

## Welcome to Jubilee Nursery **FAQ 2021-22**

**Welcome!** We wish you and your family a warm welcome to Jubilee and hope that you have a wonderful experience of being part of our school community. Jubilee Nursery is a thriving, happy place where children can play and learn to their heart's content. We have a vibrant playground and an engaging and inviting indoor environment, staffed by enthusiastic, caring and creative professionals.

Here are the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions:



### **Will I be able to settle my child into class on the first day?**

Yes. Please stay with your child as long as you feel is necessary for them to feel comfortable. We will help you to judge when your child is ready. There is no rush to say goodbye. Hopefully within a few days the children will feel happier about saying goodbye. If your child is anxious, the staff will discuss strategies with you. Please help your child to feel confident about coming to school by being positive about it yourself.

### **What does my child learn in Nursery?**

We plan a wide variety of fun learning activities based around children's interests and our half-termly topics. Every day there are different learning opportunities both indoors and out, covering all the areas of the curriculum. The children can enjoy creative arts, writing activities, number and shape play, dressing up and role play, book corner, physical play and small world play. We also have weekly P.E. sessions and Music sessions.

### **How shall I prepare my child for Nursery?**

Firstly, be very positive about it yourself. It can be a nervous time for parents as it marks a new beginning, but never let your child pick up on your own anxieties. Tell your child that they are going to learn a lot of new things and make new friends. Encourage your child to dress and undress independently, to go to the toilet on their own, to feed themselves and to ask questions and tell others if they need help.

Please encourage them to experiment with pens and paper at home. Drawing is very important to develop their confidence and skills and if they want to write just let them do it their own way. We would advise you not to teach them to form letters in any formal way, as being taught in two different ways can be very confusing to children. If you show them how to write their name it should only have a capital for the first letter.

### **How often do you have Parents' Evening?**

We have a Parents' meeting day once a term, with slots booked through parentmail. However, you do not need to wait for this day if you would like to speak to a member of staff. We will try to be communicating with you a little each day. Please arrange a suitable appointment time with the teacher. Each child receives a written report at the end of the year.



### What is Forest School?

We hold weekly sessions outdoors for most of the year where children can be at one with nature, exploring the natural environment, discovering creatures, playing the mud kitchen, building dens, climbing and developing confidence. Sessions may include tasks such as hunting for minibeasts, drawing flowers, comparing leaves or simply digging in the mud. Through engaging in natural play, the aim is to provide children with a better understanding of the world around them and how to look after it and appreciate it. We have two areas in the school where we hold forest sessions. Children wear wellies and waterproof clothing. We encourage children to use tools and create dens, mixtures and natural sculptures in the environment.

### How do you teach Phonics at Jubilee?

We start teaching phonics in the Autumn, and use the Read Write Inc. programme. It is a very simple start in Nursery, whereby we teach one sound per week, and plan for activities to help children practise to write the letter. We also talk about different words that begin with that sound and try to notice them through the week. You can help at home by practising the sounds using the letter sounds phonics cards we sell at school. You can buy them from the main office at a cost of £5.

### What are the arrangements for snacks?

Every child receives a healthy snack (fruit/vegetable) every day. They can also have water or milk, to drink. Please do not provide your own snack unless your child has special dietary requirements. If this is the case please explain this to the teachers.

### What is the wrap-around and club offer for Nursery?

We allow nursery children to register for our Breakfast and After School Club on a case-by-case basis. The wellbeing of the children is paramount, and we have found that some children manage and enjoy attending the clubs whereas others find the long days overwhelming. The Early Years Leader will be able to discuss your child's needs with you in more detail. There are no extra-curricular clubs for children in nursery.

### How can I support my child's learning?

The best things parents can do is to talk to their children, listen to them and give them different experiences, e.g. go to the park or teach them to ride a bicycle or scooter. We will give you lots of ideas for activities you can enjoy at home when your child starts nursery.

Every day the children take home a story/picture book. You can share or read the story book to your child and they can 'read' the book to you. At first they will just be using their memory and the pictures. Encourage this! Please make sure they return their books every morning.



