



Welcome to Nursery at Risley Avenue Primary School!

'..learning at the heart of living..'

We know that coming to school is a big step for your child and we want you and your child to feel secure and happy with us. This handbook aims to give you an understanding of what you can expect here at Risley Avenue Primary School.

This handbook is also available on the school website, along with a wide range of other information about the school.



Your child is in Class _____

Class Teacher: _____ Nursery Nurse: _____

Start date and times: _____

Once your child is settled, their place will be: _____

Risley Avenue Primary School, The Roundway, Tottenham N17 7AB

ph 020 8808 0792, www.risleyavenueprimary.org.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Linda Sarr

Working with you

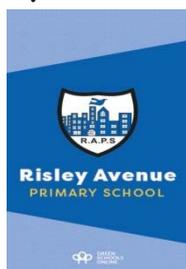
We will always try to keep you up to date with what is happening in school, from day to day incidents, to topics we're studying, and ways you can support your child's learning at home.

There are many ways of keeping in touch with what is happening in school:

Talk with your class teacher; come to your 1:1 meeting when your child is in the observation cycle; borrow your child's Special Book, come to whole class open sessions to support learning at home.

To read our newsletters, find out what's happening in class, in school and to manage online payments, download these apps:

Risley Avenue Primary School



Parent Mail



Class Dojo



- **Risley Avenue Primary School:** For easy access to our website (www.risleyavenueprimary.org.uk) on your phone
- **Parent Mail:** Day to day messages to parents from the school office are sent through this app. Our school is completely cashless. All online payments (trips, school meals etc) are made through Parent Mail.
- **Class Dojo:** to see our weekly newsletters and get reminders about events in class and across the school. This is also a great way to communicate directly with your child's teacher.

If you have any difficulty with these apps, please go the school office.

Become part of the Risley family: join our parents' association, 'Friends and Families of Risley', join the adult choir, sign up for a wide range of adult learning, help out when your child has a trip, volunteer as a reader in school. Please talk to your class teacher for more information.

We must have current phone numbers and email address we can reach you on at all times. Please update your contact details as soon as they change.

30hours/Free for 2s provision

If you think you are entitled to a 30 hour (full time) Nursery place for your 3-4 year old, or a 15 hour place for your 2 year old child, please look at our website for information about applying for this provision. We do not have payable spaces for 2 year olds, or for 3-4 year olds but we will help you make your application to the Local Authority.

Getting started

Your child's first days:

- Please enter and leave the school through the Early Years gate on The Roundway.
- Session times are as follows:
 - Morning 8.45am -11.45am
 - Afternoon 12.15pm-3.15pm
 - Full time 8.45am - 3.15pm
- We aim to get every child in for their full offer as soon as we can. We stagger entry to Nursery to give children time to get to know us and to begin to feel comfortable at school.
- Please be prepared for settling in to take a little time. Do talk with your child's teacher about when you can leave; it will be different for each child.

For full attendance, a child should be able to:

- Separate from parent/carer easily
- Move independently around the classroom and playground
- Stay awake and energetic through the session
- Behave appropriately and non-aggressively for the majority of the time
- Know how to use the toilet, and mostly be independent doing so. We will, of course, help out with accidents.

Regular attendance - Please attend every day. This helps your child settle quickly and make rapid progress. If your child is unwell, please call the school to let us know your child cannot attend.

Please note that if your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they should stay at home for 48 hours after the symptoms stop.

What to wear to Nursery:

- Children in Nursery can wear either our school uniform or their own clothes. We encourage children to do things for themselves and to learn to do them without making a mess, but while they are learning this it is best to expect some mess.
- Please send your child to school in clothes they can mostly manage themselves: trousers with elasticated waistbands and no belts, shoes with Velcro straps and sleeves which pull up easily all really help your child to become independent.
- If you want your child to wear uniform, our uniform is for sale at:
Divine Schoolwear, 3 Northumberland Park, N170TA, ph 02082169113, www.divineschoolwear.com
or
Star School Uniforms, 32 Church Rd N178AQ ph 02088856575, www.staruniforms.co.uk

Please make sure that your child's name is written on any clothing they might take off at school.

