on mobile devices and on their home computers and can make observations of their own using a secure login.

It creates two-way communication between us (the EYFS team), and you (the parents and carers).

## **Care Diaries**

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At North Molton Nursery, if your child is toilet training, has naps, needs support eating or is under 36 months, we use care diaries to keep you up to date on their eating, toileting and naps. Please ensure that these diaries are put in their bags for each session your child attends.

## **Home Visits**

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Before your child starts with us, we will arrange a home visit. This is an opportunity to get to know your child in their familiar setting, answer any questions you have and give you an opportunity to speak confidentially about your child's needs and development. It's also an opportunity for us to start to establish a relationship with your child, and hopefully means your child recognises, and is reassured by, a "friendly face" when they start.

## **Fruit snacks and lunch**

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Children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable every morning as part of the National Fruit Scheme, to support healthy eating. We also require each child to bring in their own named water bottle. If your child is staying with us all day they can either have a school cooked lunch or they can bring in a packed lunch. Please note that fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed to be children's lunch boxes. Children are encouraged to eat as much as they can. If experiences problems at lunchtime, we will let you know.

## Starting the day and home time

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Please keep to the dropping off and collecting times. Your child has been looking forward to seeing you again and a late drop off or pick up may cause distress and upset. Always phone us if you are unavoidably delayed at the end of the day so that we can reassure your child that you are on your way. It also helps us to know if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.

Please tell a member of the Early Years team if there is a change in your picking up arrangements or phone the school in advance to tell us of any alterations. We will not let a child leave with anyone other than named contacts unless the school has been informed.

You can extend your child's day by bringing them in at 8:40 and collecting at 15:15 – please see our website for charges.

## Attendance at Nursery

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Attendance at NMPS Nursery should be consistently above 95% and we need you and your child's contribution to ensure that we attain this. We expect all children to attend Nursery every day that they are booked to attend, unless they are ill. We are aware that there will be occasional exceptional circumstances that will require individual support or alternative arrangements. We encourage parents to discuss any difficulties they may be experiencing with the staff team so that we can prevent your child being absent from Nursery.

We will communicate with you if we are concerned about your child's attendance. Please note that, if your child is frequently absent without a justifiable reason and his/her attendance drops below 95%, your child may lose his / her place. Good attendance and punctuality ensures that children develop good social skills, have full access to education and achieve their full potential.

## Medical

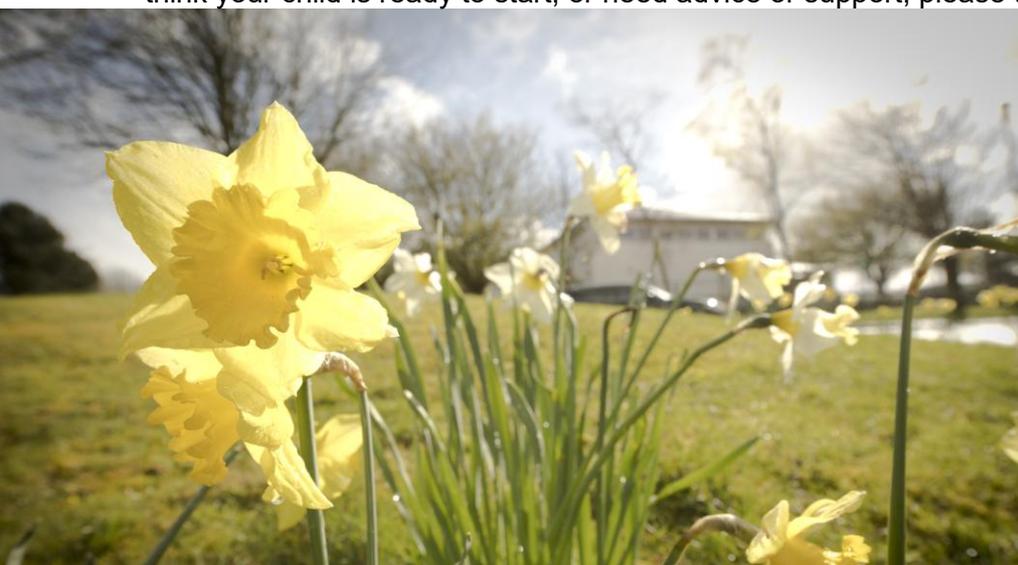
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If your child has a medical problem or allergies which might affect them in Nursery school, we need to know. If your child uses an inhaler, we can supervise its use during the school day. Inhalers are kept in a medical box and will be administered as needed by a member of the EY team. For all GP prescription medication, a medical form must be filled in at the Office before we are able to administer it to your child.

