



Brunswick Park

Primary and Nursery School



Nursery Booklet 2024

Welcome to Brunswick Park Nursery

‘Where learning matters’

A message from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to offer you the warmest welcome to Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery School and especially to the Early Years Foundation Stage. I hope your child's first days here will be the beginning of a long and happy time with our school. This will be the start of our educational partnership together with you and your child.

We believe active learning is the best learning. The wide variety of experiences are carefully planned to help all the children explore and learn, interact with each other, develop self-confidence and co-operate.

We need you to be active in your child's school experience and to be a partner in the learning journey. We always welcome your help and will encourage your participation along the way.

Please take your time to read this booklet carefully as it will provide you with lots of useful information to help you as you get to know the school routines and develop your partnership with our staff.

Wishing you many happy and successful years ahead together.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Griffiths
Executive Head Teacher

Smooth Transition

Starting Nursery is an exciting time but we also appreciate that it can bring feelings of worry and anxiety for both children and parents/carers. In light of this, we strongly believe that a successful transition begins by building a strong relationship between staff, the child and their families.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Inviting children in for a 'stay and play' session in the summer term prior to beginning Nursery in September. During this visit, we can spend time with you and your child, getting to know you both, and for the children to become familiar with staff members.
- Pre-nursery visit: you will be invited in early September for a 1-1 classroom visit. During this time, staff will spend time talking to you and your child, observing their interests. This is also a time for staff to learn about your child's likes/dislikes, gain medical and dietary information, and check through your paperwork and details.
- Spending the first 4-6 weeks carrying out a baseline assessment in school.
- Allocating a key worker to your child so they can form a close relationship with a familiar adult.
- Sharing assessment information through reports, parent's consultation evenings and an online learning journey (Tapestry).

Starting Nursery

This is an exciting time and we hope to make this a positive experience. We suggest you talk to your child before they come to Nursery about the fun and new experiences they will have and new friends they will make. Children are sensitive to anxiety and will pick up on their adults' emotions so try and be relaxed - 'become an actor' during the settling in period is some of the best advice we give. Each child is different and the settling-in experiences will be different from child-to-child. Starting Nursery is also a time for adults to connect and form friendships that you will be able to support each other through this time.

We ask that an adult is available for your child for the first five days at Nursery. We will discuss with you the best settling in process for your child. This may involve you staying for subsequent days to suit your child's needs. We suggest that younger siblings stay at home during this period.

Baseline Assessment

When your child starts Nursery, their teachers will spend the first 4-6 weeks getting to know them and completing a baseline assessment. The baseline assessment builds a 'picture' of your child looking at wellbeing, characteristics of effective learning, and the prime and specific areas of learning.

Teachers will capture the baseline assessment through:

- observations of children
- play and interactions
- planned activities and provision
- speaking to parents and carers
- pre-nursery visit
- discussions with previous setting
- focus meetings

Children will only be assessed when displaying high levels of involvement and wellbeing as we recognise that the most important job at the start of the year is to ensure that your child makes a happy and settled transition into Nursery.

During this time, we will support children in establishing positive and trusting relationships, and help them understand routines and become familiar with adults and new friends. On most occasions, we are able to establish whom your child's keyworker will be depending how relationships are formed.

Once children are happy and settled in the Nursery setting, the staff can use the baseline assessment information to carefully inform the planning and preparation for a stimulating and engaging environment. This supports opportunities for learning, play, interaction and exploration from the children's interests.

For this reason, it is important that parents share as much information with their child's teachers as possible, especially about their interests and what excites them for further authentic learning experiences.



Curriculum

In Nursery, the children help to decide the curriculum. Our curriculum is flexible in order to cater for all of the children's needs and interests. Our setting is planned in response to children's individual next steps in learning. We ensure all of the children will experience authentic learning opportunities by having 'real life experiences' throughout their learning journey at Brunswick Park. When children are engaged and excited they learn best, so we encourage you to share this journey with us by sharing with your child's keyworker any particular interests and via Tapestry (online learning journal). The partnership between practitioners and parents through equality of opportunity are central to this success.

Early Years Outcomes (September 2022)

Throughout the year, children's progress is reviewed against the Early Years Outcomes. Children who are working within 'typical' expectations for Nursery will be working within the '3 and 4 year olds' section or each of the Areas of Development. The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe key dispositions which play a central role in your child becoming an effective, independent learner. Children will be provided with high quality first-hand experiences and play, so they can all reach their potential and grow in a stimulating and supportive community. We provide a calm and secure environment where a positive attitude is encouraged and children are enabled to learn lifelong skills and independence.

