



WELCOME TO



York Road Nursery School

SUPPORTING SMOOTH TRANSITIONS
For You And Your Child



AIMS OF THE INDUCTION MEETING

To give you an overview of
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
and what your child will be learning



To provide ideas we can effectively work together
and how you can best support your child at home



To help you understand what to
expect from us



VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT



VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to create an environment where every child is curious, excited to explore, and inspired to learn.

MISSION STATEMENT

“Holding Hands Nurturing minds”

It is our belief that all children at York Road Nursery School should be happy and successful in learning and following our core values:

Kindness, curiosity and resilience

By blending creativity, inclusivity, and a collaborative mindset, we ensure that children at York Road Nursery School not only acquire the foundational skills necessary for academic success but also develop into kind, curious, and resilient individuals who are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead.



YORK ROAD GROUP NAMES



Nursery/Pre-School Groups

Barn Owls, Hedgehogs, Ladybirds, Otters, Rabbits, Robins,
Squirrels, Badger Cubs & Fox Cubs

Yorkies

Bears, Cheetahs, Manatees, Sharks



MEET THE NURSERY TEAM

Head Teacher	Antonia Robinson	
Chair of Governors	Mike Scott	
Deputy Head/Teacher	Ruth Cotterill	
Teacher/ SENDCO	Melissa Jeeves	
Key Teachers/Early Years Practitioners	Diane Szanto	Annika Lincoln
	Sarah Metson	Laura Body
	Louise Dunkley	Pooja Unalkat
	Pippa Yarwood	
Support Staff Leader	Afia Begum	
Teaching Assistants	Sahara Islam	Becca Stevens
	Ruby Singh	Jessica Cox
	Jo Pike	Joanne Brown
	Maria Wilding	Eezah Iqbal
	Melloney Hartley	Lyn Prowse
	Laura Hayward	Michelle Wright
Forest School Lead	Debbie McAllister	
Office Managers	Permjinder Lidder & Lesley Mitchell	
Transitions & Policies Co-Ordinator	Shirley Parker	
Premises Co-Ordinator	Emily Jarvis	
Caretaker	Liza Lincoln	

NURSERY 30 HOURS PROVISION

Some 3-4 year old children are eligible for an extra 15 hours childcare, this is known as 30 hours free childcare.

For those parents who may be entitled to 30 hours childcare provision, you will be expected to do an online eligibility check using the HMRC Tool Kit. If you qualify you will receive a voucher code which you will need to give to the school once your child's Nursery place has been finalised. It will be parental responsibility to update their personal circumstances and inform the school of any changes.

Eligibility criteria can be found at www.childcarechoices.gov.uk and parents must provide their eligibility code to the Nursery to be considered for a 30 Hours place. (See Admissions Policy for further information).

PRE-SCHOOL 30 HOURS PROVISION

From September 2025 some 2 year olds will be entitled to 30 hours free early education. Places are offered on the condition that the 30 hours should be accessed solely at York Road Nursery School.

If you are funded by the working parents funding scheme, we expect that your funding is not be split between providers, this would give you a place for 5 sessions (daily - Monday to Friday).

For details on who is eligible and how to apply for the funding go to www.gov.uk Apply for free childcare if you're working or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for information.

NURSERY DAILY ROUTINES

9.00	Arrive at Nursery
9.00	Registration & Welcome
9.15	Group Time
9.35	Exploring Time (inside and out) continuous provision supporting children's own learning opportunities through exploring and investigating, supported by experienced practitioners and un-interrupted.
10.20	Reset
10.25	Snack Time
10.45	Exploring Time
11.20	Tidy Up Time
11.30	Story and/or Singing, Rhyme with Key Teacher
11.45	Transition for children staying for lunch/ going home
12.00	Morning children picked up (15 hours)

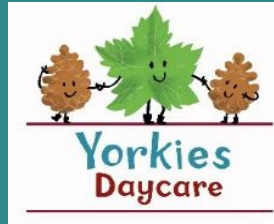
NURSERY 30 HOURS AFTERNOON ROUTINE

30 HOURS IS THE ADDITIONAL 15 HOURS FREE PROVISION TO THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE

12.00	Wash hands / Lunch time
12.30/12.45	Play in the room or outside/ rest and relaxation
12.45	Hello Song/Register Exploring Time with some adult led experiences (continuous provision supporting children's own learning opportunities though exploring and investigating, supported by experienced practitioners)
14.40	Tidy up, Wash hands
15.00	Snack
15.15	Story and/or Singing
15.30	Pick up/ transition to Yorkies

IMPORTANT: On Friday's children at 30 Hours are to be picked up from Nursery at 1.00pm (they still bring in their packed lunch to have)

YORKIES DAYCARE



Yorkies provides wraparound care for York Road Nursery with a welcoming atmosphere where your child can learn through play activities which are fun, engaging and stimulating.

