



Lowther Primary School Foundation Stage Unit
Tel: 020 8748 3984

Welcome to Chestnut Nursery Class

Welcome to Chestnut Nursery Class. We hope that your child will have a happy and enjoyable experience here. We offer a secure and stimulating play-based learning environment where children can grow into independent and enthusiastic learners. Below is an outline of information we hope that you'll find helpful.

WHO ARE WE?

We would like to welcome you to the Lowther School Family! We are:

Mrs. Sally Taylor and Mrs. Emily Blaxland

Chestnut Group Teachers

Mrs. Toni Benrahal

Chestnut Group Nursery Nurse

Mrs Lucy Murphy

Foundation Stage Support Officer

THE FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

Chestnut class work from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, which sets standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5. Within this there are 7 areas of learning: 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas.

Prime areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional development

Developing confidence and independence while learning to concentrate and enjoy sharing in a group.

Communication and Language

Communicating with one another and developing skills to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical Development

Improving control and coordination of their bodies and well as learning to move and handle equipment.

Specific areas of learning:

Literacy

Encouraging children to link sounds and letters and beginning to read and write.

Mathematics

Developing, improving and using skills in number, calculating, quantity, measurement, time, shape and space.

Understanding the World

Exploring, observing and finding out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

Finding ways to communicate, explore and imagine through, art, music, movement, dance, role-play movement, design and technology.



CHESTNUT CLASS STRUCTURE

Chestnut Class is made up of the nursery-aged group of children within the Lowther Primary School Foundation Stage Unit. During much of the school day children are able to move freely within the Foundation Stage Unit and the outdoor areas. Both independent play and teacher-led focus activities are planned for during this time.

The school day starts at 8.55am or 12.15pm. Parents of children in the Nursery may take them in to class to settle them. Please enter through the outside Nursery gate upon arrival (via the scooter park for morning children and via the school entrance for the afternoon children). The morning children can then be collected from the Nursery outside gate via the school entrance, and the afternoon children collected from the Nursery outside gate via the scooter park.

At the start of the session the children self-register themselves and continue into independent play within the Chestnut Room space. During the day we have planned opportunities for stories, circle time, singing and topic discussion. Fruit, water and milk will be on hand throughout the session and the children, but we also have a fruit time with the children where we encourage social interaction and independent pouring into cups.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We place great importance on working in partnership with parents & carers, realising that a high proportion of a child's learning takes place at home. Through regular communication we can build on that learning together. There are opportunities throughout the year to formally visit the unit and discuss your child's progress, but please do continue to keep us informed of any new interests and abilities you are aware of from your child's home learning.

- ✿ Please take a look at our parents' notice board and let us know if there is anything you think you may be able to help with. Whether it is through volunteering your time to read stories, leading a gardening task or simply donating household junk items for our creative junk modeling.
- ✿ Please ensure any items of outside clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- ✿ Please ensure your child attends nursery wearing suitable clothing and footwear for physical exercise and messy play.
- ✿ Please help your child select reading books for home from our collection.
- ✿ We ask for a donation of £5 per term to enable us to provide cooking and playdough ingredients, additional learning materials and experiences.
- ✿ Parents and Carers are asked to make a regular contribution to the fruit for the children's snacks.
- ✿ Please inform us by telephone if your child is unwell, and provide a letter explaining their absence. In the case of vomiting/diarrhoea we recommend that children stay off school for at least 24 hours from the last episode.
- ✿ We send home a weekly Chestnut Nursery Newsletter. This informs parents of what we have been learning at school and suggests ways you can help to support your children at home.