

Morgans Primary School and Nursery



Nursery Brochure



Our vision and aims:

"We will provide high quality early years specialist education to enable each child to achieve their full potential and build good foundations for life".



Morgans Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) offers a high quality learning environment and achieved the 'Herts Quality Standards' award (March 2007). We are currently in the process of renewing the 'Herts Quality Standards' award (2011).

We will endeavour to support and encourage every pupil to:

- ☉ Work and play together co-operatively, valuing and respecting one another.
- ☉ Become active independent learners.

We will:

- ☉ Provide a broad and balanced curriculum which allows children to develop at their own pace.
- ☉ Provide good quality care and education by trained, experienced and caring staff.
- ☉ Offer all children a range of well planned play both indoors and outdoors, that provides enjoyment and challenge.

We believe that enjoyment and fun are a vital element of learning throughout the Foundation Stage.

Morgans Nursery class is part of Morgans Primary School. It is situated in a large, bright, well resourced room in the infant building on the Mandeville side of the school site. We have worked hard to maintain and develop our attractive environment and are constantly updating and increasing our resources for high quality indoor and outdoor learning.

Admissions

The current admissions policy for Morgans School is:

- ☉ The Governors will admit a maximum of 30 children into each of our two Reception Classes in any one year.
- ☉ Our Nursery admits children on a half time basis, mornings or afternoons, with a maximum of 26 places for each session.
- ☉ We have two intakes a year into Nursery: in the Autumn Term (beginning of September) and the Spring Term (beginning of January).
- ☉ Nursery children whose fourth birthdays fall between 1st September and the 28th (29th) February will be admitted to Nursery in September in the morning session.
- ☉ Nursery children whose fourth birthdays fall between the 1st March and the 31st August will be admitted to Nursery in January in the afternoon session.
- ☉ The start dates are staggered over a week to ensure all children have a happy and secure transition into Nursery.

Children will complete two or three terms in Nursery before joining Reception in September for a full year.



Nursery sessions are three hours. Class times for Nursery sessions are:

- ☺ AM - 08.30 to 11.30
- ☺ PM - 12.30 to 15.30

Because nursery sessions are half time, we have arranged for The Dell Out of School Club, to provide wrap around care during school time (Dellytots 11.30-3.15). They also offer after school care and all day care during the school holidays (please see the Dell leaflet).



Curriculum:

The new Early Years Foundation Stage was implemented in September 2008. The curriculum is called the Foundation Stage and begins from birth to age five. Many children first attend a pre-school, then nursery, followed by reception classes during their Foundation Stage of Early Education. The curriculum for the Foundation Stage is organised into six areas:

- ☺ Personal, social and emotional development
- ☺ Communication, language and literacy
- ☺ Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
- ☺ Knowledge and understanding of the world
- ☺ Physical development
- ☺ Creative development.

Nursery and Reception use the Early Years Foundation Stage for learning and development. Children work through the Development Matters stages in Nursery and Reception. The Development Matters stages identifies the developing knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that children will need if they are to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation Stage (Reception). We aim to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation stage, however children develop at different rates and some children will have exceeded the goals, while others will still be working towards them.



The Home / School Partnership

Your child's education starts from birth - obviously your role is crucial. During the years before school you will probably spend more time with your child than anyone else.

YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER.

You are the one who:

- ☺ Talks to and listens to your child
- ☺ Shows him or her how to do things
- ☺ Answers his or her first questions
- ☺ Shares stories, songs and rhymes
- ☺ Prepares him/her for new experiences
- ☺ Stimulates his or her interest in the world.

So by the time your child comes to nursery you have already helped him or her to take major steps towards being independent and to gain a wide variety of skills. Many children have an impressive range of physical and social skills and an ever increasing understanding of the world in which they live. Most speak clearly and are able to express their point of view and each has his or her particular abilities and talents. Nearly all children love listening to stories.

As your child enters nursery we immediately acknowledge the earlier learning that has taken place at home and aim to continue your child's education according to his or her needs. Your support is still vital and by working together we can ensure that we are able to meet the particular needs of your child.



You are very welcome in our nursery.

- ☺ Come in and talk to us
- ☺ Come in and share your ideas and/or concerns with us.

The school will share information between home and school - reporting on your child's progress.

- ☺ There will be an open evening each term
- ☺ We operate an open door policy - you are always welcome to come in and discuss your child.

Each child will have a Learning Journey which is a book recording your child's learning and development during Nursery. Your child's Learning Journey will have:

- ☺ Observations of your child
- ☺ A selection of some of the work they have produced
- ☺ Adult directed assessments.

