



**CARLINGHOW**  
ACADEMY



**GREAT  
HEIGHTS**  
ACADEMY TRUST



# Nursery Booklet 2021

Welcome to Carlinghow Academy



*Achieving excellence together*

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# Principal's Welcome

I would like to welcome you to Carlinghow Academy.

I hope that you find this booklet interesting and full of all the information you need to know about your child starting Nursery.

I firmly believe that in order to provide the best outcomes for children, education must be seen as a team effort between the teachers, the school as a whole, the parent and the child, and therefore I extend a warm welcome to you and your families and look forward to securing a happy and successful working partnership.

If there is anything that you are not sure about, or you have any questions that this booklet or our website does not answer, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will try to answer your query.

Miss D Worthington, Principal



# Smooth Transition

Starting Nursery is an exciting time but we also appreciate that it can bring with it feelings of worry and anxiety for both children and parents/carers. In light of this, we strongly believe that successful transition begins by building strong relationships between the staff, the child and their families.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Inviting children in for transition visits where they can spend time getting to know their new teachers and peers – this will happen W/B 6<sup>th</sup> September, the week before your child starts their normal hours.
- Carrying out a 'doorstep' visit for children who are new where 2 members of staff will visit your child at home. During this visit staff will spend time talking to yourself and your child and they will observe how your child plays/interacts in a familiar environment. The staff will find out about your child's interests and likes so that they can prepare the classroom environment to accommodate these. This ensures your child feels as settled as possible.
- Spending the first 4 weeks carrying out baseline assessments in school.
- Allocating your child a key worker so they can form a close relationship with a familiar adult.
- Sharing assessment information through reports, parents' evenings and an online learning journey.



# Baseline Assessment

When your child starts in Nursery, their teachers will spend the first 4 weeks getting to know them through a baseline assessment. The baseline assessment builds a 'picture' of your child looking at: well-being, characteristics of effective learning, prime areas and specific areas.

Teachers will capture the baseline assessment through:

- Observations of children's play and interactions
- Planned activities in provision
- Speaking to parents and carers
- Home visits
- Discussions with previous settings

Children will only be assessed when they are displaying high levels of involvement and well-being as we recognise that the most important job at the start of the year is to ensure that your child makes a happy and settled transition into Nursery.

During this time we will support children to establish positive relationships, understand routines and become familiar with the adults in Nursery.

Once children are happy and settled at Nursery the staff can then use the information from the baseline assessments to carefully plan and prepare an engaging and stimulating learning environment filled with exciting opportunities for your child to play, interact, learn and explore. For this reason, it is important that you share as much information with your child's teacher as possible: especially about your child's interests and the things that excite them.



# Curriculum

In Nursery the children help to decide the curriculum. Our curriculum is flexible in order to cater for the needs and interests of the children within the setting and is planned in response to children's individual next steps in learning. When children are engaged and excited they learn best, so we encourage you to share with your child's key worker the things that they love doing and are interested in...

## *Early Years Outcomes (September 2021)*

Throughout the year children's progress is reviewed against the Early Years Outcomes. Children who are working within 'typical' expectations for Nursery will be working within the '3 and 4 year olds' section or each of the Areas of Development. The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe key dispositions which play a central role in your child becoming an effective learner.

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning	
<b>Playing and Exploring</b>	Children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
<b>Active Learning</b>	Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
<b>Creating and Thinking Critically</b>	Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Areas of Learning and Development	Aspect
<b>Prime Areas</b>	
Communication and Language	Listening and attention
	Speaking
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self – regulation
	Managing self
	Building relationships
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills
	Fine Motor Skills
<b>Specific Areas</b>	
Literacy	Comprehension
	Word reading
	Writing
Mathematics	Number
	Numerical Patterns
Understanding the World	Past and Present
	People, Culture and Communities
	The Natural World
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials
	Being Imaginative and Expressive

Further information about the Early Years Outcomes can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-cyfs-framework/changes-to-the-early-years-foundation-stage-cyfs-framework>

# Play-Based Learning

In Nursery, children learn largely through child initiated activities and play-based experiences. Staff carefully plan indoor and outdoor provision to capture your child's imagination, promote independent learning and encourage interactions with peers across a range of contexts.

There are carpet sessions timetabled throughout the day where the children come together to learn about Phonics, Literacy and Maths, as well as Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Focussed activities are then planned to provide the 'next steps' to support your child's progress and development.