It is a non-profit making organisation, managed by Lisa Fox. She is supported by a voluntary committee.

Children do not have to attend York Road Nursery to access our holiday club facilities. The activities available are for all children aged 3 to 7 years and 11 months.



YORKIES ROUTINE

8.00	Breakfast Club runs until 9.00 daily
11.45	Children in their Key Groups, with Key Worker Wash hands & Lunch
12.30	Children have exploring time outside, and rooms are set up with activities
12.40	Exploring Time (all areas)
1.00	Pick-up time for 30 Hours children (FRIDAY ONLY)
2.30	Tidy up time
2.45	Snack and story/singing/phonics in key groups
3.15	Children split into groups (going home or staying) and children staying go to Rabbits & Hedgehogs room or garden
3.30	Home time for 30 Hour children in Yorkies. Free play in Owls & Ladybirds room or garden for children staying
4.00	Wash hands and protected teatime
4.30	Children play outside, or in Owls & Ladybirds room
5.00	Parents can begin picking up children
5.45	Story
6.00	Yorkies Closes (4.00 on FRIDAYS)

WHY IS TRANSITION SO IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD?

Transition: A process not an event



Each child is different and some may take a little longer to settle

Our transition processes are based on the best interests and needs of your child



We will work with you to help your child to settle and be confident in their new surroundings

GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND YOUR CHILD



We will do this by:

- Inviting you into school for a stay and play session and a transition meeting in the summer term before your child starts at nursery
- Home visits in September
- Information gathered from you and the previous setting/childminder
- Transition for each child carefully planned with you and the class teacher/key person
- Opportunities to ask questions and share concerns



WHAT WILL MY CHILD BE LEARNING?



Prime Areas of Learning	Specific Areas of Learning
Personal, Social and Emotional	Literacy
Communication and Language	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design



HOW DOES MY CHILD LEARN?

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

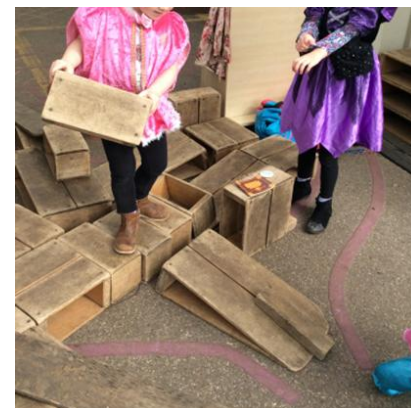


Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **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



HOW WILL MY CHILD LEARN?



OUR VISION AND VALUES



Our vision is to create an environment where every child is curious, excited to explore, and inspired to learn.

Our Values are:

Kindness

Curiosity

Resilience

By blending creativity, inclusivity, and a collaborative mindset, we ensure that children at York Road Nursery School not only acquire the foundational skills necessary for academic success but also develop into kind, curious, and resilient individuals who are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead.

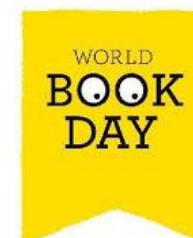
Together, with the support of families and the wider community, we create an enriching environment where every child thrives.



SPECIAL WEEK/DAYS



Parent
Curriculum
Workshops



SEND
Coffee
Mornings



Messy Play
Workshop

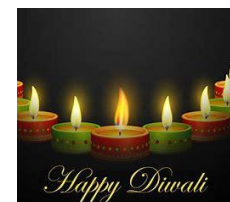
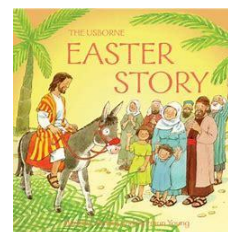


Spoon Day



CELEBRATIONS

At York Road we celebrate festivals from around the world that are important to our children and their families e.g. Diwali, Ramadan & Eid, Chinese New Year, St Patrick's Day, Chanukah, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day. We also visit places of worship such as the Church and the Gurdwara and have links with Hitchin Mosque.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD AT HOME?



