

Welcome to Caverstede Nursery School. I hope your child/ren are settling well into the nursery routine. Please do not worry if your child is taking a little time to fully settle, this is quite normal.

We will be sending out newsletters on a regular basis to keep you up to date with the events and activities that are taking place at Caverstede, please do look out for them. If you are not sure where to find information please ask your child's Key Person and they will direct you.

If there is anything you want to know about the School or your child's progress, please do talk to the staff or you can speak to me. If you ever want to talk to me about any issues or concerns please do ask at reception and we can arrange a convenient time to meet. I look forward to getting to know you and your children over the course of the year.

I wanted to mention to those of you who have children in the Butterfly class or the Buzzy Bee class that you need to be thinking about where you would like your child to go to school next September. It seems early but you need to have made your decision and applied for a school place by January 15th 2024. For some of you this will be the first time that you will have had to go through the process. My advice would be to do your research! Go and look at the schools you are thinking of and talk to other parents. You are the ones who know your children best and by going to look round potential schools and asking questions will help you to make the right decision for you and your child.

Once you have made your decision apply online at www.peterborough.gov.uk/admissions. The website is already open and is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. It will close on 15th January 2024. On this website there is a booklet entitled 'Primary School Admission' which gives the admission criteria of all the schools in Peterborough.

You will be asked to put down three schools in your order of choice.

You will be informed which school you have been allocated on Primary National Offer day which is 16th April 2024.

If you would like any help with completing the online application please do not hesitate to ask at reception.

Debbie

Harvest

This year we are collecting non-perishable food and nappies, for the Caverstede Care and Share. This is our own mini-food bank where families at Caverstede can "leave what they can and take what they need". So for example if your child has finished toilet training and you have some surplus nappies (including open bags) we'll happily take them. If you have any tins, jars, dried food you'd like to leave us we'll happily put it in our collection too.

This will then form the start of our Care and Share, where anyone needing a little help can take what they need, this is will be on a small scale, but hopefully it will help anyone who is needing it, be it needing to top up a lunch box, or needing a few nappies and food to get your family through the next couple of days, we hope that you all feel welcome to use it. This will be available in the Café, starting after half term (Once we've had chance to go through and sort out the donations!)

Child Protection and Safeguarding for Schools

We take child protection issues extremely seriously; at all times we consider the protection and safety of the child in our care. Child protection issues are always dealt with in the appropriate ways. All staff have attended child protection training and are familiar with the correct procedures.

At Caverstede Nursery School we follow the Child Protection procedures for the Peterborough Safeguarding Board.

"It may be helpful for you to know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from non-accidental injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse. Schools are encouraged to take the attitude that where there are grounds for concern they should be over-cautious, and seek advice, rather than to risk a child's safety. Occasionally, this duty on staff means that a concern is passed on which is later shown to be unfounded. It is hoped that parents/carers will appreciate how difficult it is for schools to carry out this delicate responsibility, and accept that the staff member was acting in good faith and in the best interests of all children."

We have named people for child protection they are Debbie Hayes, Katy Coles, Hannah Haigh and Emily Wiseman.

If you have concerns regarding children's safety and protection, it is essential that you contact your child's key person, class teacher or the Headteacher.



Security & Safeguarding; Mobile phones and personal cameras are only permitted to be used at in the school reception and parent café and NOT in the Nursery garden. It is important that you do not use your phone whilst settling your child into nursery or when dropping off and collecting your child. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Keeping safe and considerate parking

If you drive to Caverstede, could we please ask that you park with care and **avoid double parking or parking on yellow lines**. This is illegal and makes the road dangerous for all the children and families who are using it. There is also a disabled parking bay at the front of the nursery which is there for the use of those who need this facility so please do not park here. Please also consider our neighbours along Caverstede Road and avoid parking across driveways or on the grass verges.

