



Flagg News

Flagg Nursery School

Flagg, Derbyshire

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September 2023

Welcome

Welcome back to nursery, we hope you all had a lovely Summer! A big welcome to our new children and their families this term: Arthur, Beau, Charlie, Eadie, Erin, Freya, Imogen, Ivy, Luna, Ned, Oliver, Oscar, Sophie, Taylor, Will and Wilbur. We look forward to working with you and hope you enjoy your time with us. We have two classes in nursery, Bears and Cubs. Bears are children who will start primary school in September 2024 and Cubs are children who will start primary school in September 2025 or 2026. Bears start the day in the smaller classroom and Cubs start the day in the "big" classroom i.e., the chapel building.

Session times, charges and school dinners

Breakfast club is available every day from 8am to 9am, drop off at the front door (big glass doors). The charge is £7 for the full hour or £3.50 from 8.30 to 9am. You can book in advance, but you can also just drop off on the day. You can arrive at 7.45am by prior arrangement, the charge for this is £9 for the hour and a quarter. If you use breakfast club regularly you can use part of your 30-hour funding for this unless your child is already attending for the full 30 hours. Our session times run from 9am-12pm in the morning with a flexible drop-off between 9.00-9.15am (cost £18 for 3+ year olds and £20.25 for 2 year olds). Doors are locked at 9.15am to enable teaching staff to begin focus activities with the children. Full day sessions including lunchtime (tractor club) run from 9am-3pm (cost £36 for 3+ year olds and £40.50 for 2-year-olds). Please note that charges are liable to increase from April 2023. Please be prompt when picking up at 12pm and 3pm otherwise charges will be incurred.

Packed Lunches

Please note that we are no longer offering school meals because our budget has been cut significantly over the past few years and we can no longer afford to buy into this service. Children entitled to free school meals will receive a voucher. To check whether you are eligible for free school meals go to www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or call 01629 536481 or you can scan the QR code on the postcard pinned to the noticeboard which will take you straight to the portal.

If your child is staying in nursery for the full day, they will need a packed lunch and drink although we can provide fresh water or watered-down fruit juice. If you are stuck for ideas, there are some great ideas and recipes on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/#tips>

We will send home the food that your child hasn't eaten rather than throwing it away so that you can see how much they have had.

We are a nut free nursery so please do not put peanut butter, cereal bars with nuts in or any other nut products in the lunch boxes. Please also remember to cut grapes and cherry tomatoes in half to remove the risk of choking (lengthways for grapes). Please make sure the lunchbox is named, young children don't always remember which one is theirs!



Friends of Flagg

We have a PTFA (parents, teachers, and friends) group in nursery called the 'Friends of Flagg'. All parents, relatives and members of our community are welcome to attend and discuss inventive ways of raising funds and providing extra-curricular activities. Events we have held in the past include Halloween parties, Christmas chocolate bingo, a Valentine's café, an Easter bunny drive, and a Strawberry fayre. Money raised by the Friends of Flagg is used to pay for sports coaching, living eggs (hatching chicks), the school guinea pigs, animal workshops, an entertainer at the Christmas party and Christmas gifts for the children.

These meetings are informal, and everyone is welcome. Please let me know whether you are interested in staying involved or getting involved and then we can plan the best time for a meeting, either when the children are in nursery or via Zoom one evening. Parents who are in this group are added to a what's app group (with their permission of course) to make organising events easier.

Parenting Course

Our family support worker, Lorna Coulter, is offering a parent group on Thursday mornings in the village hall from Thursday 21st September until Thursday 26th October. This is a good opportunity to meet other parents and have a chat about topics that may be helpful e.g., sleep, play, behaviour, potty training, eating habits.



Clothing

Flagg Nursery School sweatshirts are available to buy on Parent Pay (you must put it in the basket and check it out) in sizes 22" 24" 26" and 28" at a cost of £10.50. Please make sure that all removable clothing is named: sweatshirts, coats, wellies etc. Please also make sure that appropriate warm clothing is worn, especially footwear (no crocs) as we do

Peg Bags

All children have a peg with their name and a picture next to it to hang their coats on. They are also given a Flagg Nursery School Peg bag. Please put a change of clothes in this bag (more if they are potty training) and/or nappies and baby wipes if they are in nappies. Wellies can go on the welly rack and can be left here if you prefer. Thank you.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Wednesday 25th October at 2pm: all welcome. If your child doesn't usually attend on a Wednesday afternoon, please feel free to join us at 1.50 pm. Please let us know in advance if you will be coming so that we know how many people to plan for. This will be an informal singalong and celebration. We will be collecting items for the food bank in Buxton during the week beginning 16th October so that our children can begin to learn that it is important to help others who are not as fortunate as we are.



