

Greenfields Community Primary School



**Muddy
Bairns**



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

Muddy Bairns Daycare

Prospectus 2025

The world is waiting for you...



Greenfields Community Primary School

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As the Headteacher of Greenfields Community Primary School, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to **Muddy Bairns Day Care**, the newest part of our thriving school community.

Choosing the right daycare for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and we are delighted to now offer a caring, stimulating, and nurturing environment for our youngest children - from 9 months old through to our 2-year-old provision.

Muddy Bairns has long been the name of our Early Years provision here at Greenfields, encompassing Reception, Nursery, and our 2-year-old places. From September 2025, we are excited to expand this with the opening of our brand-new **Muddy Bairns Day Care**. While *Muddy Bairns* will continue to include Reception and Nursery, the Day Care will have its own Ofsted registration in line with statutory requirements. However, it will remain very much part of Greenfields in ethos, leadership, and community spirit.

Our approach is rooted in the belief that every child is unique, capable, and full of potential. At Muddy Bairns Day Care, children will thrive in a safe and inspiring setting, supported by caring staff, a rich curriculum of play and learning, and the benefit of our beautiful outdoor spaces.

Greenfields Community Primary School is proud to be a vibrant, forward-thinking educational setting at the heart of Wideopen, North Tyneside, bordering Northumberland and Newcastle. Our strong sense of community, high expectations, and passion for learning extend to our youngest children in Muddy Bairns, ensuring they have the very best start in life.

Here at Muddy Bairns Day Care, we believe that play is the foundation of learning, curiosity is the spark, and relationships are the heart of everything we do. We look forward to being part of your child's journey - and yours.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

Our vision at Greenfields Community Primary School and Muddy Bairns Day Care is **"The world is waiting for you."** This reflects our belief that every child has unique potential and a valuable contribution to make. We are committed to nurturing curiosity, creativity, and confidence in all our children, preparing them to explore, engage with, and positively impact the world around them.

At Muddy Bairns Early Years provision, we have **four key values** that guide everything we do and shape our curriculum. These values reflect the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), supporting children's development, learning, and wellbeing from birth to five years old.

Our aim is to create a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where children can explore, play, and learn at their own pace. We celebrate the diverse backgrounds, languages, and cultures of all our children, valuing their unique experiences as an important part of their learning journey.

Our curriculum is carefully planned to enable children to build on what they already know and can do, helping them develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need for future learning. Over the year, children will explore each of our key values through rich, play-based activities and meaningful interactions with adults and peers.

This approach aligns with the EYFS's focus on enabling children to develop personally, socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



... **be amazed...**

This value 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.



...be original...

This value 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.



...be brave...

This value is to instil in our children the confidence to take a chance. Our children know that making mistakes is 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.



...be bold...

This value 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



Here at **Muddy Bairns**, we 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 importance of time to explore the great outdoors, and encouraging them to question new things along the way.

Our approach to curiosity is woven throughout our provision and reflected in the way our staff support each child to become independent in their learning. As part of our daily sessions, your child will have the chance to explore not only our fabulous indoor environments but also our extensive school grounds. We believe the mud will wash off, but the memories will last a lifetime.

We want to enable your child to go on their own adventures and follow their imagination, in line with our school vision: "*The world is waiting for you.*" Here, children become explorers, face their fears, take risks, and learn that mistakes are often the best lessons.

We warmly welcome all prospective families to visit, meet our staff, explore our provision, and discuss your needs. P

lease don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing muddybairns@greenfieldsprimary.org.uk, where a member of our team will be happy to help.



OUR EARLY YEARS OFFER

From September 2025, we are pleased to offer up to 30 hours of funded childcare for eligible working parents of children aged 9 months to 3 years, in line with the government's expanded entitlement.

Our core funded sessions run from 8:30am to 3:30pm, Monday to Friday, during term time.

We also provide wraparound care from 7:30am to 8:30am and from 3:30pm to 5:30pm for families who require extended hours, charged at our standard hourly rate.