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

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.

Areas of Learning & development	Aspect
PRIME AREAS	
Communication & Language	Listening & attention Speaking
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Self-regulation Managing self Building relationships
Physical Development	Gross motor skills Fine motor skills Health & Self care skills
SPECIFIC AREAS	
Literacy	Comprehension Word reading Writing
Mathematics	Numerical patterns Number
Understanding the World	Past & Present People, Culture & Communities The Natural World
Expressive Arts & Design	Creating with Materials Being Imaginative & Expressive

Equal Opportunities

All our children have access to the curriculum regardless of their race, gender, cultural or ethnic background. We have a zero-tolerance approach to racism and bullying, and we avoid any stereotyping. We embrace our differences and similarities and celebrate each child at Brunswick Park Nursery.

Our school policies are available on the school website.



Play-based Learning

In Nursery, children learn largely through child-initiated activities and play-based experiences. Staff carefully plan indoor and outdoor provision to capture your child's imagination, promote independent learning and encourage interactions with peers across a range of contexts.

There are carpet sessions timetabled throughout the day where the children come together to learn phonics, literacy and maths, as well as Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Focussed activities are planned to provide the 'next steps' to support your child's progress and development.

Similar to the baseline assessment, the staff will dedicate time to observe your child as they play, interact, problem solve and select their own activities. Over the course of the year, your child will have a focus week with their keyworker when they are able to explore their interests further, deepening the knowledge.

We ensure all our children experience an authentic learning experience around their interest. This could include the vets, doctors, post office or shop.

Areas of continuous provision include:

- Construction
- Water
- Play dough
- Creative elements
- Transient art
- Sand
- Role-play
- Small world
- ICT
- Literacy



Wow Moments

At Brunswick Park Nursery, we like to work closely in partnership with parents, embedding the home/school ethos and sharing your child's learning. We encourage parents to take an active role celebrating their children.

We love to hear and see about the wonderful experiences they have outside of Nursery, including special visits and outings, day-to-day family life, sharing a story, learning to ride a bike, playing a game etc.

We share weekend news each Monday with your children in a 'circle time' session. We strongly encourage parents to share these experiences via our online portal, Tapestry. This is a valuable time for children to gain confidence when speaking within the group and build self-esteem, being proud of their achievements.

Whatever the Weather!

Part of our curriculum in Nursery is 'Understanding the World', so please be aware that we are in the outdoor learning area and play whatever the weather. It provides so many valuable learning opportunities for the children.

Children love to explore the natural environment and experience the changing seasons first-hand.

We are lucky to have a breadth of space outside including a mud kitchen and planting area to encourage curiosity and questioning. We are mindful of the wildlife and minibeasts that visit our garden providing us with great learning opportunities.

During the wet months, we provide waterproof suits for those wanting to explore in wet weather. We ask that every child has a pair of named boots that stay at Nursery. We ask that children have Velcro fastening shoes where possible as we are promoting independence for all our children and laces/buckles can be troublesome and not practical.

Wherever possible, we will provide children with aprons but we ask that understand that children do get messy/wet no matter what!

Please ensure that you provide your child with a few changes of clothes in case they are needed. Please clearly label all items of clothing.



Sessions

All 3 and 4-year-old children are entitled to receive free 15-hour childcare from the government some children could be also entitled to receive 30 hours of funding (see below for more information on the 30-hour provision).

It is very important that you arrive on time each day for the start of the session. We ask that if you have other children that attend Brunswick Park please ensure the Nursery child is dropped off first. The beginning of the sessions are very important in order for your children to feel connected and informed about the session.

You must be on time to collect your child. However, if you are running late, please telephone the school office so that we can reassure your child. If someone new is collecting your child, please inform staff beforehand and set up a password for safety. We will not let your child go home with someone we do not know.

	Morning Session	Afternoon Session
Arrival	8.30 am	12.30 pm
Home time	11.30 am	3.30 pm

30-hour Provision

Each pupil is entitled to 15 hours of free childcare unless you qualify for the 30 hours provision. You can check for your eligibility by visiting the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

You will be given an 11-digit code if you qualify for the 30-hour funding. This will need to be provided to us along with the start/end date before your child begins. If you wish to pay for the additional 15 hours, the cost of each session is £ 25.00 per session (£125.00 per week).

