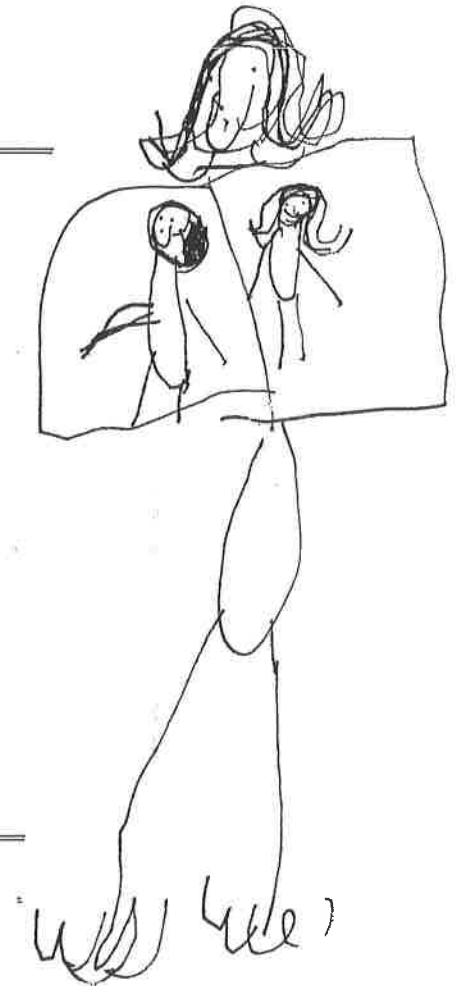


Welcome to Elmwood Nursery



This booklet has been produced to give you as much information as possible about the Nursery.

A place in our Nursery does not automatically mean transfer to main school. Nursery children **MUST** re-register for a place in a Reception Class (in the infants' school) during the autumn term.

Times of the Nursery are as follows:-

Morning sessions 8.45 - 11.45am

Afternoon sessions 12.15 - 3.15 pm

Admission to the Nursery Class

We are now able to offer 52 part-time placements to children who are between 3 years and 4 years old during each academic year.

Parents must officially register with the school in the previous autumn and spring and will be informed if their application fulfils the entry criteria.

The entry criteria for admission to the Nursery are:

1. Vacancies must exist in the class.
2. Children must be of age 3 plus. When children are offered a place in the Nursery class they will be admitted during the Autumn Term following their third birthday.
3. Medical, social and/or educational need as identified by an appropriate agency (e.g. social worker, GP, health visitor or appropriate education service).
4. Siblings of children already in the infant or primary school (where appropriate).
5. Geographical proximity to the Nursery but also taking into account the location of alternative provision for which the child is eligible.

Parents with children in the Nursery class will be expected to stay with their child for a settling in time.

Parents will be expected to bring their child regularly every day otherwise the place may be reallocated.