All places are subject to availability, and funding can be taken as part of a full-time or part-time place, with additional hours available for purchase.

BABY AND TODDLER ROOM

Our youngest children, 9 months to 2 years, meals and snacks will be provided by parents/carers, this ensures appropriate texture and supports allergy management during ongoing food introduction. Guidance is provided on appropriate food content, in line with our Healthy Schools status.

PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY

Children in preschool (2 year -3 years) and nursery (3-4 years) are offered to purchase a healthy, balanced and nutritious lunch, provided by an external provider. If parents/carers choose to provide a packed lunch, guidance is provided on appropriate food content, in line with our Healthy Schools status.

RECEPTION

Our Reception children attend from 8.40am- 3.15pm.

In Reception fresh drinking water is available at all times and as part of the daily routine the children receive milk and fruit. Under the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, each child is entitled to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day and a free carton of milk, until they turn 5 years old.

Children in their Reception year are offered a healthy, balanced and nutritious lunch, provided by an external provider. If parents/carers choose to provide a packed lunch, guidance is provided on appropriate food content, in line with our Healthy Schools status.

Wrap around sessions in Stepping Stones Out of Hours provision are available for children in Reception to purchase 7:30am- 8:40am and 3:15-5:30pm

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

Late collection fees do apply at £1 per minute.

OUR BABY AND TODDLER ROOMS – 9 months to 2 Year Old Provision

Our Baby & Toddler Room is a warm, nurturing space where your child can grow, explore, and thrive from 9 months old.

We have two dedicated rooms for babies and toddlers, and at times they may share one space, creating a family-like atmosphere where younger children watch and learn from older ones, and older children develop empathy and confidence.

At the heart of everything we do is care—our highly skilled Early Years educators combine a deep understanding of child development with a genuine, nurturing approach, ensuring every child feels safe, valued, and supported.

For our youngest children, we observe their interests and cues closely, offering a rich variety of sensory and exploratory play to spark curiosity and build early learning foundations.

Using our “plan-do-review” approach, babies and toddlers explore and choose activities—whether splashing in water play, discovering textures, or enjoying outdoor adventures.

From 9 months, children spend time outside daily, and as they grow, they take part in gentle Forest School-inspired sessions, discovering nature through all their senses.

Reflection happens naturally, with caring adults responding to children’s reactions and sharing observations with parents, so every step of their journey supports both their development and their well-being. With low-level resources, cosy spaces, and plenty of cuddles, we give every child the very best start in life.

OUR PRESCHOOL – 2 to 3 Year Old Provision

Our Preschool room, part of the dedicated Muddy Bairns Daycare building, offers a nurturing “home from home” environment designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and independence in children aged 2 to 3 years.

Supported by our specialist Early Years team, children are encouraged to explore and make simple choices about their play, with key workers using pictures, gestures, and words to guide them.

We follow a “plan-do-review” approach, where children plan their activities, enjoy hands-on learning both indoors and outdoors—including regular Forest School sessions—and then review their experiences through photos, stories, and displays, helping them reflect on what they've enjoyed and learned.

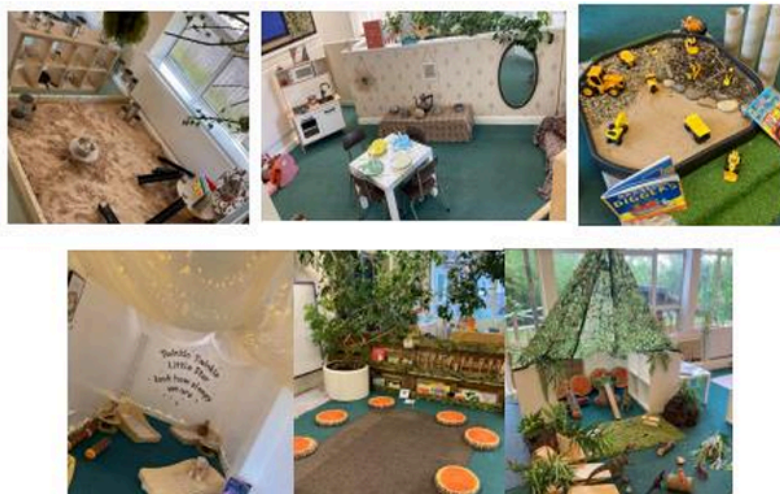
Our thoughtfully arranged spaces and low-level resources empower children to self-select materials, while free-flow access between indoors and outdoors ensures that play and learning are seamlessly connected.

