

Blueprints for Learning

Welcome to
Rathmore Nursery



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Welcome to Rathmore Nursery

Dear Parent,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you and your child to Rathmore Nursery.

At Rathmore Nursery we aim to provide a secure friendly environment in which your child will have the opportunity to explore and discover through a progressive range of play activities.

We hope to provide your child with a positive and happy start to their school life and we look forward to working closely with you.

If there is any specific information you wish us to know about your child, please be assured it will be treated in the strictest confidence. We are always happy to speak with parents, either at the start or end of the day. Appointments can be arranged throughout the year should any queries or concerns arise.

We look forward to welcoming you in September and hope that your child will thoroughly enjoy their time with us.

The Nursery Team



Ms N Cranston
Nursery Teacher



Mrs J McKee
Nursery Assistant



Mrs N McKee
Nursery Assistant

Our Aims

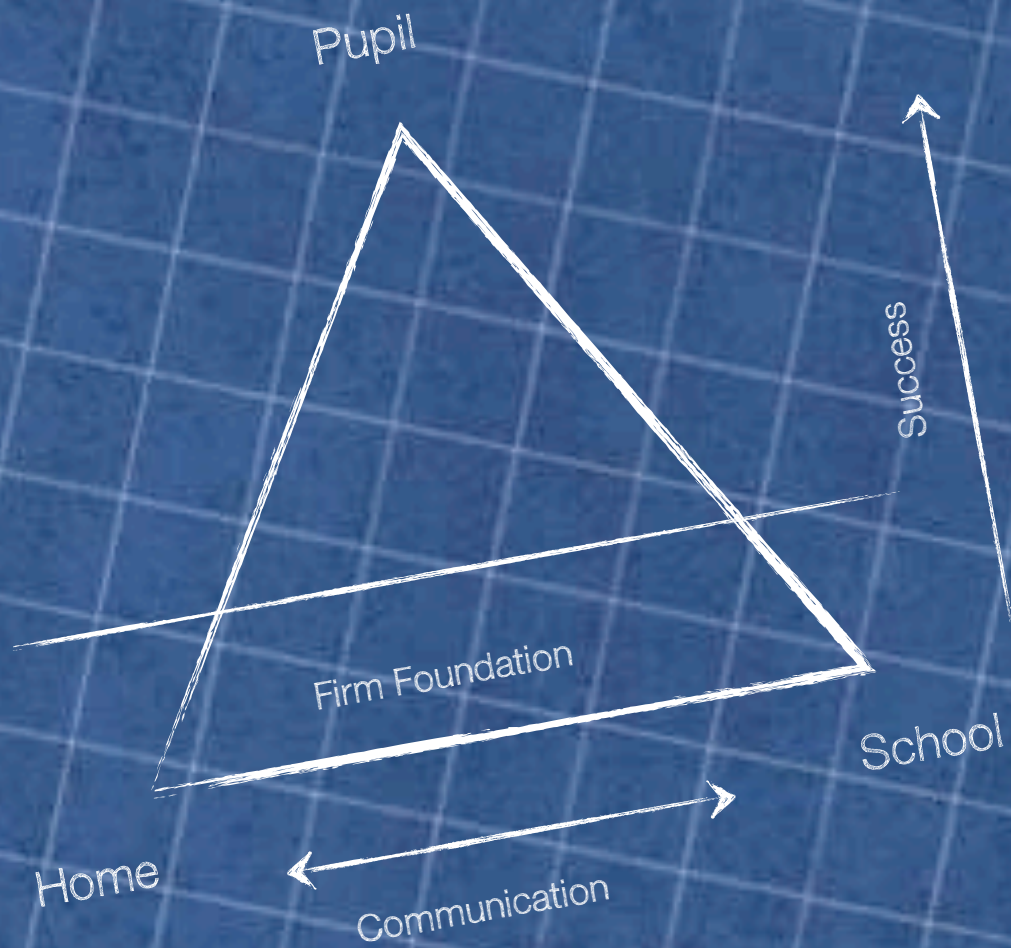
For many of our children, Rathmore Nursery is their first experience of education. As a school, we realise that children develop at different rates and we are committed to enabling every child to progress in learning and to achieve their full potential. We believe the year at Nursery to be intrinsic in establishing the blueprints for learning and future success.

Children experiencing the Nursery Curriculum have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding and to develop skills, concepts, positive attitudes and values. In order to ensure that each child develops as an individual we have a clear and focused set of objectives.

At Rathmore we aim to provide:

- A safe, secure, healthy and stimulating environment where there is adequate support.
- Interaction with sensitive and understanding adults who promote their sense of well-being and extend their learning.
- Opportunities to investigate, satisfy curiosity, explore the environment inside and outside, experience success and develop positive attitudes to learning.
- Appropriate periods of time for learning through sustained involvement in play.
- Opportunities to foster confidence, independence and self-esteem in each child making them feel valued individuals.
- Close links between home and school.