Borrowing library books from the Caverstede library

All classes have boards outside with pictures of books that can be borrowed. If you haven't yet started to borrow books, why not start! There are lots to choose from. Select a card from the board, pop it into your book bag and put the book bag into the box near the boards. Your book will then be ready to take home later in the day. You will need a book bag so that you can take books home and keep them clean, dry and safe. We have book bags available from reception and cost £4. Or you may have a suitable bag at home that you would like to use. Please check our [website](#) for details on how to use the library.



After the October Half Term, we will also be starting Library Explorers. This is a scheme to encourage reading and as a reward at the end of the period, all children who have borrowed books will receive their very own book to keep and enjoy. More details will be sent nearer the time.



NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS AND VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL

Caverstede Nursery School is a ZERO TOLERANCE ZONE. Inappropriate language, threats or acts of aggression towards staff, visitors or other parents will not be tolerated on these premises. Anyone behaving in such a way will be asked to leave; they may receive a ban from the premises and their behaviour may be reported to the police.

Woodland Days:

After half term the Buzzy Bees and Butterflies will be starting their Woodland Days. Ali, our new outdoor practitioner will be leading the sessions often linked to themes happening in the classrooms. It is even more important that the children come dressed appropriately for the weather, as we spend most of a session with the children in our garden, doing all sorts of exciting activities. If you are unable to provide wellies for your child we have many spare pairs, we will also have a suit for your child that they can wear to help protect their coat and clothing whilst in the garden- although it isn't guaranteed they will keep them 100% dry/clean- as things can get messy!



Don't forget, if you are claiming the 30 hour funding you must confirm this every 3 months.

TERM DATES 2023 - 2024

Half term 23rd - 27th October

INSET day - nursery closed Monday 30th October 2023

Classes start Tuesday 31st October

Classes close Thursday 21st December

SPRING TERM

INSET day - nursery closed Friday 5th January

Classes start Monday 8th January 2024

Classes close Friday 16th February

Half term 19th - 23rd February

Classes start Monday 26th February

Classes close Thursday 28th March

SUMMER TERM

Classes start Monday 15th April

May Day Monday 6th May

Classes close Friday 24th May

Half term 27th - 31st May

Classes start Monday 3rd June

Classes close Friday 19th July

MISSING SCHOOL IS MISSING OUT - EVERY DAY COUNTS!!

Attending school **every day** is very important. Even a short time of absence from school can mean that a child misses out on a significant part of the curriculum, which can impact on their learning. Ofsted always ask for the school's attendance data. We monitor each child's attendance and absence record and you will receive copies of this information. **If your child is ill and will not be attending school please telephone the school on the day of absence to inform us.** Thank you.



Ladybird class

A warm welcome to all of our returning and new families, a big thank you for all of your support during the settling in period. The children are settling in really well and are enjoying exploring all that our classroom has to offer. To our new parents it has been lovely to meet you all and if any parents have any questions or worries then please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Ladybird Team.

Our core stories this half term have been "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and "Baa Baa Black Sheep". The children have enjoyed exploring these stories and their rhymes through a variety of small world, sensory and role play experiences. Over the last week we have also begun to explore the topic of Autumn through play with natural objects such as conkers and pine cones. This has sparked a lot of talk and language around number, size, shape and texture, and it has been lovely to see how excited the children have been by this topic.

Next half term our core story shall be "Walking Through the Jungle" and we will begin to meet Woodland Ali for small woodland activities in our garden.



Butterfly class

This half term, we have been looking at and listening to 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell and 'It was a Cold, Dark Night' by Tim Hopgood. The children have been enjoying these stories and learning about the different animals in them. The 'Owl Babies' story has been a useful story as it talks about mummy owl coming back so this has helped with our new children settling into nursery. We have a tuff tray with the characters and small world props so the children can use them to retell the story. We have painted owls, printed baby owls using a potato masher, drawn owls and made cardboard tube ones as well. We have looked at feathers and talked about the colours and patterns on them. The children have made nests outside in the garden and we have been watching the birds in the Woodland garden.

