



Laurel Avenue Community Primary School Nursery

Where children shine



Starting your child in our school nursery is a wonderful way to start their learning adventure and introduce them to school life and our vibrant, caring community.

We recognise that for any parent or carer, choosing the best nursery provision is of paramount importance. We are delighted to offer a nursery which promotes high standards of education in a safe and stimulating environment.



We have a team of dedicated, experienced and fully qualified teachers and teaching assistants who are committed to making the most of endless opportunities for your child.

Mrs Lawson, our Foundation Stage Manager, is a very experienced Early Years Teacher. In 2017 she received a Primary Science Teaching Award and so has access to fabulous resources and science opportunities which she brings to our nursery, much to the delight of our children who develop an excitement for investigations, exploring, observing and asking questions from a very early age.

Mrs Fawcett has a wealth of experience working with Nursery children, working mainly with our three and four-year-old children. Miss Hughes and Miss Browbank are experienced practitioners in the early years, working with our two-year-old children.



If your child has a special educational need, our coordinator is Ms Davison, the Headteacher; she has a wealth of experience and has achieved the National Special Educational Needs Coordination Award. Children who enjoy a challenge and are ready for higher level learning through play, work with our Reception Teacher, Mrs Meehan, as part of their nursery experience.



“Laurel Avenue Community Primary School Nursery is the ideal place for my child to attend. I chose a more structured teacher led approach which is combined with play based learning. This has promoted her communication, cognitive and language skills and links to the Early Years Curriculum, preparing her for school life. Being in a teacher led environment has significantly impacted her social and academic development.”

Spacious, private garden:

brand new outside playground
bike track for our trikes, scooters
and balance bikes

large construction equipment
mud kitchen

large mark making boards

cascading water play

sand play

digging areas

science investigation areas



Our excellent team of nursery staff are committed to developing children with enquiring minds, encouraging them to be curious about the world in which they live and to enjoy making new and fascinating discoveries. Our stunning and newly refurbished outdoor learning environment means our very youngest pupils will be able to discover the world around them in a richly-resourced setting.

The best indicator of our success is happy children and the happiest children are those who are stimulated through their environment and the learning opportunities they engage in every day. We positively encourage our pupils to become confident communicators and actively teach all our children the skills required to communicate their thoughts, needs, feelings and ideas.



Every day, new and exciting learning experiences are planned for the children with life skills embedded at the very core. A combination of both child-initiated and adult-initiated opportunities are carefully designed to create the richest learning experiences.

Your child will grow in confidence as they learn vibrant songs and dances as part of Christmas and Easter performances. They take part in their own Christmas Performance with our Reception Class. Nursery children take part in a Sports Day with our other younger children in school, joining in with a carousel of fun activities.



We greatly value the relationships we build with parents/carers and families. We encourage you to be a part of your child's education.

To ensure effective communication, we aim to:

- Share information before your child starts nursery: All About Me forms, meetings with staff during visits;
- Offer introductory sessions before your child starts;
- Open door policy – you are welcome to talk to your child's teacher every day;
- Use an online journal to share your child's learning and adventures;
- Use Marvellous Me, a free app, to celebrate achievements, send pictures and videos and set challenges for you to complete;
- Publish regular newsletters;
- Share curriculum and activity information every term;
- Offer learning review/open days to discuss your child's progress;
- Offer workshops to help you to help your child at home;
- Weekly Star Assemblies – families invited to attend; (we let you know if your child will be receiving an award)
- Written report detailing your child's attainment against the Early Years Foundation Stage and next steps for learning.



Nursery children have the best of both worlds at Laurel Avenue. They enjoy their private spacious nursery rooms and garden but also are involved in whole school celebrations including World Book Day, Children in Need and Red Nose Day.



“My daughter is happy, confident and has a great network of friends. We have taken advantage of being involved in all learning opportunities such as working with other classes on whole school projects, trips and attending school assemblies. Such opportunities would not be available elsewhere.”

A huge advantage to attending a school nursery is that we can ensure that children move on to Reception school ready. Staff promote and develop each child's school readiness, helping them to understand the routines and the environment in tiny steps. Interacting with older nursery children encourages their speech development. Our children become familiar with our Read, Write, Inc phonics and Little Big Maths characters; access the spacious grounds with a wooden play ship, playground and huge private field; enjoy their lunch in the school hall; access large PE equipment in the spacious hall; close liaison with Reception Teaching staff and every Friday they love attending our weekly Star Assembly to celebrate successes as a school community. By the time they start school in Reception, most of our children do not even notice there's been a big change and are ready to start learning immediately with the friends and staff they know very well!