A Blueprint for Learning



Rathmore Primary School
'Caring, learning, excelling together'

Our Partnership

The partnership between the home and school is fundamental to the learning process. It is the foundation on which learning and success are built upon. Here at Rathmore, we strive to establish an excellent relationship between each family, creating a secure base of communication and collaboration. We believe that when teachers and parents are working together, children stand the best chance of achieving.

We would encourage all our parents to become involved in Nursery life.

Here are a few suggestions how:

- Ask your child to show you their art work and photographs on display around the classroom.
- Read the newsletter – this will inform you of what is coming up in the Nursery, what your child will be learning about and how you can support this at home.
- Volunteer! Occasionally we ask parents to help with particular topics, for instance to come in and chat about their job or to share a skill / interest they may have such as baking / craft / music. Parent volunteers in the past have greatly enhanced the learning taking place.
- Keep up to date with your child's learning on Seesaw.

Early in the year, we will have an opportunity to meet and discuss your child. This is an invaluable opportunity to share particular information regarding your child and often informs the teacher of any concerns or sensitive issues you may have.

Throughout the year, we will meet twice to discuss your child's progress formally and we urge all our parents to attend these meetings.

Our Uniform

Sometimes Nursery can be a messy business, so we ask that your child wears our Nursery uniform. It has been designed with your child in mind, helping to ensure they become more independent in dressing themselves. There are no awkward buttons, zips or fasteners to deal with.

The uniform is unique to Rathmore Nursery and carries through the school colours of green, red and silver grey.

Wearing a uniform is not only comfortable and practical but also makes the child feel part of a team.



Uniform can be purchased from Roberts School Wear, Central Avenue or Bailies, High Street.



Please make sure that every item is clearly named.

We try to play outside everyday, so we ask that you ensure your child has brought the following additional items:

Cold Weather: Hat, mittens, scarf and a warm coat

Wet Weather: Waterproof coat and wellington boots (can be left in school)

Warm Weather: Sunhat, sunglasses and suncream applied

The uniform consists of:

- Red sweatshirt with Rathmore badge
- Green jogging bottoms
- Grey polo shirt with Rathmore badge
- Velcro-fastening shoes



Life at Rathmore Nursery

Drop Off Routine

It is important that children are dropped off each day by an adult.



Each morning the Nursery will be opened by the teacher at 8.50am.
For the afternoon session the Nursery will be opened at 12.20pm.

The children will be greeted by the teacher and encouraged to hang up their coat on their peg. A simple signing in system is used to mark their arrival and to continue to promote independence.

Each child will be given a free choice of the activities available to begin their day.

If your child is unsure or upset a member of staff will be happy to help them settle. Each child will have their own drawer in the cloakroom, please remember to check it each day for notes and works of art!

We ask that you make every effort to bring your child on time so that we can greet them properly and they do not miss out on any valuable learning experiences. If you have older children at Rathmore we ask that you drop your child to Nursery first each morning.

Pick Up Routine

We operate a five minute pick up period at the end of each session.



In the morning this is between 11.15am and 11.20am.
In the afternoon this is between 2.45pm and 2.50pm.

It is important that you aim to collect your child promptly at the end of each session to avoid any undue stress or concern for your child. We realise that occasionally unforeseen situations do arise and would ask you to phone so that we can reassure your child that you are on your way (02891 469192).

For safety reasons Nursery children will not be permitted to be collected by anyone under the age of 16. Please let us know if your child is going to be collected by someone else so that we can ensure your child's safety.

Please remember cars are not permitted in the school grounds. We ask that you park outside the main school gates.

We request parents remain out of sight of the outside area until the door is opened at pick up time. If you are early you are welcome to wait in the reception area of the primary school. Children can become anxious if they see adults waiting but not their own parent.

Starting and Settling In

The settling in period is a very important time in Nursery. We endeavour to make the transition between home and school a happy experience. Children are introduced gradually in small groups to enable us to establish a good relationship with each individual child.

We ask all parents, or a close relative, to be available to stay on the first day if needed. When the time comes to leave, please go once you have said goodbye. We have found a routine of one hug and one kiss works best.

The settling in period is flexible and we ask parents to be guided by the experience of the Nursery staff. Please do not rush the settling in process. Remember that by introducing your child to school gradually you are keeping their best interests at heart and ensuring they feel completely happy, confident and comfortable to stay on their own and enjoy the benefits of nursery.

You will receive a letter detailing your child's settling in timetable during your child's induction visit.



Please remember it is important children attend each day if they are to develop good relationships with staff and children and benefit fully from the educational programme.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

As a Rights Respecting School, rules are kept to a minimum in our Nursery and are made to ensure the safety and well being of the children. These are explained to the children in the very first weeks, through our class charter. Every attempt is made to make the children aware of the need for rules and we will focus on the acknowledgement and reward of good behaviour.