Your child can start with us in our pre-school from the day that they turn 2 or 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.

Whether starting their Muddy Bairns journey with us in Pre-school or transitioning from our toddler room, each child's move into Preschool is supported at their own pace.

Flexible funded places (15 or 30 hours) are available, along with wraparound care from 7:30am to 5:30pm, offering families both exceptional early education and practical support.

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



OUR NURSERY - 3 to 4 Year Old Provision

Our Nursery offers a high-quality early education in a caring, nurturing environment, giving your child the very best preparation for school and for life. Led by our Early Years Teacher, Miss Ware, and supported by skilled practitioners Miss Gibinson and Miss Robson, our Nursery team combines expert teaching with a warm, family feel where every child feels valued.

Each day begins with our welcome routine, singing our good morning song, discussing the weather, and talking about the days of the week, followed by a small group session with their key person, providing structure and security.

We use the "plan-do-review" approach, encouraging children to take an active role in their learning. They plan the activities that interest them, engage in purposeful child-initiated play, and then reflect on their experiences individually or in small groups. Through floor books, group discussions, and looking at Seesaw posts, children develop communication, problem-solving, and self-confidence, while parents are actively involved through shared observations and feedback.

Our daily curriculum includes playful small-group maths, Phase 1 phonics games, repeated storytelling, and focus texts to build a strong foundation in early literacy and numeracy.

For children attending 30-hour provision, afternoons offer Forest School and enrichment activities such as cooking, sensory play, and creative arts, providing rich, varied experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, and resilience.

Funded places are available—15 hours (8:30-11:30) or 30 hours—alongside our wraparound care for families who need extended hours between 7:30 and 5:30pm

At *Muddy Bairns* Nursery, your child will be encouraged, challenged, and celebrated every step of the

way.



OUR RECEPTION -4 to 5 Year Old Provision

Our Reception class is led by our experienced Early Years Teacher and Early Years Lead, Miss Love, supported by two highly skilled teaching assistants, Miss Melrose and Miss Gillespie.

Our Reception class provides the perfect bridge between our Muddy Bairns Nursery and Key Stage 1 at Greenfields, blending purposeful play with carefully planned, high-quality teaching.

Children continue to benefit from our well-established "plan-do-review" approach, choosing activities that spark their interest, engaging in rich, hands-on learning, and reflecting on their achievements with their peers and key adults. This develops independence, problem-solving skills, and the confidence to work collaboratively, while still enjoying plenty of time for exploration and creativity.

Alongside this, we deliver daily teaching in phonics, writing, and maths. Our daily *Read Write Inc.* phonics sessions give children the tools to read accurately, fluently, and with understanding, supported by fully decodable books sent home weekly to match each child's current learning stage. In writing, children apply their phonics knowledge to build confidence and accuracy, while in maths we focus on the "Big Ideas" of number, calculation, and shape. Using concrete resources, games, and practical tasks, pupils build deep understanding and mathematical language, reinforced through daily maths meetings and opportunities to apply learning in their play.

Teaching is responsive and tailored, with small-group and 1:1 sessions enabling the teacher to check understanding, address misconceptions immediately, and provide targeted feedback.

Afternoons are filled with creative, outdoor, and cross-curricular learning opportunities, including our much-loved *Thinking Thursdays*. These special sessions ignite a sense of wonder and introduce children to the worlds of science, history, geography, and more, presented in an informal, hands-on way that sparks curiosity and builds a love of learning.

The Reception day runs from 9:40am-3:15pm, with wraparound care available for families who need extended hours.