Similar to the baseline, staff will dedicate time to observing your child as they play, interact, problem-solve and choose their own activities.

Areas of continuous provision include:

- Construction
- Water
- Play Dough
- Creative
- Sand
- Outdoors
- Role-Play
- Small-World
- ICT
- Library



# Wow Moments

At Carlinghow Academy we like to work in partnership with parents and we encourage you to take an active role in your child's education.

We love hearing about the exciting experiences your child has outside of Nursery, including special visits and outings as well as day to day activities such as sharing a book at bedtime, learning to ride a bike, playing a game, visiting family etc..

WOW slips are available in the Nursery entrance on the information board.

## Whatever the Weather!

Part of our curriculum in Nursery is 'Understanding the World', so please be aware that we like to play out in all weathers!

Children absolutely love exploring their natural environment and what better way to do this than to experience the changing seasons first hand?

During the wet months we ask that you provide your child with a hooded, waterproof coat, a pair of wellies and a spare pair of socks.

We also like to get hands-on so please be aware that, on occasion, your child's clothing might not be as clean as when they first came to school in the morning!

Wherever possible we will provide children with aprons but we ask you to understand that children generally have a way of getting messy no matter what and if it's only a little bit of dirt or paint it should come out in the wash!



# Sessions

All Nursery children are entitled to receive 15 funded hours and some children will be entitled to receive 30 funded hours. If you would like to check your entitlement please visit the following website: [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

From September 2021, we will be offering the following sessions:

Every Morning
Every day Monday - Friday (8.45am - 11.45am)
Every Afternoon
Every day Monday - Friday (12.15pm - 3.15pm)
First part of the week
Monday all day (8.45am - 3.15pm)
Tuesday all day (8.45am - 3.15pm)
Wednesday morning (8.45am - 11.45am)
Second part of the week
Wednesday (12.15pm - 3.15pm)
Thursday (8.45am - 3.15pm)
Friday (8.45am - 3.15pm)
30 Hours Funding
Monday - Friday (8.45am - 3.15pm)

If these hours are not suitable, come and talk to us and we will try to accommodate you.

For any child staying over lunchtime they will incur a small additional charge towards supervision costs.

We also offer paid sessions to families who would like more than their 15 funded hours. We offer competitive rates and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please request additional sessions through the school office.

# Parent Participation

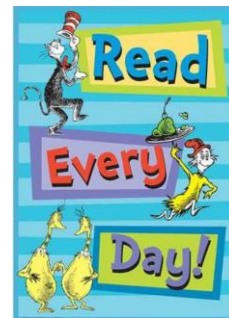
At Carlinghow Academy, we view your child's education as a partnership between home and school. In order for your child to reach their full potential it is important that we work as a team. At the beginning of the school year, parents are asked to sign a contract; The Carlinghow Academy Home/Academy Agreement. This identifies what we will do together, what we as staff will do, what we expect you as parents to do and finally what we ask of the children. A copy of the agreement terms can be found on the last page of this booklet.

## Reading

Reading at home is **THE** best way you can support your child's learning! We encourage you to share books **EVERY** night whether they are home reading books or picture books.

Sharing books has significant benefits including:

- Enjoyment
- Strengthening bonds between parent and child
- Improving speaking and listening skills
- Promoting a love of reading
- Giving your child the best start to their education



# Seesaw

At Carlinghow Academy we use an app called Seesaw throughout school as an interactive learning platform. It is a simple way for teachers and pupils to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Seesaw gives pupils a place to document their learning, be creative and learn how to use technology. Each child gets their own online journal which follows them up through school. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning, they and will add and create photos, videos, drawings, or presentations independently. When there are new Seesaw posts, families can be notified via app notification, email or SMS. Parents are only notified about their own child's work, and all data is safe and secure.

Seesaw is also used to share letters and important information with parents.

# Texts

In order to keep our parents updated with school life and any last minute changes such as closure due to snow we use a text/email service called 'Groupcall' which will send a text to mobile phones or an email depending on the urgency of the message.

# Parentpay

We use an electronic payment system 'Parent Pay' - where parents can pay for school dinners and trips online. Once your child has started school you will receive information on registration.

# Snacks

At Carlinghow Academy we strive to promote a healthy lifestyle. Children are offered fresh or dried fruit and vegetables, provided by a government scheme to encourage children to eat five a day. This includes a different choice each day e.g banana, carrot, pear, apple or orange. Children are encouraged to peel their own fruit to assist their self-help skills.