However, should the situation arise that a child is behaving in an unacceptable manner an adult will intervene to stop the behaviour. Together the adult and child will talk about what was wrong and what could happen if they continued behaving that way. The child is encouraged to say sorry if necessary and allowed to continue playing.

Should unacceptable behaviour resume the child is directed away from the activity, rules explained again and they are encouraged to play elsewhere. If this fails they may be told to sit on a nearby chair for a few minutes, this is called 'Thinking Time'. After this, the rules will be explained again and the child will be welcomed back to play.

Should a child continue to have difficulties with behaviour, parents will be consulted so that a joint approach towards improvement can be made.

Please chat to your child about our Nursery Charter, which is modelled around four key rights as identified in the UN 'Convention on the Rights of the Child':

- Article 3 - The right to be safe
- Article 28 - The right to learn
- Article 12 - The right to be heard
- Article 31 - The right to play

School Fund

School fund goes towards covering a variety of costs including a healthy snack every day, cookery ingredients, small extras which occur throughout the year and to help towards outings and visitors.

Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of £12.00 each month towards the School Fund. We operate a 'Cashless School' system that allows you to pay online, with minimal fuss.

Snack Time

Every day the children are offered a small snack and the children are free to choose when they come to enjoy their break. We try to encourage healthy eating and offer the children milk or water to drink and a variety of foods such as fresh fruit, yoghurt, pancakes, breadsticks, crackers, cheese and a variety of breads. The children will learn to pour their own drinks and be responsible for their own dishes.



Please inform us if your child has any food allergies or particular dietary needs before term begins.

Health and Hygiene

It is very important that you make us aware of any particular illness or medical condition that your child may have, e.g. asthma, allergies, hearing, vision, speech or behaviour. This is in order to ensure that your child has the suitable care and attention that they need. Please make sure we have all details on the child's information form no matter how insignificant they may seem.

If your child is ill, please do not send them to Nursery until they are fully recovered and ready to take part in all activities, especially outdoor play.

Tummy bugs and colds spread very quickly amongst a group of children and we would recommend that your child is free of all symptoms for at least 48 hours.



It is very important that we have at least two contact numbers that we can call if your child becomes ill during school hours.

Toileting

It is very important that all children accepting a Nursery place are fully toilet trained. Unfortunately, they will not be permitted to attend a full session until they are able to go to the toilet independently. Pull up trainer pants may not be worn to nursery.

If your child has a medical condition which involves toileting issues, please speak to a member of the Nursery team.

We understand that occasional accidents will happen and we have spare clothing to change a child if necessary. We need your signed permission in order to do this.

The Nursery Curriculum

Each day a wide range of varied activities are on offer to the children both indoors and outdoors. These play activities are carefully planned to provide the children opportunities to develop in each of the six areas of the Pre-School Curriculum:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- The Arts
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Development
- The World Around Us

Skills and understanding are developed through a number of activities that include the following:



Imaginative Play

House, hospital, shop, café, baby clinic and hairdresser role play, small world play with dinosaurs, jungle animals and castle figures.

Natural Materials

Water, sand, soil, play dough and baking.



Construction Activities

Stickle bricks, Duplo, Lego and junk materials



Table Top Play

Jigsaws, activities to explore mathematical concepts and to promote language development

Creative Activities

Using paint, crayons, pencils, pens, chalk and cutting and sticking using a variety of paper, dressing up, music, songs and rhymes.



Whole Class Activities

Circle Time, Music Time and Primary Movement.

Physical Activities

Outdoor play on a wide variety of mobile toys, climbing frames, balancing equipment, and a selection of balls, bean bags, hoops, skittles etc.



Hall Play

focusing on fundamental movement skills such as jumping with two feet and under arm throw.

Opportunities to develop and strengthen fine motor skills, such as threading, using play dough, joining construction, using scissors and mark making tools.

Preparing for Nursery - a few ideas

- Talk about nursery in a positive way.
- Use the Nursery Booklet to chat with your child about what they can do at Nursery
- Encourage your child to things for themselves, for instance putting on their coat, pouring their drink, tidying away their things
- Encourage your child to share and take turns
- Practice using the toilet, flushing and washing hands independently
- Encourage your child to say please, thank you and sorry when necessary
- Read lots of stories together and sing familiar nursery rhymes
- Take time to talk to your child and reassure them Nursery will be fun
- Try to establish a regular bedtime routine



School Policies

Parents will receive a copy of the Child Protection Policy.

If you wish to read any other of our policies, please ask a member of the team. Additionally, our policies can be found on our website.

And finally...

We hope that your child is excited and looking forward to starting Nursery and that they will enjoy their time with us. Over the year we hope that your child will develop and grow as individuals in a safe and happy environment.

We look forward to working with you and your child in what always proves to be a very busy year.

The Nursery Team

Notes:



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028 91 469192 (Nursery)
028 91 270399 (Primary)

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