At *Greenfields*, your child will be nurtured, challenged, and inspired - ready to take confident steps into the next stage of their education.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

It is important that your child has the opportunity to explore outdoors whatever the weather and that includes even our youngest babies, from 9 months old. . 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. 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 Muddy Bairns 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.



WHAT TO WEAR FOR FOREST SCHOOL

At Muddy Bairns, we believe there's no such thing as bad weather - only the wrong clothing! We go outdoors in all seasons, so children need clothing that keeps them **warm, dry, and comfortable**, while allowing them to move and explore freely.

For All Ages

- **Waterproofs** - an all-in-one puddle suit or waterproof jacket and trousers.
- **Wellies or sturdy boots** - with warm socks in cold weather.
- **Layered clothing** - a base layer (vest or T-shirt), mid layer (jumper/fleece), and outer waterproof.
- **Hat and gloves** - sun hat in summer; warm hat and waterproof mittens in winter.
- **Spare clothes** - including socks, in a named bag.

For Babies (9 months - 2 years)

- Soft, breathable base layers (cotton or merino wool).
- Fleece or padded mid layer in cooler months.
- Waterproof all-in-one suit, ideally fleece-lined in winter.
- Waterproof booties or wellies with thermal socks.
- Neck warmer instead of a scarf for safety.

Parent Tips

- Please name all clothing and footwear.
- Send clothes that you don't mind getting muddy - the mud will wash off, but the memories will last a lifetime!
- In colder weather, outdoor sessions may be shorter, but we will still go out whenever it is safe to do so.

ENRICHMENT

At Greenfields, we believe that learning goes beyond the classroom, and our Muddy Bairns children benefit from a wide range of enriching experiences that support their development across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Our Forest School offers a unique outdoor learning environment where children explore nature, develop physical skills, and build confidence through hands-on activities like climbing, building dens, cooking on campfires, and using tools safely. These experiences promote problem-solving, risk assessment, cooperation, and independence.

For children attending the 30-hour nursery provision, afternoons are dedicated to Forest School and additional enrichment activities such as cooking, sensory play, and creative arts. These opportunities provide rich, varied experiences that extend learning beyond the usual nursery day and support children's physical, social, and emotional development.

In addition to Forest School, all children take part in four carefully planned trips or special experiences each year. These outings are designed to stimulate curiosity, encourage exploration, and introduce children to new environments and ideas in ways that are fun and accessible. Parents are warmly invited to join these trips whenever possible, helping to strengthen the home-school connection.

We also host regular stay-and-play sessions where parents and carers can come into the setting to engage with their child's learning. These sessions provide opportunities to see the learning environment, join in activities, and celebrate children's achievements together.

Through these enrichment opportunities, we aim to provide a broad, engaging, and balanced Early Years experience that supports children's development across all EYFS areas—helping them to become confident, curious, and capable learners ready for the next steps in their education.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

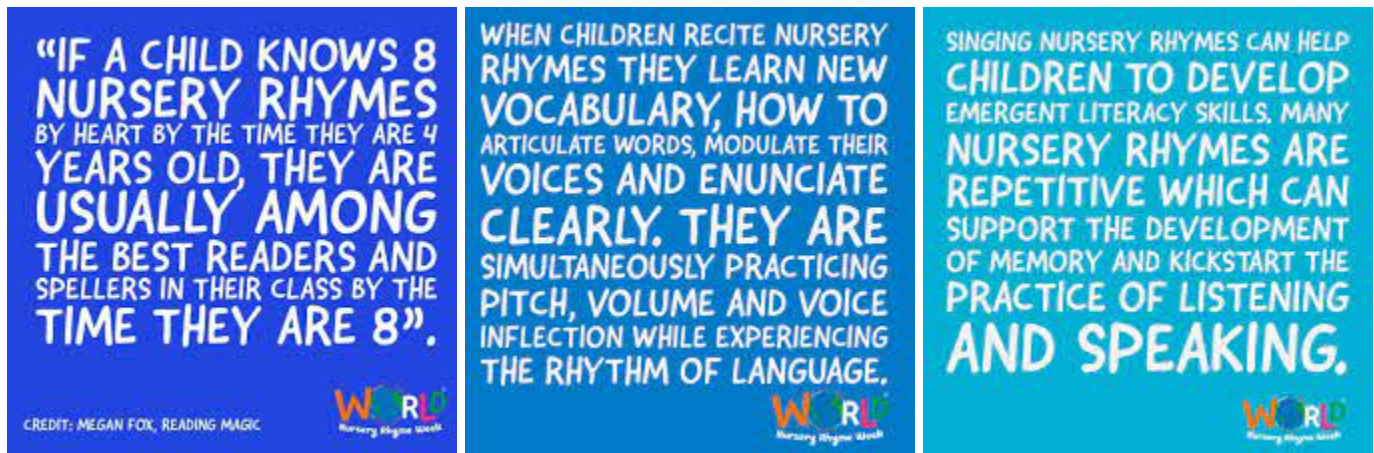
At Muddy Bairns, we strongly value the enduring support of our parents and carers. We recognise that parents are the child's primary educator and we recognise this important role through regular engagement including:

