



# Early Years Prospectus

## Nursery and Reception

Kielder Primary School and Nursery

Kielder, Hexham NE48 1HQ

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Headteacher: Fay Hartland

Chair of Governors: Steve Jones

## General Information

### Kielder Primary School and Nursery Staff:

Headteacher	Mrs Fay Hartland
Teachers	Miss Leanne Little Miss Charlotte Hickie
Nursery Teachers	Mrs Michelle Bond Mrs Leanne Jones
Admin.	Mrs Leanne Jones
Caretaker/cleaner	Mr Bob Graham



**We very much hope that you and your child will enjoy their time at  
Little Squirrels Nursery.**

Your child is at a crucial stage in their development with research showing that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years of life than at any other time. It is therefore important that the children are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a parent, you play a very important role.

The Kielder Nursery Team hope to play their part by offering your child a variety of exciting experiences and activities designed to further their individual development.

We hope that your child discovers that learning can be an enjoyable and worthwhile process.

This Prospectus is intended to give you information about our Nursery, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. We hope that it captures the essence of our action packed days.

The Nursery and Reception classes are referred to as the **Early Years Foundation Stage of learning (EYFS)**. This is an important stage, as it is during this time that attitudes to learning are formed and social skills developed which lay the foundations for future education.

Young children learn most effectively through a balance of structured and child initiated play. Therefore, our EYFS staff, Miss Leanne Little, Michelle and Leanne, work together as a team and plan for children's learning in all of the seven areas of the EYFS. They ensure that all areas of development are covered within an interesting, stimulating and supportive framework and incorporate the children's ideas and interests.

The children are taught directly and also have a choice of planned activities, both indoors and outdoors, so that they are able to develop independent learning habits. By contrast, there are lots of opportunities for child-initiated play, both indoors and outdoors, and based around our fun and changing topics e.g. Pirates and Space.

The EYFS staff ensure that children progressively develop their skills and knowledge throughout this crucial phase of their school life.

At Kielder Nursery, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Principles that recognise the importance of an holistic approach to education.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage Principles**

**A Unique Child** - Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

**Positive Relationships** - Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

**Enabling Environments** - The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

**Effective Learning and Development** - Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

## The 3 Characteristics of Effective Learning

These support the development of the Unique Child in how children are learning.

### Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to 'have a go'

### Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

### Creating and thinking critically – thinking

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things



## The Seven Areas of Learning and Development

All our activities are based around these areas.

### The Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.



### The Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.



## Nursery Provision

Our Nursery at Kielder is very spacious and has excellent provision both indoors and outdoors.

Inside, we have two large early years rooms with a range of provision: craft, water, sand, sticking, painting, playdough, junk modelling, a maths area, computer area, construction area, mark making area, small world area, role play area, a book area and access to an interactive whiteboard. Throughout the day, when appropriate, the nursery children also have opportunities to work with the reception and year one children.

Our scenic outdoor area provides opportunities to develop children's gross motor control and broaden their knowledge of the natural environment. Children are encouraged to explore, discover and problem solve to extend their learning.



### **Communication and Language**

Speaking and listening is a key area of importance in the Early Years. Children are encouraged to talk freely and are given the opportunity to speak in whole class situations through 'Talk Boost', 'Snack & Chat' and child-led activities.

Children are encouraged to listen attentively and respond to what they hear. They are taught to follow instructions; developing a deep understanding of the importance of language.

### **Literacy**

Children begin phonological awareness activities in nursery. The Read Write Inc. scheme builds on this work and is used alongside various activities to develop literacy skills.

All children have the opportunity to take a reading book home plus are extremely lucky to have the village library on the school premises.

Writing skills are encouraged through physical play, cross lateral activities, mark making and eventually using phonic knowledge to write words. Fine motor skills are encouraged from an early age.

### **Mathematics**

Children are given opportunities to work with patterns, numbers, counting, sorting, matching, shape, space and measure.

By making links and recognising relationships, they can use their newfound skills to solve problems, to question and to make connections across other areas of the curriculum.



### **Understanding the World**

All children are offered opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and understanding to help them make sense of our world. Children are encouraged to be curious, to explore and to investigate.

We have a fabulous outdoor area where children play, investigate and discover and learn.

We develop computer skills using computers, ipads, the interactive whiteboard in the classroom, photographic, recording and animation equipment. We subscribe to various educational sites that enhance the children's learning experience.

The children explore the world around them by going for local walks looking for signs of wildlife, tree identification and footprints etc.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Developing the self-confidence and self-esteem of all children in our care is a priority for those working at Kielder Primary School and Nursery.

