

Greenfields Community Primary School



Muddy Bairns



"...where the mud will wash off,
but the memories will last a lifetime..."

Pre-school, Nursery and Reception

Prospectus

The world is waiting for you...



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As the Headteacher of Greenfields Primary School, it is with very warm wishes that I welcome you to our school. Choosing the right school for your child can be one of the most difficult decisions you may ever have to make.

I hope that the information you see and read here inspires you to visit us and find out a little bit more about what we can offer you and your child both in their very important Early Years and beyond.

Greenfields Community Primary School is a one form, vibrant and forward thinking primary school situated in Wideopen in the North West of the borough of North Tyneside; bordering Northumberland and Newcastle.

We have bold ambitions for all of our children; Greenfields is a place where children and our community are at the heart of all that happens, a place where every individual's ability is recognised, developed and rewarded.

Pupils make good progress from their starting points and attain well across a broad range of subjects in comparison with schools nationally. We are committed to providing an exceptional standard of education for our children and as a result encourage them to develop an understanding of how they have gained the knowledge they have. Our children know that their learning is not defined by content but by developing the skill of using what they know, a sense of responsibility and a confidence in their own ability to succeed; essential qualities that will equip them for lifelong learning.

Greenfields Community Primary School is well equipped with a large hall and stage, a gym and access to a privately run swimming pool on site.

We are incredibly lucky to have extensive school grounds which supports us in delivering a whole curriculum rooted in the benefits of outdoor learning.

At Greenfields we have four school values.

Our curriculum is driven by our school values. There are clear links between what we say the ambition for our children is and how we intend to achieve it. It is our aim to enable our children to stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before and create things which may well help them fuel solutions to society's problems. In selecting specific content, staff celebrates and embraces the different backgrounds, heritage, language and traditions of all the children living in this country as well as introducing them to the best that has been thought and said in the past and present.

Over the course of the academic year, children will have the opportunity to explore more deeply each of our school values in a planned and progressive way.



Autumn 1 ... **be amazed...** ~ the content of our curriculum

This value in our curriculum is all about fostering a sense of curiosity by introducing our children to the widest of worlds including the most spectacular that the human and natural world has to offer. In the Early Years, this begins by looking at finding wonder in the everyday; changing of the seasons, a growing plant, simple cause and effect.



Autumn 2 ...**be original...** ~ the questions that provide the links across the curriculum

This value in our curriculum is all about fostering our children to be questioning and evaluative of all they see and hear. Our children are encouraged to think originally about what they have learnt and how to apply their learning between different situations. In the Early Years, this begins by establishing a voice for children who feel undaunted by sharing what they know, as only by developing what you know can you begin to question.



Spring ...**be brave...** ~ the wellbeing and mental health focus that is central to lifelong learning and citizenship

This value in our curriculum is to instil in our children the confidence to take a chance. Our children know that making mistakes are fundamental to learning. Resilience is not taught; it is a retrospective skill that is developed over time. Our curriculum gives our children the opportunity to build resilience by being confident to take the first step. In the Early Years, this begins by being willing to have a go at something new.



Summer ...**be bold...** ~ the outdoor learning/ learning behaviour and memorable experiences/visits and visitors curriculum

This value in our curriculum encourages the skills of reflection to ensure children understand how they have gained the knowledge they have. Our children know that their learning is not defined by content but by developing the skill of using what they know. It is a combination of confidence and caution in the right measures and at the right time. In the Early Years, this begins by children initiating their own learning.



Muddy Bairns



WELCOME TO MUDDY BAIRNS

Muddy Bairns is the name of our Early Years provision at Greenfields Community Primary School.

Here at Greenfields, we strongly believe the best way to inspire your child is by providing opportunities for them to be amazed; enabling their curiosity to drive their learning, valuing the impact of time to explore the great outdoors and question new things along the way. Our approach to curiosity can be seen throughout our provision and in the way our staff support your child to become independent in their own learning. Each and every day, your child will have the opportunity not only to explore our fabulous indoor environment but our extensive school grounds too. We want to enable your child to go on their own adventures and follow their own imagination, understanding our school vision '*the world is waiting for you*'. Your child will become an explorer, confront their fears, take risks and learn that mistakes are the best lesson.



Tell me and I forget, teach
me and I may remember,
involve me and I learn.

Benjamin Franklin

OUR EARLY YEARS OFFER

We recognise that our parents need flexible childcare and here at Muddy Bairns, we are proud to be able to support you in meeting your needs.

For children eligible for 15 funded hours, we offer these hours over five morning sessions, 8:30-11:30am, or five afternoon sessions 12:30pm-3:30pm, term time only. For children eligible for 30 funded hours, we offer daily sessions 8:30am-3:30pm, with a daily charge for lunchtime wraparound payable.