# Milk

Milk is available to all children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. For all our under 5's this is free. Carlinghow Academy will automatically register your child to receive school milk each day.

# Water

Children are encouraged to drink water to keep well hydrated during the school day. To promote a healthy lifestyle this must be water and not juice.

# School Dinners

Dinners are freshly cooked in our own kitchens. We offer choices each day, including a vegetarian option and the menus rotate over a two-week cycle. Fresh fruit and bread are always available, along with water to drink. Menus are changed seasonally and information is sent home for you and your child to choose their lunch. If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please let us know so that we can tailor a menu to suit your needs. You will have the option to pay for a hot dinner if your child stays for lunch, or alternatively you can send a packed lunch for your child. Please note that school dinners are paid for in advance each Monday.

# School Uniform

Grey skirt/ trousers

Blue sweatshirt/ cardigan (ideally with the Carlinghow Academy logo)

White polo shirt

Blue/Grey Striped Tie (optional in Nursery)

Black shoes - no boots please

In the summer, many girls wear blue/ white check dresses.

All children may wear grey shorts in warm weather

Children should not come to school wearing fashion trainers, jeans, tracksuits, sportswear or beachwear.

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

## Keeping informed

To ensure parents are kept informed of up and coming events, a calendar on our website shows all our diary events. We also publish all letters which are sent home on our website, so it is worth checking our web page at regular intervals to keep yourself informed.

## Getting in touch

Carlinghow Academy

Ealand Road

Batley

WF17 8HT

01924 326371

[office@carlinghowacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@carlinghowacademy.org.uk)

# Preparation

Many parents ask what we want children to do before they come to Nursery.

Whilst reading, writing and maths are important areas of learning, please remember that in Nursery they only form part of the curriculum. Here is a list of ways that you can support your child's learning at home:

- *Read books*
- *Make up stories*
- *Sing songs*
- *Dance to music*
- *Insist on good manners*
- *Teach your child how to dress themselves (including fastening their coats)*
- *General hygiene (including washing hands)*
- *Healthy choices*
- *Junk modelling*
- *Play dough*
- *Exercise*
- *Get outdoors*
- *Counting objects*
- *Mark making*

*We hope that you have found the information in this booklet helpful.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or arrange a meeting with a member of staff.*

*We look forward to the year ahead getting to know you and your child!*

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# Building a partnership between Home and the Academy

## TOGETHER WE WILL:

- Help our children to feel happy, confident and valued at Carlinghow Academy.
- Promote in them a clear understanding of good manners and right and wrong.
- Share common expectations to enable everyone to reach their maximum potential.
- Create a safe and secure environment where our children can flourish.
- Establish open and respectful communication between all members of The Academy community.
- Develop a shared understanding of the behaviour policy expectations.
- Celebrate, share and praise successes.

## THE ACADEMY STAFF WILL:

- Work within all policies, values, aims and visions set by the Governors.
- Provide an open and welcoming environment where you and your child will feel valued.
- Recognise and build on your child's unique strengths.
- Set accurate and helpful targets for you and your child to work on.
- Keep you informed of your child's progress and offer encouragement and support.
- Be available to discuss your child's progress formally annually and informally by mutual arrangement.
- Endeavour to arrange Academy events and meetings to meet the needs of families.
- Ensure respectful communication by providing appropriate lines of communication which are accessible, regular and considered.
- Have available on request information about the complaints procedure.

## IN RETURN WE ASK THAT PARENTS:

- Support and respect the Academy's policies, values, aim and visions.
- Support the staff in their care and education of your child.
- Ensure that your child is punctual and attends The Academy regularly.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Attend and support Academy events, meetings and celebrations wherever possible.
- Create a sense of belonging by ensuring children wear the requested Academy uniform.
- Ensure respectful communication by liaising with the appropriate Academy Staff.
- Notify the Academy of any changes of circumstances that might affect the child.
- Let us work together to make our partnership one of confidence, enthusiasm and respect.

## IN RETURN WE ASK THAT CHILDREN:

- Take care of everyone and everything so that:

*The Academy is a happy place, we can all learn, nobody gets hurt, we are all safe, nothing gets spoilt or lost. And we take care of ourselves so that we can stay fit and healthy.*