Communicate and talk with your child



Enjoy physical activities together



Have fun exploring maths



Read, tell and make up stories together



Support your child to do things by themselves



Encourage your child to talk and play with others

WE SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME IN A VARIETY OF WAYS



Look out for:

- Parent consultations meetings (face to face, phone, online)
- Home learning suggestions (that may include joint child and parent/carers mini projects)
- Parent/carers workshops (for example, Messy Play)
- Information and tips in newsletters, on social media and the school website
- Early Learning Pupil Premium (EYPP) core books & games
- Information on displays around school



SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS



Our SENCO is Melissa Jeeves



SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD



Sensory Room



WellComm Screening



Sensory Trails



EYPP Resources

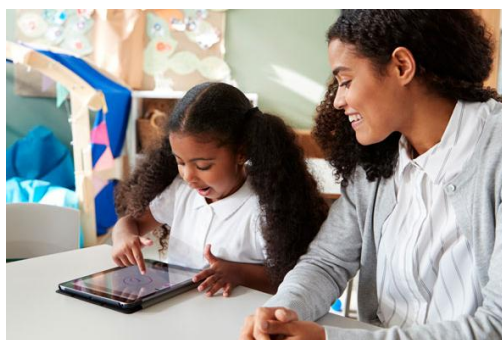


Other outside professionals including; Occupational Therapists, Physio Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Social Workers, CDC, NHS, Early Years SEND Team

MEDICAL NEEDS & ALLERGIES

- **Health Plans** – your child may need a Health Plan if they have a severe allergy. Please email head@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk to discuss and arrange a meeting.
- All allergy information is shared with ALL STAFF and if your child attends Yorkies Daycare this is taken into account when planning menus.
- All Yorkies staff who cook have a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate and Yorkies has a 5 Star Rating in Food Hygiene from the Food Standards Agency.
- **Milk allergies** – we provide cows milk for your child to drink at Nursery. If you child has an allergy to milk you can bring in a suitable milk alternative only if you have a written letter from your GP or Health Visitor, otherwise water will be provided.
- **Nut allergies** – due the severe problems some children and adults can experience you are asked **not to give your child anything for lunch or snack which has nuts in**, eg peanut butter, cereal bars with nuts, peanuts, Nutella type chocolate spread.
- You will be advised of any other allergies which will affect what you child can have for snack/lunch as soon as we know.
- **Birthdays**- Please do not bring in sweets or cake for your child's birthday to support us with protecting children with allergies. We will celebrate their special day by singing a song and blowing out candles on a pretend cake!

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



You...



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



ABSENCE & ATTENDANCE

York Road Nursery School is a maintained school and we therefore have to follow Ofsted regulations regarding attendance.

What does this mean for you and your child?

- Your child will be expected to attend York Road Nursery every day.
- **If you child is unwell you are expected to telephone the school office (01462 459127) before 9.00am** (you can leave a message on the answer phone but please **do not email** as these may not be looked at until later in the day).
- You are expected to call every day of your child's absence to inform us.
- Please expect a telephone call from one of the staff if you have not informed us of their absence as we have a safeguarding duty of care towards your child.
- If we have not heard from you and are unable to contact you, we may come to your house for a welfare check to make sure you are ok.
- You are expected to arrive at Nursery on time as lateness impacts on your child's learning.



SAFEGUARDING



You will be expected to provide a password for **all** the provisions you access at York Road (Nursery and Yorkies Daycare, if the designated person who usually collects your child will not be collecting them.

How do I do this?

- Provide your child's keyworker with a password- ensure it is a word that you will remember.
- Communicate with your child's Key Teacher at drop off, or a Yorkies member of staff if you are dropping your child at Breakfast Club.

Or

- Telephone the school office or Yorkies if your child is being collected by a different person from Yorkies Daycare.

A description of the person collecting is always very helpful and we can tell your child in advance to reduce any anxiety. You can also put photos of anyone likely to collect your child in their 'My Book' which is kept in their home base.

You will be given a 'Collecting Children Procedure' form to complete when your child starts nursery.

WE DO NOT ALLOW any adults into the children's toilets and handwashing area apart from members of York Road Nursery School/Yorkies Daycare staff. If your child needs help, please speak to a member of staff. **THIS IS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE!**

WE DO NOT ALLOW the use of mobile phones in the Nursery or within the grounds when you are dropping off or picking up your child. **THIS IS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE!**



HEALTHY SCHOOL



Information about packed lunches

In line with the policy for healthy eating which is undertaken by Hertfordshire Catering for school meals and the Governments focus we want to ensure that children are given a balanced diet. We ask your help in this by you looking at portion control, we often provide far too much in the contents of packed lunches.