Once a half term your child's Learning Journey will be available in Nursery for you to share and celebrate with your child. A 'Holiday Sheet' will also be sent home half termly, which we encourage you to complete with your child and return to school for their Learning Journey. This could include a photo, piece of work the child did etc.



Home School Agreement:

The aim of the nursery is to work in partnership with parents so that children feel secure, valued and confident; so that they develop a sense of well being and achievement.

The Nursery will try to:

- ☉ Provide a broad, balanced curriculum meeting the needs of all children;
- ☉ Let parents know of any concerns regarding their child's progress or behaviour;
- ☉ Keep parents informed about school via brochures, newsletters and notification about special events;
- ☉ Encourage children to respect others and their environment.

Parents / Guardians - we will try to:

- ☉ Make sure that our child goes to nursery regularly and on time (8.30 am start in the morning and 12.30 pm start in the afternoon);
- ☉ Make sure that the nursery teacher is aware of any concerns or problems that might affect our child's behaviour or learning whilst in school;
- ☉ Ensure that the staff in the nursery have up to date information and contact numbers;
- ☉ Talk promptly to nursery staff about questions / concerns regarding our child attending nursery.

The pupil will try to:

- ☉ Be polite to everyone and say please and thank you;
- ☉ Respect others, nursery equipment and their environment.

INFORMATION:

At Morgans Nursery we value books very highly indeed. We enjoy reading stories to the children, we like making up our own stories and having fun acting out some of our favourite tales. The children will also have a weekly visit to our school library. We also appreciate the efforts that the children make when they 'read' to us. Sharing books is a wonderful experience. It gives you time to sit still for a while, to be close to your child, to enjoy a shared interest and talk to each other. We hope you enjoy it too!

When your child starts Morgans Nursery he/she will need a book bag and will be given a news book. In the news book we ask that you keep a simple record of your child's 'news' about their weekend. We share news on Mondays and your record will help to support your child 'telling their news'. If your child has an object which supports their news e.g. photo, they can share this with their friends at News Time as well. Please do not allow your child to bring their own toys from home.

A sharing pack will be given to your child each week on their 'helper day'. We will need packs to be returned at the beginning of the session so that they can be checked and exchanged for a new pack. There is a box in which your child can put their book bag if it is their Helper Day.

Your child is entitled to free milk and will receive this once we receive his/her completed milk form. Your child will also receive a piece of fruit or vegetable for their snack as part of the government fruit and vegetable scheme.

Please provide your child with a named pair of plimsolls for indoor shoes and some P.E. lessons. Your child will be changing in and out of their indoor shoes during Child Initiated Play and therefore they need to be able to fasten them themselves.



PLAY:

We believe that for our youngest children all play is learning and all learning is play. It is equally important within the indoor and outdoor environment.

Young children make sense of the world by exploring objects, materials and emotions in situations which have meaning to them. This is achieved most effectively through playing-out the situations. Through play children can explore, apply and test out what they know and can do.

In our nursery we encourage children to play, to experiment and to talk about their experiences. Our curriculum tends to focus on real and meaningful areas appropriate to the everyday lives of our children. We also believe that there are specific skills and competencies that should be taught, such as:

- ☺ The ability to use their imaginations and create ideas;
- ☺ The ability to understand and evaluate opinions;
- ☺ The ability to reflect upon and revise their own thoughts and actions;
- ☺ The ability to recognise, value and make use of their own mistakes;
- ☺ The ability to test and develop their physical skills;
- ☺ The ability to develop confidence and to take risks in new situations (emotional and physical).

Developing Language and Writing:

Language and writing is developed as an integral part of their learning experiences e.g.

- ☺ Writing area - inside and outside
- ☺ Role play area
- ☺ Puppet Theatre
- ☺ Home Corner
- ☺ Red Room (books and story tapes)
- ☺ Listening area



DAILY ROUTINE:

- ☺ Book bags should be placed in the correct boxes, which are clearly marked (your child will be a Bear or a Tiger).
- ☺ Please help your child to select their name from beside their peg and place it on our 'we are here' balloons.
- ☺ When your child has done this they then choose an activity from those available, either a table top activity or one that is available on the carpet. We have a different theme for each day of the week - Construction, Literacy, Maths, Creative and Fine Motor Skills. These initial activities lasts 15-20 minutes. During this time the Helper children can collect their Happy Helper badges. The attendance register is taken at 8:40/12:40.
- ☺ The children then have a teaching activity (either whole class or in 2 or 3 small groups). These include Maths, Literacy, Knowledge and Understanding of the World and P.E.
- ☺ This is followed by approximately an hour of Child Initiated Play. The activities available are mainly free choice but some are planned and linked into the current topic or children's interests and needs. The children are also free to play indoors or outdoors.
- ☺ After tidying up time we have snack time in groups where we reflect on what we did at Nursery.
- ☺ We finish the session with listening activities and songs from Phase One of Letters and Sounds and then a story.