What to bring to Nursery:

- A pair of wellington boots to keep at school for water play and rainy days.
- A full spare set of clothes in case of accidents. Please make sure this set of clothes is clearly labelled with your child's name. We will keep these clothes in a Risley bag on their coat peg.
- We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week towards buying ingredients for cooking, making play dough and so on.
- We will give your child a plastic zip bag to keep their school library book in. If you want them to have a Risley school bag, these are available from the uniform shops (addresses above).

Eating and drinking at Nursery:

- Risley Avenue Primary School is an accredited Healthy School. We teach our children the importance of healthy eating and keeping active and we ask for your support in this.
- There is a snack table available to Nursery children all the time. We provide fruit and a choice of milk or water.
- All Nursery staff prioritise the safety children with food allergies. Please ensure your class teacher is kept up to date with allergy information.
- Only children who stay at Nursery all day eat lunch here. Children can bring a healthy packed lunch from home, or have a school dinner.
- School dinners cost £10 per week, payable in advance through the Parent Mail app. If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals, you can find details of how to apply on the school website.
- Canteen menus run on a three week cycle and are available on the website.

Extended day:

- We have both breakfast and after school care provided on-site.
- We run our own breakfast club with the support of The Magic Breakfast. All Risley children are entitled to a free breakfast after 8.15am. Any children who arrive before 8.15 am will be asked to pay £2 child care cost.
- After school provision is run by Kidscape (www.kidscapeafterschoolclub.vpweb.co.uk).
- More details about both clubs can be found on the school website, or from the school office.

Learning at school

The Nursery curriculum is always a balance of what your child needs now and establishing the skills and knowledge they will need in the future.

The most important areas of learning in Nursery are called the 'Prime Areas': Personal, Social & Emotional Development, Communication & Language Development and Physical Development. There are also four 'Specific Areas': Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design.

If your child is working at expected levels in all these areas when they leave Nursery, then he or she will be an investigator, an artist, a builder, a story teller, a singer a dancer, a gardener and a problem-solver. Your child will be ready for Reception.



When children are not working directly with an adult, they choose how they spend their time. Through planned play, we develop children's capacity to think critically, to communicate, to solve problems and to enjoy new learning. We aim to support your child to develop great learning habits which will stick with them through their lives.

The Observation Cycle

Your child will be a focus child about once a term. We observe and record your child's interests and learning. We will ask you for information about their interests at home and we will invite you to talk about his/her progress and the next steps of learning.

Special Books

Every child in Nursery will have their own Special Book. We hope this will be a souvenir of their time in Nursery that you will treasure for a long time. We will ask you to contribute to this book and to bring it home to show the family about your child's progress.

Learning at home

Developmentally, the best things you can do for your child at home are:

- Talk with your child - listen to what they say and answer their questions. Make up stories about toys as your child is playing - they will soon take over from you as the story teller!

- **Support independence skills** - it is a real boost to children's confidence to learn these skills. Encourage your child to use the toilet, put on their own coat and shoes, and eat and drink by themselves.
- **Exercise** - walk to school if possible, play in the park, learn to ride a scooter or bike, kick a ball
- **Read** - make sure your child gets a bedtime story every night. You can borrow a book, from Nursery and change it as often as your child wants to. Nursery staff will show you how.
- **Check our ACTIVITY BOARD in Nursery for more ideas**

What about Reading and Writing?

In Nursery, we focus on the key skills and knowledge which children need before they are ready to learn to read and write in Reception.

Reading:

- Love of stories and books - every time you share an enjoyable story with your child, you are giving them a reason to become a reader.
- Understanding how books work - which way up to hold them, turning the pages left to right and one at a time
- Language and structure of stories - beginning, middle and ending.
- Recognising familiar words - their own name, shop names, simple road signs

Writing:

- Understanding that writing tells us something and is important
- Developing eye hand control and a secure pencil grip
- Interest in and enjoyment of drawing and painting as a way of communicating

Teaching writing at home:

- We don't recommend starting to teach writing letters and numbers until your child's pencil grip is secure and your child wants to try.
- If you want to teach letters at home, please make sure that you teach lower case letters except where a capital should be (for example, at the start of your child's name). It is really hard for a child who has learned to write in capitals to 'unlearn' this. When your child starts learning to write in Reception, they will start in lower case letters.
- Please ask your teacher for a letter formation sheet.

**We look forward to welcoming you into Nursery at
Risley Avenue Primary School!**