

Welcome to Pear Class! 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. We have a vibrant playground and an engaging and inviting indoor environment, staffed by enthusiastic, caring and creative professionals.

We are the staff in Pear Class:



Kate Apostolov
Pear Class
Teacher, Mon-Fri



Donna
Pear Class Nursery
Officer, Mon-Fri



Jodie Oliver
Pear Class Teaching
Assistant, M, T, T, F



Jackie O'Shea
Pear Class Teaching
Assistant, Wed-Fri



Santosh Kaur
Lunchtime Supervision,
Mon-Fri

Here are the answers to some Frequently Asked Questions:



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

Yes, for a short while. After a few minutes, please show confidence in saying goodbye to your child (even if this feels difficult) and make your way out of the nursery. The quicker you can make this goodbye, the easier it will be for the children to settle in the long run. The longer a parent stays, the more time there is for feelings to escalate in the child, as they anticipate you leaving. If feelings are given time to escalate, this takes much longer for the child to become calm again. A quick goodbye is easier for the child to process and enables us to step in and support them. The staff can only make supportive bonds with the child once the parent/carer has said goodbye, so please bear this in mind during the drop off period. We are all very experienced in supporting children during settling in.

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 in the spring and summer.

How shall I prepare my child for Nursery?

Firstly, be very positive about it yourself. It can be a nervous time for parents, 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 Spring, 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/small sandwich) 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 are not able to provide wrap-around care for children in the nursery. This is due to the staffing ratios that children aged 3 and 4 require. Collection from nursery is at 3:15pm sharp.

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 do not give out cake or treats for children's birthdays.** This is due to our protocols to safeguard children with allergies.



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.

All children must have wellies to leave at school for our Forest school sessions.

All wellies need to have the child's name written inside them.

Children also need a change of clothes in a bag on their peg for unforeseen circumstances!

What kind of shoes should my child wear?

All children must have shoes that fasten with Velcro. This way, the children gain independence quickly, being able to put on and take off their shoes easily. Shoes with laces are very challenging for children to manage at this stage, and can be dangerous in the nursery when undone. When purchasing shoes for your child before starting nursery, please remember it is Velcro strap only please. Thank you for your support with this. We also do not allow any sandals with open toes or flimsy ballet shoes. This is due to the health and safety of the children whilst running and climbing in the playground.



Does my child have to wear uniform?

We prefer that children are dressed in uniform for nursery. Please see the uniform information sheet for details.

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. 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 does my child need to bring in each day?

<p>1. Water Bottle</p> 	<p>2. Coat / hat</p> 	<p>3. Wellies</p> 	<p>4. Change of clothes in a bag</p> 	<p>5. Book bag</p> 
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What else is handy to know?

- We open the Nursery door at 9:00 in the morning. We usually close the door by 9:10. 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 3:15pm, and any child not picked up by 3:25 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.**
- Please look after the books sent home in the book bag.
- There is lots of information about school in the handbook. This can be found on our website.

Finally, if you have any further questions or need support in any way, please speak to us or email Kate at admissions@jubilee.hackney.sch.uk and we will do our very best to help you! 😊