Additional sessions can also be offered pending availability but would need to be paid for.

BREAKFAST

Our day begins from **7:30am** for children aged three and above, 7:45am for our two year olds, where your child can come along and have a continental breakfast. We have a range of things on our menu including cereal, fruit, toast, hot crumpets and pancakes etc.

MORNING SESSIONS (nursery and pre-school)

At **8:30am**, we open our doors. You will be greeted by your child's key worker who will enable a smooth transition for your child as you say goodbye. This session ends at 11:30am.

** For families not eligible for universal hours, sessions are charged at £22.50.*

LUNCHTIME (nursery and pre-school)

We offer you a lunchtime session between **11:30am-12:30pm**. Our children have the option of a hot school meal or a packed lunch. Our children eat all together, making lunchtime a real social experience. The children take turns to set the tables and pour fresh drinking water for their friends. Our youngest children sit with their key worker groups as this offers a more pastoral care experience.

Lunch wrap around costs £2.50 if your child brings their own packed lunch. If your child has a hot school meal this is charged at £5.00.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS (nursery and pre-school)

At 12:30pm, we open our doors for a soft opening for our afternoon children who are arriving. You will be greeted by your child's key worker who will enable a smooth transition for your child as you say goodbye. This session ends at 3:30pm.

**For families not eligible for universal hours, sessions are charged at £22.50.*

TEA

Tea is served between 3:30-4:30pm. During this time, your child will help set the tables, just as they would at home. This is an important part of our routine. The children all eat together and it is a great

way for the children to show an interest in new foods, learn about where they come from and try new things. For tea, we serve a freshly made, home cooked meal, with a rotating seasonal menu, available on request. For dessert, the children are offered fresh fruit or yogurt.

EXTENDED CHILDCARE

For parents who need a later collection time, the children can remain with us until 5:30pm once they are 3 years old.

All sessions are booked in advance and can be paid in instalments, using our booking form service.

Late collection fees do apply. Please see our Early Years Policy for further details.

Preschool – 2 to 3 Year Old provision

Our two year olds are based in our dedicated Preschool building with a specialist team of Early Years staff supporting them in their learning and development. Our Preschool is a home from home environment where we have created cosy spaces that stimulate your child's imagination and sense of wonder. We know it can be hard to leave your child in the care of someone else for the first time; so let our experienced and friendly staff take some of these worries away.

Your child can start with us from the day that they turn 2. If your child receives universal funding, this will begin the term after they turn 2, therefore all sessions before this time would need to be paid for.

You will be able to access flexible 15 and 30 hours funded places at Muddy Bairns, subject to availability. We also offer wraparound care to extend between our standard 8.30-15.30 school day.

Our provision is set up with your child at the centre of everything we offer. Our skilled staff understand the learning and development of your child and use the provision to enhance the experiences your child has, ensuring that they are filled with wonder and curiosity. The children are able to independently access all areas, with everything at a height that they can self select the resources that they need. The children have free flow, ensuring fluidity between learning outdoor and indoor.

Here is just a selection of photographs from our 2 year old provision.



Nursery - 3 to 4 Year Old Provision

Our Muddy Bairns, who are 3 or 4, move between our Nursery classroom and our Forest provision.

During their time in Nursery your child will begin each day taking part in a welcome routine. The children sing their good morning song, discuss the weather and days of the week. The children then have a small group session with their key person, providing a structured routine which is the same each day.

The children then take part in 'plan, do, review'. In this process the children plan what they would like to do, before they go off to their child initiated time, after this the children go back into their key worker groups and reflect on what they have done. In doing so, the children learn to **take initiative, solve problems, work with others** and **accomplish their goals**. In turn their play becomes more purposeful and focused. Allowing the children the chance to review their learning, ensures we help the children take pride in their achievements, raising their self confidence, self esteem and in turn their self belief by providing the time to talk in a small group and acknowledge what they have done, providing continuous positive reinforcement.

Later in the day the children have a small group Maths session where they focus on developing their sense of number. Taught skills are then applied and consolidated through the children's play.

You will be able to access flexible 15 and 30 hours funded places at Muddy Bairns, subject to availability.

We also offer wraparound care to extend between our standard 8.30-15.30 school day.



Reception - 4 to 5 Year Old Provision

At Greenfields we are very lucky to have a vast open provision. Our children enjoy learning both indoors and outdoors through our free flow provision enabling our children to become the explorers of their own learning.