There is also an additional charge of £8.00 an hour (£40.00 per week) for the lunchtime provision for children staying the full day. This lunchtime provision is not covered by the 30-hour funding and must be paid separately.

Nursery fees **must** be paid at the start of each term and are non-refundable. If payment is late, you will be sent a reminder. One month's notice is required in order to cancel the contract for additional sessions.

School Dinner/Packed Lunch

Nursery children can opt for school dinner at the cost of £2.60 per meal. You can also provide children with a packed lunch. They can choose both of the options throughout their journey in Nursery. This may change over time, and therefore, we offer the flexibility to change according to the children's preference.

Extended Day Provision

If your child needs to attend our extended day provision, the breakfast club begins at 7.30am at the cost of £6.

Children will be collected from breakfast club and then taken to Nursery for an 8.30am start. Our after school care provision runs until 5.30pm. The cost is £6 from 3.30pm - 4.30 pm and £12 until 5.30 pm. If a sibling attends, there will be a £1 discount. Please contact the school office to gain further information.

Teachers2Parents/SchoolMoney

This is our online communication platform and payment system for which you will be given a login when your child starts Nursery. The Nursery will send you regular emails and texts via Teacher2Parents, and all payments will be set up on SchoolMoney.

Snacks

At Brunswick Park, we strive to promote a healthy lifestyle. Children are offered fresh fruit/vegetables each day, provided by the government scheme to encourage children to eat 'five a day'. Children are encouraged to peel their own fruit and pour their own drinks to assist with their self-care skills. Milk is also provided for free for all under 5s. If your child does not drink cow's milk, you are able to provide an alternative which we will ensure your child has each day (please label this with your child's name). Water is available throughout the day.

At times, we provide different snacks such as breadsticks, crackers and cheese.

If anyone would like to contribute a healthy snack for the children, this is greatly appreciated.

Additional Information

Tapestry

At Brunswick Park Nursery, we use an app called Tapestry which is an online learning portal and used throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage. It is a simple way for teachers and pupils to record and share what has been happening in the classroom. Tapestry gives each child their online learning journey. Parents will receive a notification via email or SMS when a new post is available. Parents are only notified about their own child's work. Your child will also be attached to a class group on Tapestry for any circle time, key worker or whole-class interactions.

We also use Tapestry as a communication portal for the school newsletter, class notices and any other important information for parents.

Texts - To keep parents informed and updated about school life and events, last-minute changes, closure due to weather etc, you will receive a text from the school office.

Class Representative – We ask that a parent nominates themselves to be a class representative who will be able to also communicate additional information to all parents via a class WhatsApp group. We will ensure all parents are signed up for this group by providing the representative's information.

Parent Consultations – Parent meetings are held each term where you will be invited to meet with your child's key worker to discuss their achievements and next steps. We are also available to meet throughout the term to discuss any worries or concerns.

Parking – If you have to travel to school by car, there are two car parks close by that offer ample parking if you arrive early enough. They are located on Osidge Lane (opposite East and West Walk) and on Brunswick Park Road (behind the library).

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE ROUNDABOUT ON THE SERVICE ROAD LEADING UP TO THE STAFF CARPARK AND NURSERY ENTRANCE AS THIS COULD DELAY EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

Nursery Entrance – The Nursery entrance is located on the service road behind the school. Please ensure you use this gate for collecting and dropping off.

Press the intercom to obtain entry to the school grounds.

Please ensure the gate is closed at all time to ensure we keep our school community and children safe.

Birthdays – We like to celebrate all children’s birthdays at school. Children can bring in fruit or small cakes/sweet packets that will be shared at the end of the Nursery session – this is optional. Please note we are a nut-free school. Alternatively, if you would like to donate a book or your child’s favourite story to the Nursery that would be greatly appreciated.

If you do not wish for your child’s birthday to be celebrated, please speak to a member of staff.

Medication – We will only accept prescribed medication which must be clearly labelled with the child’s name. Any over-the-counter medication given will be returned immediately.

Vomiting/Diarrhoea – Children should stay off school for 48 hours from the last time they vomited or had diarrhoea. If there are any medications or anti-biotics, you must fill in a medical authorisation form – available at request from the Nursery.