We have started learning about the season of Autumn and trying to find some fallen leaves out in the garden. The children have loved playing with the conkers inside and outside in the garden. They have been rolling them down the guttering and large cardboard tubes. We have been using leaves to make pictures and using them to print with to make our Autumn tree.

We will continue with our core story of 'It was a Cold, Dark Night' by Tim Hopgood and then move onto the traditional tale of 'The Gingerbread Man'.

We will be starting Woodland days after the half term holiday.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely break.

Emily and The Butterfly Team

Buzzy Bee class

The children in the Buzzy Bees have settled really well. Many of those who are returning children have come back in September as though they've never been away, even those moving from Ladybirds. Those new to Caverstede have become used to their new routine and classroom and are doing really well. Some days can still be a little tricky for some of them but they are feeling comfortable with the adults in the room and are happy to seek reassurance when and if they need it. The 'Owl Babies' story has been a useful story as it talks about mummy owl coming back so this has helped with our children settling into nursery.

We have started to introduce group times at the beginning of the day and a large group time when getting ready for lunch. At these times the children are singing the 'hello song' amongst other songs you'll see on our knowledge organiser and other familiar nursery rhymes. We also talk about the days of the week and count how many children are in the group that day, giving daily opportunities to singing, counting and talking about the day and weather.

The children have really enjoyed exploring the new hospital area in the outdoor area where many of the adults have been taken, operated on, bandaged up and made to feel a whole lot better! We have also had a mini 'pop-up shop' role play for a few days which the children embraced, taking it in turns to be shop assistants, customers, and most of all they enjoyed handling the money and doing their shopping!

We are supporting the children with their sharing and turn taking, doing this through role modelling, and supporting children on how to ask and wait for a turn. We know that this can be really difficult stage for the children and this will be something we will be working on throughout the year. Also we are supporting them with their independent skills, encouraging them to have a go at putting on their own coats/hoodies as well as their own shoes. This is something you could help encourage at home too.

Choking

Each day around 40 under-5s are rushed to hospital after choking on something, or swallowing something dangerous. Food is the most likely cause, but small objects and toys can also be risky for young children.

Such a scary thought that something could stop your child breathing. But, the steps to stop that happening are simple and make sense.

Choking –Young children are still learning to chew, swallow and breathe in the right order. There's no sound to warn you. But there are simple ways to stop it happening.

- Cut round food like grapes, tomatoes and big blueberries lengthways and into quarters, not just across
- Cut hard food like carrots, apples, sausages and cheese into thin strips
- Cut large fruits like melon into slices instead of small chunks
- Avoid popcorn, marshmallows and hard round sweets like mini eggs or boiled sweets
- Put small parts from older children's toys out of reach
- Sausages should be avoided due to their high salt content, but if offered to children these should be cut into thin strips rather than chunks and remove the skins

Watch the Chokeables film for first aid advice www.sja.org.uk/thechokeables

Information taken from <https://www.capt.org.uk/choking-prevention>



Applying for a primary school place

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, and you live in Peterborough you need to apply for a Reception school place.

To apply for a place if you live in Peterborough, please visit the following website <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-school-in-reception>

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2024, you will then get an offer for a place on 16 April 2024.



INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTO'S

These will be taken at the school

on Thursday 2nd November.

If you do not usually attend on a Thursday you can come in to have your photo taken. Specific times will be arranged nearer the time. Please keep checking for more information which will be sent out by ParentMail.



Please remember to send your child with named, warm clothes please - hat, gloves and scarves so that they can continue to enjoy playing outside during the

cooler months.

You may also find this interesting as it shows how difficult it is to see children in dark coats.

(Photo credit: Christian Thomas)



Easyfundraising

We've registered Caverstede Nursery School with #easyfundraising, which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Scan the code to sign up on our page.



Thank you!