Uniform

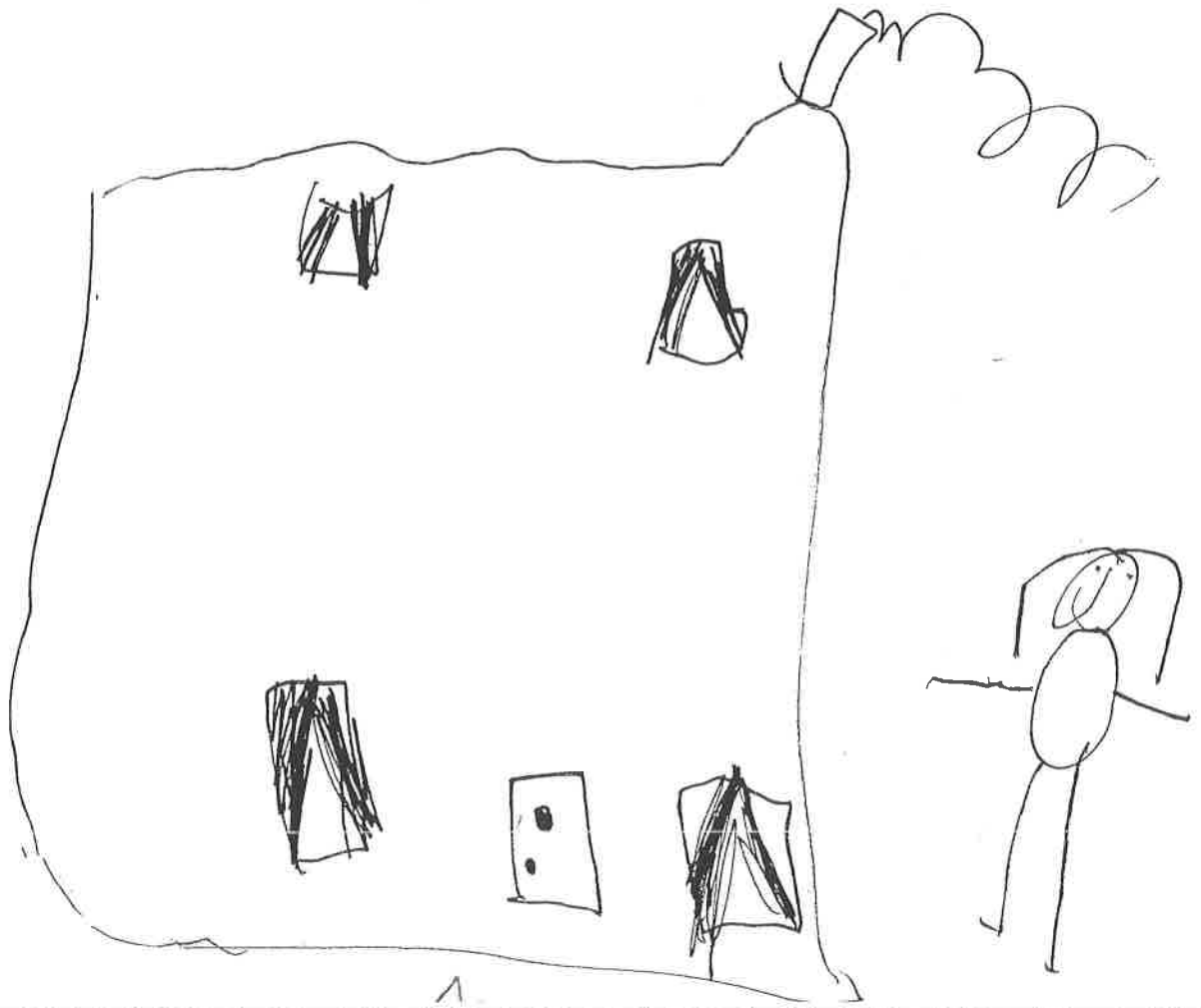
Uniform is not necessary but sensible clothes and shoes are essential. We have an optional uniform of blue tracksuit and yellow T-shirt for the children in the Nursery, or they may wear shorts or skirts as the rest of the school. (T- Shirt's available from Hewitt's of Croydon)

The Nursery Curriculum

The Nursery Curriculum is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum which set out the national expectation for children under 5. These are the areas of the curriculum:-

1. Personal, social & emotional development
2. Communication and language
3. Physical development
4. Literacy (reading and writing)
5. Maths
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive arts and design

Through planned activities in the above areas, Elmwood's Nursery Team ensure that each child is gaining experiences which reflect current and future needs and also matches the ability of the child. We aim to prepare the children for the second part of the EYFS Curriculum which they will experience in our reception classes, and later, in years 1 and 2, the National Curriculum.



Curricular Activities

Initially a great deal of time will be spent making new friends and learning to live and play together, gaining confidence in their new surroundings and becoming independent from their parents/carers. (Personal and Social development).

We also encourage:

1. Respect for themselves and each other in relation to their families, cultures and environment. Learning to work with and alongside other children. (Personal and social development)
2. Talking and listening, sharing stories, imaginative play and experimenting with writing. (Language and Literacy)
3. Making scientific discoveries using sand, dough, clay and water. Investigating other scientific skills through cooking, building and close observation of living things. Developing an awareness of the school and local environment through regular outings. Using the computer and CD player to support and reinforce information from other areas of the curriculum. (Knowledge and Understanding of the World).
4. Painting (including mixing paints and colours). Creating pictures and collage using pens, pencils (and sometimes fingers dipped in paint). These activities will aid early writing skills. We also encourage model making using discarded boxes, materials and clay. These types of activities develop children's imagination and their ability to communicate and express ideas and feelings in creative ways. (Creative development)
5. Development of physical skills, pushing, pulling, climbing, riding bicycles, and general use of outdoor equipment. Manipulative skills handling pens, pencils, scissors, brushes and other tools with increasing competence. (Physical development)
6. We encourage the use of everyday practical activities to develop mathematical knowledge and skills, matching, sorting, counting, conserving, finding out about shapes, number recognition and for the children to be able to describe and explain using mathematical language e.g. in front of, behind, next to etc. (Mathematics)

How children learn is as important as what they learn.

