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High Down Infant School

Down Road
Portishead
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High Down Nursery School

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

Executive Headteacher
Mrs A Cowan

Curriculum Information

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. For more information about the EYFS, please follow this link: http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

A curriculum newsletter is sent home at the beginning of each term. Each child has an Interactive Learning Diary in which their progress is recorded.

Key Worker System

We operate a key worker system in our Nursery. This means that a member of staff will have responsibility for a named group of children. When your child starts Nursery they will help your child to settle, get to know your child and liaise with other members of staff to make sure that everyone is aware of your child's needs and interests.

Settling In

For some children this is a completely new experience. If your child is doing whole days with us we recommend that they start with just a morning or afternoon session. You are welcome to "stay and play" on the first session, although we do find that the settling in process is smoother if parents can leave their child to explore independently.

Lunch

Lunchtimes have a 1:8 ratio of adults to children. Please note that you will need to give one month's notice if you wish to cancel your lunchtime arrangements. You will also need to pay for pre-booked lunches if your child is off sick or you are on holiday.

Please provide a **packed lunch** for your child. Due to dietary requirements and allergies, children must not bring any nut based products, this includes peanut butter and chocolate spread. Please no fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars. Grapes must be cut in half lengthways. Payments for lunch must be made via parent pay **in advance**.

Absences

Please telephone the school office or send a note to explain absences. Holiday forms are available from the school office.

Clothes

Nursery children do not have a school uniform. We do have High Down Nursery t-shirts available to purchase (£4.00 each). Please send your child to Nursery in clothes in which they can be physically active and get messy. They need names coats and suitable shoes for outdoor play. We recommend that you leave a pair of wellington boots in school for your child to wear in wet weather. During the summer we ask that your child has a named sun hat and that you have applied sun cream before coming to school. Please no open toed sandals or "Croc" type shoes.

To help foster independence please send your child to school in clothes which he/she can manage with as little adult help as possible. Shoes with velcro fastenings are particularly helpful.



Snack time

We have a morning snack and an afternoon snack. Milk for under fives is free and will be provided. Please bring a piece of fruit to share with the class a couple of times a week. If your child is with us all day, they will have their milk in the morning session with the fruit snack.

Your Involvement

We hope you will become involved in Nursery during the time your child is with us, and that you will feel you are a valuable partner in your child's learning. There are a variety of ways you might like to become involved. These include:

- contribution to learning diaries
- staying to help in a session
- coming in as a visitor to share a hobby, skill, custom or resource with the children
- helping with a particular activity (for example, a story, forest school)

It is so important that you keep talking and sharing with us how your child is developing, coping at Nursery and any milestones that they have achieved. Occasionally disruptions at home can have an effect on how your child deals with being away from you and familiar surroundings. It is essential that your child feels that we are all working together. It is therefore really helpful to both you and to us if you come in for a chat should anything be worrying you. Staff are always available at the start and the end of a session on a daily basis.

Parent Helpers

Parent Helpers are very welcome once children are settled (this is usually after the October half term). If you would like to come in and help, the parent helper lists can be found on the notice board in the conservatory. These are weekly lists with spaces for you to sign. If you would like to come and help you will need to take your passport or driving licence to the office as they need to carry out a basic police check.

Parent Staff Association

The school has an active PSA, fundraising and social events are held frequently.

Sickness

It is extremely important that your child does not return to nursery until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Please leave a message with the office if your child is not well and not attending nursery

We are looking forward to learning, exploring and growing with your child, and hope that they will be very happy at High Down Nursery.