WELFARE OF CHILDREN:

Illness:

It is hard to give definite rules determining when children are 'fit' to attend school. Communicable diseases spread quickly in school, so if your child is looking or feeling under the weather, a day at home may prevent minor epidemics and of course give your child a chance to recover fully. The normal periods of exclusion for the more common diseases are set out in the table shown in the school brochure.

Medication:

Medication is not normally administered at school. If your child does need to have medicine then it must be clearly labelled. It will be stored in the fridge in the staff room. A permission form must be completed and given to the class teacher - we cannot administer medicine without this form.

Behaviour in School:

We work together consistently to ensure a safe and orderly environment for learning and interacting within our school community. Effective learning and teaching can only happen where good behaviour is valued and encouraged and where unacceptable behaviour is dealt with in an appropriate, effective way.

Gates and doors:

The single pedestrian gate on the Mandeville Road side is the only gate to be used for entering and leaving the Nursery. Always close the gate and Nursery door securely on every occasion that you enter and leave. The Nursery gate will be locked 15 minutes after the start of the session for safety and security. All other gates to the Nursery are locked permanently.

Play equipment:

This has been selected and purchased specifically for our nursery age children. PLEASE do not let older or younger brothers and sisters use this equipment when they are waiting with you. We are concerned for the safety of all children but are not responsible for those who are using the equipment without permission and appropriate supervision. Thank you very much for your co-operation.



SAFEGUARDING

All schools have a clear responsibility placed on them by the Children Act 1989, and by guidance from the DfES to safeguard the welfare of their pupils. In doing so, schools are expected to consult with the Children, Schools and Family Service if they believe there is a possibility that a child may be suffering from abuse or neglect.

A referral to the Children, Schools and Family Service is not intended to be an accusation of any particular action or against any particular person. It is the reporting of concerns which have come to the school's attention; this is in accordance with Hertfordshire Safeguarding Procedures.

Morgans School has a Safeguarding Policy and a copy of Hertfordshire Safeguarding Procedures, both of which are available for parents/carers to see. The designated members of staff for child protection are the Headteacher and Mrs Hannah Orton; they will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns parents/carers may have about child protection practice.

CLOTHING FOR NURSERY ACTIVITIES:

The nursery children do not wear school uniform. **We would, however, like to stress the importance of wearing clothes that are comfortable, practical and easy to manage.**

Sensible, appropriate clothes will help your child to:

- ☉ Gain independence at an earlier age;
- ☉ Keep safe;
- ☉ Increase his/her opportunities to learn because he/she will be able to move more quickly from one activity to another.



What do we mean by sensible and appropriate clothes?

- ☉ Velcro fasteners on shoes;
- ☉ Plimsolls are needed for your child to change out of his/her outdoor shoes;
- ☉ In summer shorts and T-shirts are much safer than long flowing dresses, especially when riding on the bikes, building dens and digging in the garden;
- ☉ Elasticated waistbands on trousers are better than braces, buckles and belts, especially when your child needs to go to the toilet quickly!!
- ☉ NOT BEST CLOTHES:
- ☉ Sun hats and suntan cream when it is very hot;
- ☉ Waterproof coat for outside play.

Please help your child to help him/herself. This will, in turn, help you. It will also help us, but above all it is your child who will benefit most of all.

It is extremely helpful if your child has all items of clothing clearly marked with their name.



SHOES:

Could you also ensure that your child has a pair of outdoor shoes that they can put on and take off by themselves (i.e. no laces, tricky buckles, some fashion boots etc). This encourages independence and enables your child to play indoors and outdoors whenever they want during Child Initiated Play.

Please note that 'flip flops', 'cros' mules and strappy sandals can be dangerous and we do not recommend them for nursery sessions.

For indoor P.E. sessions on Tuesdays, the children remove their shoes and socks.

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery at Morgans School, nor in the Nursery, except for a watch and stud earrings (which need to be removed by the parent on P.E. days).



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- ☺ Parent/teacher meetings: At Morgans we are happy to welcome you into our nursery at anytime. If you wish to discuss your child's development, ask questions or just to look around then please come in and talk to us;
- ☺ In line with school procedure, open evenings are held three times a year in the Nursery.



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