In reception pupils learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. The timetable is carefully structured so that children continue to take part in 'plan, do, review' as they did in nursery. In this process the children plan what they would like to do, before they go off to their child initiated time, after this the children go back into their key worker groups and reflect on what they have done. In doing so, the children learn to take initiative, solve problems, work with others and accomplish these goals. But also rigorous directed teaching in phonics, maths and writing. These sessions are followed by small group work/ 1:1 sessions so that the teacher can systematically check for understanding, identify and respond to misconceptions quickly and provide verbal feedback.

Phonics and Writing

At Greenfields we recognise the importance of developing early reading skills. We teach the children using Read Write Inc in a daily phonics session. Phonics teaches the children to read accurately, fluently and develop good comprehension skills. In Reception, reading books are sent home weekly, and these match the children's phonetic knowledge, allowing them to apply skills of decoding and blending as they become more confident in their reading.

Maths

In Reception we focus on the maths 'Big Ideas' with an emphasis on studying key skills of number, calculation and shape so that pupils develop deep understanding and the acquisition of mathematical language. Pupils learn through games and tasks using concrete objects which are then rehearsed and applied to their own learning during exploration. Reception pupils develop these key skills during daily maths meetings where they explore number, calculation, shape and measure. These early mathematical experiences are carefully designed to help pupils remember the content they have been taught and to support them with integrating their new knowledge across the breadth of their experiences and into larger concepts.

Our reception school day runs from 9:40-3:15pm. We also offer wraparound care to extend between our standard school day.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

It is important that your child has the opportunity to explore outdoors whatever the weather. We learn best from real experiences, seeing how the weather changes throughout the year, what impact this has on the environment and how we adapt for the weather is absolutely what we want your child to know. In our boot room we have lots of wellies, waterproofs, gloves and hats to ensure that the children are dressed appropriately for the weather. If you prefer, you can send your child with their own clothing for outdoor activities. This can be left in school all week and sent home on a Friday. On colder days, the time we spend outside may be shorter to compensate for this, but whatever the weather, there is fun to be had.

We are lucky to have expansive outdoor grounds, including our own Forest school area. This is just one of the areas our children can access to sing around the campfire, toast marshmallows and sing songs.



According to the Forest School Association; *Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process that offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions. It is a long-term program that supports play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.*

We also have a large school field and several, smaller green areas, each offering something different.

ENRICHMENT

Linking with our values, all of our children go on **trips each year**. Our visits are carefully planned to ensure our children see the very best our local area has to offer. When we are able to take the children on trips in line with government regulations, parents are always welcome to join us. We also have lots of visitors who come in and work with the children for enrichment.

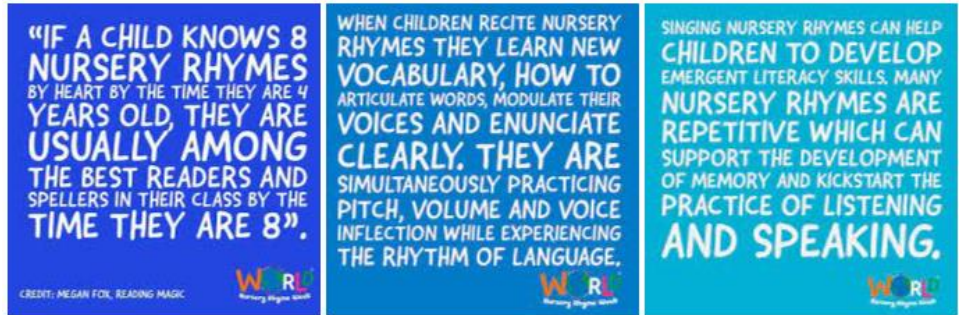
Each term we invite **parents and carers** into school as we hold a **celebration of the children's learning**. We really value the role parents and carers play in their children's education and we want to showcase your child's learning with you. This is a fun occasion to become immersed in our learning and take part in a range of opportunities alongside your child.

It is important to us that your child has a **sense of belonging within their local area**. We have been working hard to develop strong links within our local community to give your children a sense of pride. Our values and curriculum inspire the children to learn about local geography and history in a carefully planned, sequential curriculum. We want our children to be proud of where they come from and as they grow into our next generation, understand that with change comes effects, with rights comes responsibility and that the world is waiting for them.

In September 2024 we launched our very own Community Hub which offers free sessions such as a baby and toddler group and a baby buggy walk. If your child has any younger siblings and you would like to attend any of these events, please email us for more information.

READING IN MUDDY BAIRNS

We have really invested in ensuring that our children have the very best opportunities to develop a real love of reading. We recognise the importance of exposing our children to the best texts and have developed a reading spine throughout the school of classics which we don't want our children to miss out on.