- Packed lunches should be brought to school **in a named container**
- No drink is needed as all children will **drink from their water bottles**
- All rubbish will be put into containers so you can manage portion control
- **No sweets or chocolates of any kind** are to be included in a lunch – if they are inadvertently included a member of staff will remove them and give them to you at the end of the session
- Due to the severe problems some children and adults experience with nut allergies you are asked **not to bring anything in a packed lunch which has nuts in**, eg peanut butter, cereal bars with nuts, peanuts, Nutella type chocolate spread
- We will notify you of any other allergies as soon as we can

Snack

Please bring in a small piece of fruit or vegetable each day for your child to eat as a snack

Water

Please provide your child with a child appropriate water bottle (**NO SCREW TOP CAPS PLEASE**). It is your responsibility to ensure your child has their water bottle in Nursery every day with fresh water in it. If you inadvertently put another drink in the water bottle a member of staff will empty it out and refill it with water.

Birthdays

As we strive to be a healthy school, we ask for your help in this by not bringing in cakes or sweets when it is your child's birthday. Please feel free to bring in some special fruit or vegetables to share instead. We celebrate birthdays by singing the 'Happy Birthday' song and lighting candles on a pretend cake for your child to blow out.



FOREST SCHOOL, MINDFULNESS



- We run '**Forest School Sessions**' each week and, this is where your child will experience regular trips to the woodland that we use at the secondary school 'Hitchin Boys School'. This helps develop problem solving through experiences such as den building, mark making using natural materials, creating art with natural resources, learning how to work together and to take risks safely.
- You will be provided with information as to when your child will be attending. Welly boots, long trousers/leggings and waterproofs are required as well as hats and gloves in the cold weather. Layers of clothing keep your child warmer rather than one thick jumper. Welly boots, long trousers/leggings, hats and sun cream are required in the summer.
- We regularly practice **Mindfulness** exercises to help your child get in better touch with their thoughts and feelings. With increased awareness of how they're feeling in the moment, comes less emotional reactivity and a greater ability to listen and communicate more thoughtfully and effectively. This is implemented with the children through Yoga, Pilates, Emotion Dolls, Worry Monsters, Mindful Walking, Forest School experiences, Sensory Room, Mindful Breathing, to name but a few. Staff have received Mindfulness training to enable them to teach this.



RESILIENCE REAPS REWARDS

- **Resilience Reaps Rewards** – Staff have been trained and learnt a wide range of strategies to enable children to have more energy and focus through music. These strategies support staff in their daily teaching and learning, developing skills to become more resilient, problem solving, team games, learning ‘gratitudes’ among many more. This creates fun, focussed learning, energy, a wholly positive attitude and good mental health and well-being.

CLUBS, DONATIONS, FUNDRAISING

Friends of York Road (FoYR)

Look out for information on how to join our fundraising group.

Fundraising

Nursery supports fundraising during the year for various good causes in both Nursery and the wider community.

In previous years we have used this money to purchase up-to-date technology, garden equipment, to enrich the educational experience we provide for the children.

(More details to follow)

Donations

£10 half termly is greatly appreciated as a voluntary school fund which exists for the benefit of the children of the school.

Clubs

We may also offer clubs in the Spring and Summer terms, (if sufficient staffing), there will be a small fee for these. They include dance, art, sewing, smilates, and French, although the choice of activities for clubs may vary.

ASSESSMENT & PROGRESS

The purpose of assessment for learning

- To personalise the curriculum to meet the children's needs and interests
- To ensure progression
- To make children independent learners
- To build confidence and self esteem
- To empower the children and give them autonomy over and ownership of their learning
- To encourage risk taking, exploration, investigation and enquiry
- To help children to reflect on what they have learnt
- To create a secure and safe environment where there is no fear of failure and children are resilient and persevere

Pupil Progress Meetings

Three times a year with the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher and Key Teacher to monitor the progress of your child.

PADLETS



As of September 2025, we will be using Padlets.

On the homepage of our school website, you will find a Padlet that will tell you what skills the children are learning, some pictures of how they are learning those skills and ideas for you to support your child further at home.

Please ensure you check the website regularly to keep up to date!



THE NURSERY PETS

We have Giant African
Land Snails and Fish



DO'S FOR NURSERY

- Do send your child with a small water bottle every day, named, and with only water (no juice please)
- Do **send your child in with fruit/vegetable or something healthy eg. bread sticks, rice crackers or similar for snack** for your child to share with the children in their group.
- Do remember to bring in a pair of **NAMED WELLY BOOTS** that can be kept in Nursery all year
- Do bring your child's spare clothes in a **small named rucksack** (no plastic or draw string bags - for safety reasons) This can stay on their pegs and will be returned to you to replenish if the clothes have been used.
- Do bring your child's book bag to school each day. Their pictures/creations, letters from us and their library books will be transported in the book bags. Please check it every day.
- Do dress your child in **clothes that encourage them to be independent** (elasticated waists are easier when going to the toilet). Please put your child in shoes with Velcro fastenings and name coats and all belongings.
- Do dress your child in clothes that they are allowed to get mud/paint/glue etc on during the process of learning and having fun.
- Do put your child in **suitable clothing and footwear** for the time of year (**no flip-flops or Crocs - for safety reasons**). Send your child into Nursery wearing a named hat and with sun cream already on them in the summer. If your child stays for the afternoon, please ensure you give their Key Worker a small named bottle/tube of sun cream that can be kept in school for use during the afternoon