Asthma pumps and spacers must be provided in a named container with a medical form completed.

Allergy medication and/or EpiPens – If your child has any allergies, the Nursery team will issue a health care plan for your child. You must provide medical proof that gives us a clear indication of what the allergies are and their severity.

If your child sustains a low-risk bump on the head, we will send you a text to notify you so that you can keep an eye on them when they return home. In the event that a child has bumped their head and as a result a bump or mark has appeared, we will call you to let you know - you do not have to collect them but you are welcome to come and assess. All first aid will be recorded and shared on Tapestry as well as a paper form given.

Please ensure your emergency contact details are up to date.

[Transition to Reception](#)

Admission to Reception classes is administered by Barnet Central Admissions. It is important that you complete forms promptly and return to Barnet Admissions. Attending the Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception at Brunswick Park.

Working Together

Our partnership with you is vital and you can help in lots of ways:

- Talk to a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns as we are here to help support you and your child.
- Ensure your child attends regularly and is on time for their session.
- Donate £5 per term for our weekly cooking, play dough ingredients, and craft resources.
- Make regular contributions to your child's online learning journey on Tapestry to document any home learning.

Parent Participation

At Brunswick Park Nursery, we view your child's education as a partnership between home and school. For your child to reach their full potential, we must work as a team.

We encourage you to use Tapestry to see all the amazing learning that has taken place and to upload your own experiences from home to share during circle time.

At the beginning of the school year, every parent is asked to sign our Nursery contract -The Brunswick Park Agreement. This identifies what we will do together, what staff will do, what we expect from you as parents/carers, and finally what we ask of our children.

A copy of this agreement can be found on the last page of this booklet.

Reading and Read with Me

Reading at home is the best way you can support your child's learning! We encourage you share a book every night whether they are home reading books or picture books. Making up a story at bedtime is a wonderful way to harness imagination, creating characters and events!

Sharing stories has significant benefits:

- Enjoyment
- Strengthening bonds between adult and child
- Improving speaking and listening skills
- Recall and repetition
- Noticing rhyming patterns
- Promoting a love of reading
- Giving your child a great start to their education

Read with Me sessions (Tuesdays at 11.10am or 3.10pm)

Every Tuesday, you are invited into Nursery to join in with our weekly Read with Me session. During the session, you can share a story independently with your child then take home a book from the Read with Me library to enjoy during the week. We ask that you provide a named bag for Read with Me. It can be a spare backpack or a school book bag which can be purchased and ordered via the school office or directly from www.smithsschoolwear.co.uk

Getting in touch

Brunswick Park Primary and Nursery School

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Phone: 0208 368 3468

Email: office@brunswickpark.barnet.net

Website: <https://brunswickparkbarnet.co.uk>

Building a partnership between Home and Nursery

TOGETHER WE WILL:

- Help our children to feel happy, confident and valued at Brunswick Park Nursery
- Promote in them a clear understanding of good manners and right and wrong
- Share common expectations to enable all children to reach their full potential
- Create a safe and secure environment for our children to flourish
- Encourage Independence
- Establish a respectful and open line of communication between all
- Celebrate, praise and share successes

BRUNSWICK PARK NURSERY WILL:

- Work within all policies, aims and visions set by Brunswick Park Nursery
- Provide a warm and welcoming environment where you and your child is felt valued
- Recognise and build upon your child's unique strengths
- Keep you informed of your child's progress and development and offer encouragement and support
- Be available to discuss your child's progress formally and informally by mutual arrangement
- Ensure respectful communication by providing appropriate lines of accessible communication

IN RETURN, WE ASK THAT PARENTS:

- Support and respect Brunswick Parks policies, aims and values
- Support the staff in the care and education of your child
- Ensure your child is punctual and attends Nursery regularly
- Attend and support Nursery events, meetings and celebrations
- Create a sense of belonging and family feeling for all children
- Ensure respectful communication with Nursery staff
- Notify the Nursery of any change in circumstances
- Let us work together to create a partnership that is full of respect, confidence and enthusiasm

IN RETURN, WE ASK THAT CHILDREN:

- Take care of everyone and everything so that:

Brunswick Park Nursery is a happy calm place where we all can learn, nobody gets hurt, we are safe, and nothing gets spoilt or lost. We take care of ourselves and each other to stay happy and healthy.