We also encourage our children to read throughout our provision inside and outside, during their child initiated time. All staff at Greenfields recognise the importance of reading and we use every opportunity to read and enjoy stories, poems and non-fiction texts with the children. We want all of our children to learn to read so that they can read to learn.

The children are immersed in language rich environments, hear and learn a range of poetry, songs and Nursery rhymes and hear stories read and brought to life in each and every session. Reading has, and will always remain one of our top priorities here at Muddy Bairns.

Reading in Preschool and nursery

At Muddy Bairns we recognise the importance of developing early reading skills. Our youngest children have daily immersion in phase 1 to develop core pre-reading skills. This allows the children when they begin learning sounds to work through each sound systematically and at pace. Phonics teaches the children to read accurately, fluently and develop good comprehension skills.

In Preschool and nursery we use the Over and Over approach to build early reading skills. Knowing books well secures vocabulary and builds story language. "Familiar books provide children with repeated opportunities to pull together information from language, the meaning of the story and the print" (Clay, 2016, p111)."

Reading in Reception

We have developed a reading spine with books that we want your children to enjoy, learn and retell as they move through our school. Alongside our reading spine we also plan a varied list of story books to share during a daily story time. Each half term we ensure we are exposing the children to a Classic text, a Rhyming/repeated refrain story, a wellbeing/growth mindset book, a diverse book, a poem/nursery rhyme and a traditional tale.

We continue the use of the Over and Over approach used in Pre-school and nursery, as an intervention for a small group of children to close the gap between children who readily engage with stories and those who do not.

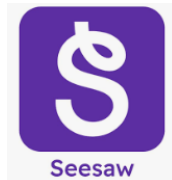
COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

At Muddy Bairns, we strongly value the enduring support of our parents and carers. We recognise that parents are the child's primary educator and we recognise this important role through regular engagement including:

- From the moment you contact us to enquire about a place at our school, we endeavour to ensure you have one key person to discuss your needs with. You will be invited to come along and meet our team whilst seeing first hand the amazing provision that we offer.
- Having an open door policy to enable parents to come and speak with staff should they have any concerns.
- Key worker groups so that parents and children have one key person to ensure a seamless transition for your child throughout the day
- Termly parents' evenings.
- Events and activities throughout the year which bring together children, parents and the school..
- Daily communication with parents using seesaw. This is an app which allows parents/ carers to see photos and videos of their children. It allows our teachers to share your child's learning and development on a personal level and share real WOW moments during the day.
- School will update parents using the Muddy Bairns or Reception Whatsapp group, any letters will also be added to this platform to ensure they reach everyone.
- Please subscribe to the school newsletter through the school website

Your child will get up to some truly amazing things, each and every day they attend Muddy Bairns. Don't just take our word for it!

Why not check out our EYFS X pages **@GCPSMuddyBairns** and **@GCPSReception** to see what we have been up to.



UNIFORM

Greenfields Primary School has a school uniform policy, which has been approved by governors. We want to be able to give our families flexibility in where their uniform is purchased by providing the option to buy an 'iron on' badge from the school office to attach to sweatshirts. This also means you can reuse the logo badge as many times as you need.

All children throughout school must be in full school uniform at all times.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Pale blue or white polo shirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts, shalwa kameez or pinafores - all completely plain, with no patterns, logos etc.
- In the warmer weather, children may wish to wear blue and white check dresses.
- Plain black, low-heeled shoes

Please also be aware that, for Health & Safety reasons, no jewellery is allowed; this includes earrings. A watch may be worn.

At the start of each term, the teachers will let you know which days are timetabled for PE and swimming. Children should bring their PE kit or swimming kit on the days they are needed.

P.E kit:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain black/navy shorts
- Black plimsolls or trainers
- School jumper or school cardigan and plain black/navy tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE in colder weather

How to Order Uniform:

School sweatshirts and cardigans can be purchased from the following stockists:

Emblematic Ltd. - online or in the Longbenton shop

My Clothing - online

You can also buy plain jumpers/cardigans etc. with no logo, from any popular stockists, such as supermarkets. There is no pressure to buy embroidered uniform and we have a good stock of pre-loved uniform available for free to any who ask, just speak to the school office or Community Hub.

FIND OUT MORE...

If you would like any further information about starting school at Greenfields Community Primary School, or you would like to visit the school, please contact us at the school:

Telephone: 0191 6250100

Email: muddybairns@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk or adminteam@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk

Follow us on X: @GreenfieldsCPS

Like us on Facebook: Greenfields Community Primary School

You can also see more of the exciting things happening in school via our website:

www.greenfieldsprimary.org.uk