We support the children's growing awareness of others, enabling them to establish respectful relationships with both adults and children. By providing the children with a stimulating environment and exciting and challenging learning opportunities we aim to foster skills and positive dispositions to learning.

These skills provide the building blocks for positive future learning throughout school.

We celebrate successes and give every child the opportunity to shine.

### **Physical Development**

Children love moving and at Little Squirrels Nursery they are offered a wide range of activities which help them to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement.

All children participate in P.E. lessons twice a week. These sessions are a great way to develop their gross motor skills.

The children take part in a range of activities including dance, games, gymnastics and spatial awareness. All children also take part in short daily 'Wake Up Shake Up' sessions.

Please note a PE kit is essential for your child's safety. Children will require a PE kit of plimsolls, white logo t-shirt (available to order from school) and black shorts. These should all be clearly labelled and kept in a named drawstring bag.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Creativity permeates everything we do allowing children to initiate their own learning and make choices and decisions.

Children are encouraged to explore their ideas, thoughts and feelings through art, music, drama, dance and imaginative role-play.

Reception children participate in weekly music lessons in tuned and untuned percussion and the ukulele.

Fine motor skills are developed through a range of play activities including construction, painting, ipads, play dough and pencil control activities.

## **Parental Partnership**

At Kielder Primary School, we recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents. The staff are always keen to hear about your child's achievements outside of school as well as any concerns you may have about your child.

There are three formal opportunities to receive feedback about your child; a parents' evening in October, another around Easter and a written report in July.

### **On-Line Learning Journals**

A successful interactive way of informing parents of their child's learning development in school is through Tapestry Learning Journal.

#### **Features:**

- Journals created for each of your children, with full control over who can view and edit them.
- Each observation or page can include notes, photographs and videos.
- These can be enhanced by comments from other staff and parents.
- Each child's journey can have individual accounts set up for parents and relatives to access.
- Parents can comment on new entries and even add their own.
- Automatic emails generated for parents when new entries are made.

We also use Passport, an online system that tracks progress. This helps ensure smooth transition to the next phase of education.

As always if you have any questions or would like to drop in for a chat please pop into school.

### **Times of School Day**

Reception children should be ready to come into school at 8.55 and are picked up at 3pm.

Little Squirrels is open everyday. If your children are not accessing full time nursery, the session times are 8.55 – 12.00 or 12.00 – 3pm, at a cost of £4.50 per hour. Lunch costs £2.30 per day. If you think you might be entitled to funding please ring the school office.

We would appreciate it if children could arrive and be picked up on time.

Please let us know if your child is to be picked up by someone else.

### **School Uniform**

This consists of grey or black trousers or skirt, white polo shirt and a red school sweatshirt or cardigan. School sweatshirts and cardigans are available to order through the school office. Coats and bookbags are also available.

Children will also require a PE kit of plimsolls, white logo T-shirt (available from school) and black shorts.

We ask that jewellery is not worn. If ears are pierced, simple studs may be worn but must be removed before PE. Staff are not able to do this.

### **Healthy Snack**

Your child will be offered milk or water and a piece of fruit every day. Children will also receive a water bottle which will remain in school throughout the year.

### **Sickness and Absence**

We ask that you let us know when your child is absent due to illness, especially if they have an infectious illness. If your child has sickness/diarrhoea, 48 hours must elapse before returning to Nursery.

### **Toilets**

Please help your child to become independent in the use of the toilet. If your child is 3 and you have concerns that your child will not be toilet trained for their Nursery start date, please come and discuss this with us in advance.

### **Sun Safety**

Please help us to ensure that your child is protected in the sun whilst in our care by providing a sun hat and sun cream. We do ask that parents apply creams before Nursery. The children are welcome to bring their own sun cream (named) to keep in school so that the staff can reapply it if necessary.

### **School Meals**

All children enjoy a healthy school lunch every day. Nursery children have lunch as part of their sessions if they are here in the afternoons or all day. Lunch costs £2.30 a day. Individual diets are catered for where possible.

## **School Policies**

These are available to read on request and are gradually being added to the website: [www.kielderprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.kielderprimaryschool.org.uk)

## **Parental Help**

As well as encouraging you to share your child's achievements with us, we would also like to encourage you to become actively involved with the school. We regularly need and value parental help and involvement. We welcome every member of the family to take part in sharing an interest or hobby, helping in indoor or outdoor activities, school visits, fund raising, celebrations and coffee mornings. If, however, you wish to help on a regular basis you will need to have a DBS check. Please ask for more details.