## Toilet Training

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We have the facilities and expertise to support with toilet training at Nursery. Children often are ready and most successful between 2 and 2 ½ but some start before and some need a little longer – every child is different. We do expect children coming to Nursery to be independently (able to pull up and down their own clothing and wipe themselves) toilet trained by 3 but understand that this might not be possible for every child so please talk to us if you think your child might struggle to do this. If you think your child is ready to start, or need advice or support, please talk to one of the team.



## Funding

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North Molton Nursery provides 30 hours a week term time only funded educational places for 3-4 year olds and for 2-3 year olds.

For more information on all types of funding please see the Early Years website at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/>

Funding starts the term following either the second or third birthday as shown below.

2nd or 3rd Birthday falls:

1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March

1<sup>st</sup> April to 31 August

1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December

Eligible from:

Easter (Summer Term)

September (Autumn Term)

January (Spring Term)

## Additional Fees

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All the current charges for the below fees can be found on our school website:

- Nursery children can access hours outside of funded hours
- Nursery children are welcome to attend our School Breakfast club that we provide, which starts at 8am in the school hall, where children can have breakfast (choice of cereal or toast with a drink of juice).
- Children can enjoy a hot meal prepared in our school kitchen, the menu changed accordingly throughout the year and is displayed on our website so that you can choose in advance. These meals include a main meal and dessert.

## Payments

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My Child at School (MCAS) is a simple, safe and secure system that allows you to make payments for experiences, wraparound care and school meals. It has the added advantage of coming with an App that you can download onto your phone for ease of use from the App store or Google Play store. You can also use MCAS from a PC or tablet as well. The admin team can support you in setting this up.



## Equal opportunities

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We work hard to ensure that every child, regardless of race, religion, culture or class has an equal chance to develop fully. We value a child's home language and encourage the use of it in spoken and written forms in our school. All the children are equal in our esteem and affection. We are totally opposed to racism or discrimination in any form. We avoid sexual or racial stereotyping and encourage every child to have a positive image of themselves and respect for others. Children may only call each other by their given names.

We celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

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We recognise every child as a unique individual and we will ensure that all children's individual needs are met through careful planning and assessment. Sometimes more is required to support your child in setting due to the nature of their individual needs. If we feel your child requires additional support, early identification is key due to waiting times for referrals in Devon. In order to ensure this is done effectively and efficiently we will ensure that we communicate with parents/carers after we have required sufficient evidence. This will allow us to take steps to implement early intervention or apply for additional support with outside agencies if required. These agencies may include:

- Health Visitors
- Early Years Advisors
- Early Years Complex Needs Team
- Nursery Plus
- Speech and Language
- Educational Psychologist



# Getting your child ready for Nursery

The following would really help your child settle into Nursery

## Social skills:

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Are they able to do the following?

### 3 & 4 year olds:

- Dress and undress themselves (coats and velcro shoes/wellies)
- Use the toilet by themselves
- Use a cup to drink from and be independent to eat a snack, e.g. a whole apple with the skin on
- Feed themselves including using a fork, knife and spoon
- Sit down and listen to a story (training concentration)
- Have a regular and early bedtime routine

### 2 year olds:

- Feed themselves including using a fork and/or spoon
- Use a cup to drink from and be independent to eat a snack
- Sit down and listening to a story (training concentration)
- Have a regular and early bedtime routine

## Communication skills:

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Please make sure that you talk to your child every day about the world around them. Use your native language if English is not your home language. By talking and listening to your child, you are already giving them some of the best help there is to begin their education journey.

All children will need to develop strong oral skills - speaking, listening, and asking questions to get the very best out of learning. It is also important that you talk to your child about their day at the Nursery and encourage them to talk to us about their needs as well through the day. Developing their oral skills now will also help to give them the confidence to make the big change from being at home all the time with the family to going to Nursery. Children should have 50 – 100 words by 2 years old.