The ethos of the nursery is to promote play as the most effective means by which young children learn and the preceding curricular activities will be introduced, developed and extended through structured play situations.

PLAY IS A SERIOUS BUSINESS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
IT IS **"THEIR WORK"**



Children always learn more effectively when they are relaxed, happy and confident and these traits are developed by encouraging children to make their own choices and decisions, to solve their own problems and to discuss, recall and assess their own experiences. By establishing such an environment, we aim to develop all learning opportunities which contribute to their child's whole development within a broad, structured and planned curriculum which is responsive to the needs and abilities of the individual child. This will give all the children the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and concepts needed to meet the challenges of the National Curriculum and enable continuity and progression on entry into the Reception class.

Recording and Assessment

Assessment will concentrate on children's strengths and areas for development, to project a positive self-image, and enhance their self-learning.

Recording and assessment is an ongoing process through the Nursery. All members of staff participate within a planned and structured programme of observation and assessment, to enable a profile of each individual child's development to be maintained and regularly updated. At the end of each term you will be able to discuss your child's progress and learning targets with the Nursery teacher.

PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO DISCUSS
AND EXAMINE ANY OF THEIR CHILD'S
RECORDS WITH THE TEACHER AT ANY TIME

Prior to your child starting at Elmwood Nursery, you will be invited to a meeting where you will be able to talk to the nursery teacher and fill in some forms while your child spends some time with other members of staff getting used to our nursery setting. You will also be introduced to the EYFS record (the 'learning journey'). As we value and appreciate that parents/carers know their own child best and, indeed, are their child's first educator, we will be encouraging you to contribute information to the record.



General Information

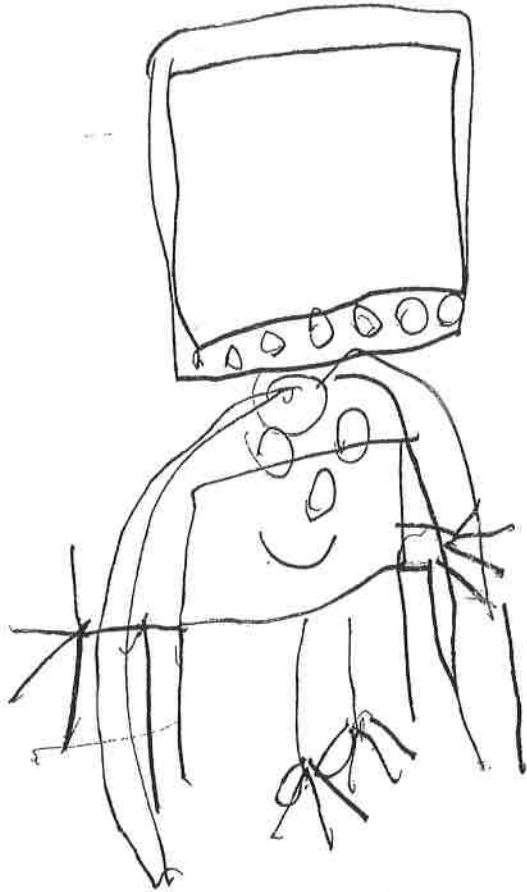
At all times, we aim to work closely with parents of all cultural backgrounds, and children are valued as individuals and also members of their ethnic and cultural community. We value the contributions from different cultures in our midst, welcoming help in school from all Mums, Dads, Grannies and Grandads on a regular or occasional basis and on trips and visits, also to help us celebrate religious festivals as they arise throughout the year.

Sometimes language can make communicating difficult and we have some bilingual members of staff - speakers of Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil, Spanish, French and Malayalam - to help us in this respect.

Language is obviously a very important aspect of children's learning. **Talking and listening** are vital in sharing ideas and problem solving. So please encourage your child to develop these skills by involving him/her in conversation, encouraging them to express their feelings, recall their experiences and relate information. This will encourage a love of books and lay the foundations for reading. This can only be developed by creating a warm, comforting environment in which books can be shared. By doing this the child is learning about how books work, that written language always stays the same and that words are made up of letters. Children will also become aware that stories have a beginning and an end. Understanding the flow of a story also develops ideas upon which the child can draw when making his/her own decisions and attempting to problem solve. In other words, sharing stories and reading are our lifelong way to extend our intellectual ability and also the foundations upon which our future learning of maths, geography, history, science, etc. heavily depends.

