

Welcome Booklet for Foundation Stage 1

Introduction

Starting Nursery marks a new and exciting stage of life for both child and parents. The following notes are intended to tell you something about our Foundation Stage. Hopefully, the information will be of interest to you and at the same time tell you about the Educational Aims that we have for your child.

Aims of BWJPS Foundation Stage

In our Foundation Stage, we strive to achieve the following aims:

- Create a safe, secure, stimulating and well-planned learning environment which meets the individual needs and interests of all our children.
- Provide opportunities through play, which encourage children to develop emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically.
- Promote good standards of behaviour and interaction with other children and adults.
- Develop and maintain good relationships with parents as we work with them in partnership.
- Continue to build upon what the child has learnt at home, broadening their range of learning experiences and stimulating their curiosity and imagination.
- Enable each child to develop as a happy, confident and independent learner with a well- developed sense of self-worth, responsibility and community.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

During your child's education in our nursery they will be following the curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage that means that your child will work towards the statutory Early Learning Goals. The Early Years Foundation Stage outlines standards for learning, development and care for all children aged 0-5. (For more information look on www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs)

The seven areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional development: We encourage independence, confidence, making friends and getting on with other children and telling others how you feel and what you like.

Communication and Language: We encourage development of listening skills, learning to enjoy stories and rhymes, developing their understanding of language and their speaking skills.

Literacy: We encourage children to begin developing skills in reading and writing.

Mathematics: We encourage children to use number names in play, play counting games, and experiment with shapes and measure.

Understanding of the World: We encourage children to use their five senses to notice things in the world around them, finding out about people or places in the local community, designing and making things, learning about animals and plants and how to look after them.

Expressive Arts and Design: Children are given the opportunity to learn to express ideas and feelings through painting, drawing and modelling, acting out different situations, singing and making music and movement and dance.

Physical Development: We encourage an enjoyment of active play and gaining confidence in movement, energetic activity indoors and outdoors, development of skills such as running, throwing, climbing, learning how to make delicate movements with fingers and hands and finding out about health and fitness.

Our approach is child centred, with an emphasis on developing the whole child and the way in which young children learn through play. Each of the seven areas are equally important and depend on each other to support a rounded approach to child development. All areas will be delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

The curriculum should take account of:

- The developmental stages and needs of each child.
- The interests of the individual child.
- The previous experiences gained by each child.

The curriculum aims to:

- Build on the child's curiosity, interest and fascination in the environment.
- Provide opportunities within a context that is meaningful to the child.
- Broaden and deepen the child's experiences.
- Increase self-awareness, develop language usage and enhance relationships with family peers and the community at large.

The Nursery Day – Monday to Friday

Session One: 8.40am – 1.30pm

Session Two: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Children are entitled to 15 hours free per week.

The Foundation Stage is made up of an inside and outside area.

The outside area is open all year round, in all types of weather because young children benefit from being in the fresh air, need daily opportunities for vigorous exercise, and need opportunities to explore the outside environment including materials, insects and weather conditions. The outside area offers unique opportunities to develop social and linguistic skills for getting on with others, (e.g. learning to share, taking turns with bikes, prams etc) and for learning on a larger scale than is possible inside. There are also large construction blocks and

equipment such as tunnels, balancing beams and balls etc. to develop physical skills. The children can choose to go outside at regular times throughout the day.

The inside area is set out each day with a variety of activities such as small construction, writing materials, messy play activities, imaginative play, sand, investigative activities, puzzles, books and role play areas. Children have free access to all areas and will be encouraged to be as independent as possible. Adults will be on hand to support children in their play and learning.

School uniform

All children must wear school uniform:

Boys

- Grey school trousers / shorts
- White polo shirt with/without school logo
- Burgundy sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey socks
- School yarmulke with 2 clips
- Tsitsis

Girls

- Grey pinafore dress / skirt (knee-length)
- White polo-style shirt with/without school logo
- Burgundy sweatshirt with school logo
- Grey/white socks or grey tights
- Pink gingham dress (summer - optional)

All children should wear sensible black shoes with Velcro fastenings if possible (not trainers), which are suitable and safe for playing outside. Children may wear sandals in summer, but these should not be sling-backs.

School sweatshirts and polo shirts may be purchased from the school. You will shortly receive a school uniform order form, and we have samples of different sizes for you to try on your child.

Boys must wear tsitsis and yarmulkes at all times. These may be purchased from the school office.

In addition, your child will need a pair of Wellingtons.

Blue Bags

Children will be provided with a yellow bag, which should be filled with spare clothes – underwear, socks/tights, trousers, and skirts in case of accidents. This should be kept in school on your child's peg.

All items of clothing must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

P.E

P.E lessons will take place every Thursday afternoon on this day we ask for children to come to school in their P.E kit, jogging bottoms, or shorts, white T-shirt, school jumper and trainers. This saves time getting children changed for P.E. Children will stay in their P.E kit for the full day.

Toilet training

Where it is desirable that children are toilet trained before starting nursery, it should be recognised that children develop at different rates. Many children are just past their third birthday when they begin pre-school and so there will be a small number who have not developed consistency in their toileting. We will discuss the management of this with the parents/carers so that we are working in partnership towards the child's independence.

Baking

Each week children will take part in- group baking activities e.g. fruit salads, biscuits, pizzas etc. For this we ask parents to pay £3 each half term or £18 for the year.

Tissues

As you can imagine, the children frequently suffer from colds and runny noses and we would be very grateful if you could donate a box of tissues at the start of the year for use in the Foundation Stage.

Profiles

In the Foundation Stage the staff observe your child at play. We build up a record of your child's progress that includes examples of work, photographs and written comments on your child's interests and strengths. You can ask to see this at any time; they will also be shared at parent's evenings.

Confectionary and toys

Please do not send your child into school with sweets, toys or other valuable items.

Fruit

We would like to ask for contributions of fruit every Friday for the children to eat at Shabbos party.

Library books

Children will receive a book bag after the first few weeks of starting in The Foundation Stage, please ensure you bring this to school every Monday so a new book can be given. More information about this will be given when you receive your first library book.

Children's trays

Each child has their own individual tray with their name; please check this tray daily as letters, children's work and other information is often put there for you to collect.

Snack

Milk is available for children in the mornings. The government 'Fruit in Schools Scheme' means that all children will be provided with a piece of fruit each day. Children should bring in their own water bottle clearly named each day with fresh water.

Jewish Studies

Jewish studies are an integral part of life in the foundation stage. The Jewish Studies teacher Aunti Channi will work with the children, either in small group activities, or with the whole group e.g. for singing, learning brochos, listening to stories etc.

Parent's Evening

Our door is always open for a chat and we will see you daily, but there are two formal parents evenings throughout the year. The first one is in November where we will inform you of how well your child has settled into school. The second one is in March where you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

A written report will be given to parents at the end of the school year.

Conclusion

We hope that your child will be very happy in our Foundation Stage Class. If by the time your children leave this class to enter Year 1, they have achieved self confidence in their own abilities, find life interesting, are eager to learn, and can communicate feelings and ideas, we will feel satisfied that we have achieved our aims, and we hope that you will be to.

Please remember, we are always here and willing to help!