## Top tips:

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- Listen to your child with interest
- Answer your child with care
- Consider his or her opinions
- Make time to enjoy talking together



## Other skills you can help your child develop:

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- Encourage them to tidy up their toys and do some simple household chores. By giving them responsibilities you will help your child to become more independent
- Help them to recognise their written name and to consistently respond to it verbally
- Encourage them to clean well after using the toilet and to wash their hands thoroughly
- Take them to the library so that they have the experience of choosing their own books
- Have a bed time routine, e.g. bath and reading before they go to bed. Read Aloud is one of our reading initiatives, where we encourage every parent to read for 15 minutes to their child every day
- If you put them to bed early they will be able to get up early and be in a positive mood for Nursery school. If they go to bed late, they may be too tired to learn properly
- Nurture curiosity in your child through showing them how to ask questions and how to be interested in everyday and unusual topics
- Limit screen time for your child after 6pm so that they are calm and ready for bed
- Involve them in the daily tasks around the home: “Can you set the table so we all have a plate each?”, “Tomorrow is Tuesday so can you bring your bin downstairs for the rubbish?”, “Before 6pm put all the books away”
- Do turn-taking activities, such as playing with a toy - this helps them to get used to taking turns and also to understand the concept of sharing
- Lots of the learning in Nursery happens through play. Get down onto the carpet so you are at their level and enjoy some play with your child. Follow their lead with what they are doing or how they are playing. Then, try to get them to follow your lead and also create games together. This will help them to get used to playing and engaging with other children
- Ensure your child has breakfast. Research has found that breakfast improves children’s problem solving abilities, their memory, concentration levels, visual perception and creative thinking. A hungry child is a sleepy/irritable child. Give your child time to eat well in the morning

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED ON THEIR FIRST DAY AT NURSERY?**

**A:** Please ensure your child is wearing their school uniform or comfortable clothes that they can manage themselves (no shoe laces please). They will also need a water bottle. Everything needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

## **Q: HOW DO I LET THE SCHOOL KNOW SOMEONE ELSE IS PICKING UP MY CHILD?**

**A:** If you are running late you can call the school with the details of who will collect your child and the office staff will pass the message on to the EY team.

## **Q: WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS UNWELL?**

**A:** Please call the school office before 8:30 am to speak to the office staff or leave a message. Your child may still want to come to school even if they are unwell but please ensure that you keep them at home if you think that they are too unwell or could infect other children. If your child has any sickness or diarrhoea, they are not able to come into setting for 48 hours after their last symptom. We appreciate parent/carer honesty and support in protecting your child and all our other children, as well as staff from contracting and spreading bugs.

## **Q: WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO CHANGE MY CHILD'S HOURS?**

**A:** Please speak to Mrs Gear or Miss Archer who will be able to advise you on our availability. Please be aware that availability is affected by staffing and ratios. We always aim to accommodate increases in hours when possible. If for any reason you need to decrease your child's hours, 4 weeks period of notice will need to be given.

## **Q: WHAT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT MY CHILD?**

**A:** Every child is allocated a Key Person that you can talk to about your child. You can also speak to Miss Archer. Conversations can take place on drop off or pick up. However, you are also welcome to schedule an appointment to come in to have a meeting.

## **Q: DO YOU PROVIDE SETTLING SESSIONS?**

**A:** Yes, every child has 2 free settling sessions. On the first session we ask that a parent/carer stays with them for an hour in setting. On the second session we ask that you leave your child for an hour. After these initial sessions we will be able to establish whether your child needs more settling sessions that can be adapted to each child's individual needs or whether they are able to start their normal sessions.



## **Our vision and values**

**Our Nursery is part of North Molton Primary School. Our vision is for our children to have a transformational education: giving each child the opportunity to fully achieve academically and socially, and to lead positive and healthy lives, moving to the next phase of their education as confident, independent, and intrinsically motivated learners. Our school community values underpin everything the children do in school. These are Bravery, Kindness, Respect, Love Learning, Endeavour and Aspire.**

**North Molton Primary School**

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