- 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.



EARLY READING AT 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 high-quality texts and have developed a reading spine throughout the school, filled with classics we don't want our children to miss. 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 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.

Children are immersed in language-rich environments, hear and learn a wide range of poetry, songs, and nursery rhymes, and experience stories brought to life in every session. Reading has, and will always remain, one of our top priorities here at Muddy Bairns.

Reading from 9 Months to 2 Years

Even our youngest Muddy Bairns, from 9 months old, are introduced to the joy of books. At this stage, reading is about developing a love for stories, sounds, and rhythms. Staff share board books, fabric books, and tactile story props to engage babies' senses and encourage early language development. Daily story times, singing sessions, and nursery rhymes form part of every routine, helping babies and toddlers to tune in to sounds, recognise patterns in language, and build early listening skills. Our

youngest children are given plenty of opportunities to handle books, turn pages, and explore illustrations - laying the foundations for a lifelong love of reading.

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 phonics to develop core pre-reading skills. This means that when they begin learning sounds, they can work through each one systematically and at pace. Phonics teaches children to read accurately, fluently, and with good comprehension skills.

In Preschool and Nursery, we use the **Over and Over** approach to build early reading confidence.

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, p.111)

Reading in Reception

We have developed a reading spine with books we want children to enjoy, learn, and retell as they move through our school. Alongside our reading spine, we plan a varied list of storybooks to share during daily story time. Each half term, we ensure children experience:

- A classic text
- A rhyming/repeated refrain story
- A wellbeing/growth mindset book
- A diverse book
- A poem or nursery rhyme
- A traditional tale

We also continue the **Over and Over** approach used in Preschool and Nursery as an intervention for small groups of children, helping to close the gap before formal reading instruction progresses.

UNIFORM

Greenfields Primary School has a school uniform policy, approved by our governors, for our older Muddy Bairns children in Pre-school, Nursery, and Reception.

We aim to give families flexibility in where they purchase uniform items by offering an *iron-on* school badge from the school office. This can be attached to any sweatshirt or cardigan - and reused as often as needed.

All children in , Nursery, and Reception must be in full school uniform at all times.

For our Pre-school children in Muddy Bairns Day Care children, we are more flexible, but we do encourage the wearing of the uniform as it helps prevent home clothes from getting spoiled (we get wonderfully muddy!).

Younger children should wear comfortable clothes that they can move in easily and that you don't mind getting messy.

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.

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...

Thank you for taking the time to consider Muddy Bairns for your child. Your choice is one that must be right to you, ensuring the best for your child. We would welcome the opportunity to show you around and answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Telephone: 0191 625 0100

Email: muddybairns@greenfieldscps.org.uk

Follow us on X: @GCPSMuddyBairns

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

www.greenfieldsprimary.org.uk

With best wishes,

Mrs Gemma Robertson- Head Teacher

Miss Joanna Love - Early Years Lead