DO'S FOR NURSERY CONTINUED

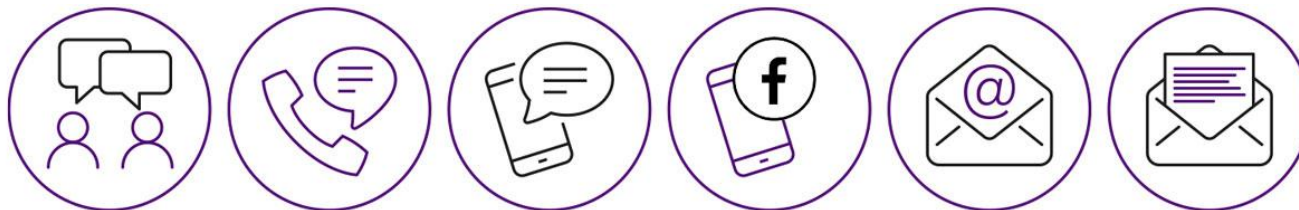
- Do tell your child's Teacher if your child is in pull-ups or if they are in the process of being toilet trained so we can support them (pull-ups are not provided)
- Do speak to your child's Teacher first for any queries or questions in the first instance

HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

Communication is so important. It plays a huge role in ensuring that you are regularly sharing information with us to best support your child.

We do this by...

- Daily, short chats at drop off and pick up time- if you need a longer conversation, please arrange a meeting with your child's key teacher
- Twice yearly consultation meetings
- Stay and Play sessions
- Newsletters
- Letters and communications via Arbor
- Social Media – Facebook
- Email: admin@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk for general enquiries
- School Website; www.yorkroad.herts.sch.uk for updates on what the children have been learning



SETTLING IN WEEKS FOR NURSERY SCHOOL



Details of settling in sessions for Nursery, Pre-School and Yorkies to be sent out via email and/or Arbor



STARTING NURSERY

When you have your visit day, you will meet your child's Teacher and they will tell you which group your child is in and what entrance you will need to line up at each morning or afternoon.

If your child is booked into Yorkies breakfast or for Yorkies wrap around care at the end of the day, then you always need to come to the main school door.

- Mondays to Thursdays 9.00-3.30 and Fridays 9.00-1.00 (including lunch)
- The option for pick up will be at 12pm or 3.30pm Monday - Thursday.

Details of all pick up places will be given to you on your visit day.

QUESTION TIME

No question is a silly question...



If anyone has anything they would like to ask
please feel free to

QUESTION TIME



No question is a silly question...

If you have anything you would like to ask please feel free to do so. Prior to your child starting Nursery you can email admin [@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@yorkroad.herts.sch.uk) or ring the office on 01462 459127 Once your child has started Nursery you can email their Key Teacher using the Class email, see page 'You can contact us on these emails'.

If you have any questions personal to your family you will also have an opportunity to ask these when you meet your child's Key Teacher or at a specially arranged meeting.



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES (GETTING READY FOR NURSERY)

Visit a
local park
or woods

Practice
washing
your hands
with soap
independently

Join the
Library and
share
books

Practice
walking
short
distances
holding
your adults
hand

Share
toys with
a friend

Try
different
fruits and
vegetables

Begin to
help with
getting
dressed

Get used
to
drinking
water

Learn to
sing
some
rhymes

Have a
good
bedtime
routine

Talk to/with
your adult
about the
world
around you

HAVE
FUN!

BEFORE YOU GO...

‘Family Book’

To help your child settle into nursery please make with them a family book with photos of people important to your child (together with the person(s) name, place, event), and you can even include your pets and your child’s favourite toy, or a photo of your child as a baby. All this will promote wonderful conversations and help to form positive relationships with adults and children.

This book is to be kept at nursery for your child to share with their friends and Key Teacher. We also ask you to complete the ‘About Me’ form on Tapestry which gives us additional information to help in the settling process.



WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AND YOUR CHILD



YORK ROAD NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL



Please Note:

Information in this book is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change thereafter.

Supporting Smooth Transitions | 2023-24