### How do the lunches work at Jubilee?

Children can choose either a school dinner or packed lunch, payable via parentmail. All our meat is halal. Children can either choose a hot lunch or a sandwich and salad. There is always a pudding and fruit. Children can have seconds of both main course and fruit if they wish. The staff stay with the children to support them in eating their lunch.

If you prefer your child to have a packed lunch please note that the school has a healthy eating policy and we ask you not to pack sweets, chocolate bars, biscuits or fizzy or sugary drinks. We also make efforts to be a nut-free environment (although we cannot guarantee this) so please do not pack anything containing nuts into your child's lunch bag as they may be sitting near another child with an allergy. We also ask you *not* to bring in cake for children's birthdays. We do suggest individually wrapped chocolates or treats (such as celebrations) or fruit/raisins. If in doubt ask the staff for guidance, we are happy to help.



### **When does my child get to go outside?**

The outside area is open for play every day, for most of the day. Please ensure that your child has a warm, sensible coat for all weathers. We encourage children to bring in labelled wellies and leave them at school by their peg for our Forest school sessions. Children also need a change of clothes in a bag on their peg for unforeseen circumstances!

### **Does my child have to wear uniform?**

No. Children in the nursery can wear Jubilee uniform if you wish, but it is optional. We encourage children to be dressed in clothes that can be washed easily as daily activities include messy play and painting. However, we often have special dress up days that are lots of fun for everyone! We will give you advance warning for these days. Every child needs a book bag. They are available from the office costing £4.

### **How do I apply for Reception?**

Between the start of September and mid-January, you are required to register your child for Reception online at: [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk). In September you will receive a book helping you to learn more about the admissions process. When you apply, you will be asked to give 6 schools as your preferences. You will be notified mid-April of which school your child has gained a place at. If you do not gain a place for your child at your chosen schools, you have the right of appeal. Appeals take place in July. Please ask if you would like any help with this process. There is no such thing as a silly question!

### **What else is handy to know?**

- We open the Nursery door at 9:00 in the morning. We usually close the door by 9:15. During settling time in September then this will be extended as necessary. If you are late, you need to come to the school entrance on Filey Avenue where it will be noted. Late pick-ups at the end of the school day are also here. Nursery pick up is at 3:25pm, and any child not picked up by 3:40 will be taken round to the front desk.
- Coming in to the school building by Nursery Classes is often very busy in the mornings. We would really appreciate it if you helped us keep to Health and Safety rules by not bringing buggies into the main shared coat area by the Nursery doors. Thank you for your help with this.
- School closes early at 2pm on the last day of each term and there is no Playcentre on this day.
- Please look after the books sent home in the book bag.
- There is lots of information about school in the handbook. You should have a new handbook in your welcome pack, and you can find it on our website too.

Finally, we warmly welcome you to Jubilee and know that you'll make lots of great memories here over your child's time. We hope to see you at our PTA events – keep up to date by checking the website calendar and by reading the newsletter each month. 😊

## COVID-19 Update: Spring 2021

### Starting Nursery

We expect that we will be able to allow parents onto the premises for settling in purposes in September 2021. If there is any change, we will contact you to discuss the arrangements.

### Settling in Sessions

We usually have a Welcome Stay and Play session before the children start in nursery. At present, our plan is to hold this in late summer term, and we expect to be able to go ahead with this. We will contact you with more information when we can.

### Precautions in the nursery

We have handwashing as part of our daily routine when children first come into the room in the morning, before snack time, before lunch time, after lunch, and before story time in the afternoon. We talk about ways to keep healthy and clean as part of our ongoing learning about health and self-care.

If your child is unwell, and/or shows any signs of the virus, please be aware that they will need to be looked after at home. We appreciate working together to keep the children and staff well.

### Enquiries

Please contact us if you would like to discuss any part of your child's transition to nursery. We are here to help and support you and your child. You can contact the Early Years Leader by emailing [admissions@jubilee.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@jubilee.hackney.sch.uk), or by calling 0208 806 5446.