This is why we encourage **ALL** children to borrow books on a daily basis. We ask you to purchase a school book bag to protect the borrowed books and these will be on sale when your child starts in the Nursery.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO MAKE READING FUN



By practising how to use the mouse I am learning a vital computer skill, which will enable me to access learning when I am older.



When I am painting, crayoning and drawing, I am learning about feel, texture, size, shape and colour.



You may think I am just scribbling but it means a lot to me. It is my way of practising writing ready for when you can understand it!



When I am building with blocks, reclaimed materials or other construction materials I am learning all about shapes, balance, size, weight and space.

Trips and Visits

We will be taking the nursery children out on visits into the local area (and sometimes further afield) to support our role play areas or a topic. You will be most welcome to come with us on any of our trips. We may sometimes ask for a small, voluntary donation if we are buying small items such as stamps or a cake.

All parents will be requested to sign a permission slip for trips that are local to the school. For longer trips, parents will be informed in advance and permission sought for each trip.

Cooking

We cook regularly and each child is given the opportunity to take part. We ask for a voluntary donation of £2 per term towards the ingredients.

Tissues

We ask parents if they could supply a box of tissues when their child starts at the Nursery to supplement our stock, these will be used when children have colds.

Parent Governors

Six parent governors represent the Infant School including the Nursery Class. Governors are elected for a four-year term. Governors meet at least once a term to discuss school business. If you would like more information about School Governors, please ask the Head Teacher.

Safety

We want to encourage your child to develop independence, therefore please help them and us by:

1. Making Clothes Manageable

Belts, buttons, zips, dungarees are not easy to undo when in a hurry!
Elasticated waisted trousers are much easier.

Encourage your child to put on and do up his/her coat and shoes.

2. Dressing Appropriately

We want all children to benefit from and enjoy the outside area safely.
Therefore, we recommend sturdy flat shoes with tread or trainers which are easily fastened.

Removing anorak ties as clothing can get caught in bicycle wheels or on the climbing frame.

Warm coats in winter.

Protection from the sun in summer i.e. cap or sun hat.

Although aprons are worn, paint, glue, clay, etc. may still stain clothing and the wearing of new or best clothing is not advisable. Should your child's clothes become stained, here are some useful tips:

Removing stains:

Paint

Rinse in cold water first, wash in warm soap or detergent.
Do **NOT** use biological powders as they "lock in" stains instead of removing them.

"Vanish" soap is excellent at removing stains.

Glue

White PVA

Rinse in cold water and wash in warm detergent. Stubborn glue may need soaking then you can pick it off while it is wet. Once an item is tumble dried, glue is there forever, though ironing will temporarily remove it until washed again.

Plasticine

Soak overnight in a solution of washing soda or use a suitable cleaner.

Jewellery including watches are not suitable to wear in school; necklaces and earrings can be dangerous if pulled.

We suggest that children whose ears have been pierced should wear the stud type earrings in school – hooped earrings can be dangerous.

Security

Going Home:

We will **NOT** release your child into the care of people we don't know, unless we have your permission in a signed letter or telephone call. Children in the Nursery and Reception cannot be collected by older brothers and sisters in the Infant and Junior schools.

Sickness and Absences

We need to know if your child is not able to come to the School on the first day of absence.

PLEASE TELEPHONE OR SEND A NOTE IF YOUR
CHILD IS ABSENT

TEL: 020 8689 7681

Illness

If your child has suffered diarrhoea or sickness, please keep them at home for at least 24 hours.

If your child is taking a course of any medicines, we request they remain at home until fully recovered.

..... **AND FINALLY**

Please be prepared to stay with your child when he or she first starts at Nursery school. For many children this is a major stepping-stone in their lives and one they may need to take with Mum or Dad close at hand.

We expect the children to be out of nappies/pull ups before they start the Nursery class and also able to wipe their own bottoms. Of course, there are likely to be accidents, which we are fully equipped to deal with but we suggest you send in a spare pair of pants or knickers and clean socks in case of mishaps. Please talk to a member of the nursery team if you think we are likely to encounter any problems in regard to the above.

Mums, Dads, Grannies and Grandads and other family members:

If you have any spare time, we would love to have your help with. Some of the activities you may like to support us with are -

- Reading Stories
- Playing Board Games
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Making dressing up clothes
- Making board games
- Mending books, toys and dolls clothes
- At the Christmas party and outings

Please let one of the staff know if you are able to help.

Thank you for reading this booklet. We aim to make your child's time at Elmwood Nursery happy and enjoyable and we hope you as parents enjoy it, too!