We have a variety of sessions available



Start of the week: All day Monday, all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning

End of the week: Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and all day Friday

Five mornings: 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Five afternoons: 12.15 pm – 3.15 pm

We offer places for **two year olds** – five mornings or we have some availability for five afternoons.

You may be eligible for 2-year funding (Golden Ticket) or can pay for their 15 hours at £5 per hour.

We offer places for three and four year olds who are eligible for the **30 hours** funding: 9.00 am – 3.15 pm every day.



Our two-year-olds are guaranteed a place in our Nursery when they turn three where their transition will be seamless having made excellent relationships with staff and their friends already.



Children have a healthy fruit snack and milk every day.

If your child stays for lunch, there are two options; a packed lunch brought from home or a lunch (at a cost of £2.10 per day unless you are entitled to free school meals) prepared on site by the Taylor Shaw catering company. Children choose from four menu options every day so they will always be served a meal that they like. This menu is rotated every three weeks and changed twice a year.

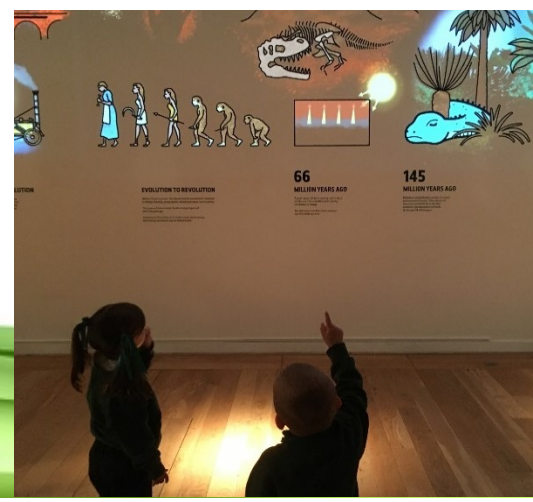
We are able to cater for a range of dietary requirements and allergies. Please speak to the nursery teacher about any requirements your child may have.



The September following your child's 4th birthday they will transfer to Primary education. Most children go on to attend Reception in our Primary School, with seamless transition from our Nursery to Reception.

Some children do move to other schools and so we complete thorough teacher to teacher transition meetings to ensure accurate information is passed on to your child's next school.

During their time at nursery, your child will enjoy a variety of educational visits with our Reception class. Recent visits have been to the Gala Theatre and the Hancock Museum. In December they enjoy the Christmas Pantomime at the Gala Theatre.



COVID-19

Arrangements in our nursery are a little different currently in order to make sure all of our children and staff are as safe as possible.

Nursery has been reorganised and surfaces cleared to allow regular cleaning throughout the day. Soft furnishings and toys have been removed from most of the nursery rooms. There are still some beanbags and a dark room in the sensory area which will be wiped down regularly and thoroughly in line with guidance.

All resources will be cleaned every day or quarantined for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics) before use again. The washing machine has been put to great use for cleaning construction equipment each night!



Social distancing is not something that realistically can be achieved with nursery children. There will only be one

Bubble Group in nursery which is kept completely isolated from the rest of school at the moment. These children will access the nursery rooms which allows plenty of space to move around and access a range of activities linked to all areas of learning. Bubble Groups will also access the outside area, which will be regularly cleaned. Only children in nursery will access this area and use the resources within the outside garden. Again, these resources will be cleaned or quarantined for 48 hours (72 hours for plastics).



We are still having lots of fun, exploring and learning inside and outside of nursery... and washing our hands!



“The stimulating environment has helped my child to thrive. I am extremely happy with her progress so far and I am not worried about her transition into school this year. I know she is looking forward to her next adventure at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School.”

“My child loves nursery and cries to come on days when it’s not his session. He has made so many friends that he will start school with and I’m so happy with the progress he made as soon as he started.”



Laurel Avenue
Community Primary School

Call or email to arrange a visit and put your child’s name down on our admissions list. We deal directly with all places for two, three and four year olds in nursery.

0191 3868416 laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net

We’d love to meet you and your child and discuss the start of their exciting learning journey in our school nursery.

Please contact:

Headteacher: Ms Gaynor Davison
or Foundation Stage Manager: Mrs Chris Lawson