Governors Section

Last year our Governors were very involved in helping to drive forward our School Improvement Plan.

They visited the nursery and helped to monitor and improve provision in Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Parent Partnership, our 3 key areas for improvement. Governors visit regularly to monitor provision for children with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities), safeguarding procedures and health and safety arrangements. They also help to set the budget and monitor spending plans for the year. At the next Governing Body meeting, which is due to be held in school on Wednesday 4th October at 6.30pm, we will be thinking about our School Improvement Plan for the year 2023-24 and deciding which key areas we want to develop this year.

We currently have vacancies on our Governing Body and are actively seeking to recruit new Governors. Governors can be parents, other relatives, or anyone in the community. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a governor and joining our very friendly and highly effective team, then please let me know. You would have the opportunity to make a real difference to the education of our children.

Parent Pay and the 30 Hour Entitlement

We aim to be a cashless school so with this in mind we use an online payment system called ParentPay. If you haven't already had your login details, you will receive a letter shortly. We don't send invoices out, but charges are updated on ParentPay daily so please check your account on a regular basis.

Please ensure that you clear your balance on a weekly basis. If you build up a debt debt, we have to refer you to DCC's legal department as the debt is with the local authority and not the school.

Currently, all children are entitled to 15 hours of funding per week starting from the term after their third birthday. Some two-year-olds are also entitled to 15 hours of funding, please call 01629 539319 or follow this link:

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/early-years-childcare/2-year-olds/free-childcare-for-2-year-olds.aspx>
to find out if you are eligible for 2-year-old funding.

Most three-year-olds are entitled to a further 15 hours of funding (up to 30 hours) if both parents are working for a minimum of 16 hours a week. Please go to

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/> or www.childcarechoices.gov.uk
to find out more. Once you have successfully applied you will be given a code which you need to give to us along with your national insurance number. The 30-hour funding needs to be in place the term before it is to be used so if you need the funding in January then you need to apply for it before the end of December. If you need any help, then just pop in to the school office and talk to Mrs Simpson

If you pay for your sessions or for breakfast club then you can save money by applying for tax free childcare: for every £8 you pay into the account, the government will top up with £2. Find out more by visiting www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

If you intend to pay with childcare vouchers or tax-free childcare please speak to Mrs Simpson in the office and she will explain the process to you. If you pay with tax free childcare or childcare vouchers, then it is often more practical to pay on a monthly basis.

Please refer to our charging and remissions policy on our website:

www.flagg.derbyshire.sch.uk

Communication between school and parents

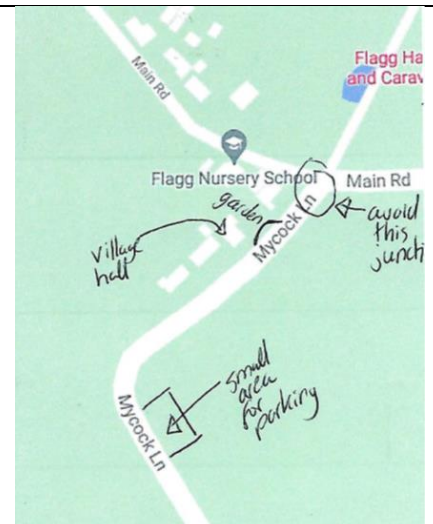
Once your child starts at Flagg Nursery School your e-mail address will be added to the mailing list (if you have given permission). I will send the newsletter and any other relevant information to you via e-mail. We also have an app called Class Dojo for messages and letters which can be download onto your phone. An invitation to Class Dojo will be sent via e-mail to new families, please look in your junk folder for this as it often ends up there! Photos of class activities will be posted on the class story on Class Dojo. We will also post videos of staff reading stories and singing songs on here. Your child will have a portfolio in Class Dojo where staff can post individual photos of your child and messages about what they have been doing. If your child always replies "I can't remember" or "I don't know" when you ask them what they have done in nursery it's a nice idea to sit down and look at the photos with them, it usually sparks a more fruitful discussion! You can also post a photo on your child's portfolio in Class Dojo so that staff can see what your child has been up to at home.

We aim to be cashless and paperless and so all newsletters will be e-mailed to you, posted on Class Dojo and published on the website. Plans and song sheets are posted on Class Dojo and the website and there is a calendar on the website which is regularly updated. Paper copies are always available in school to take home if you have trouble printing or viewing letters on your device.

Finally, there is always the old-fashioned approach: you are very welcome to discuss any concerns or questions you may have with staff at the beginning or end of any session in person! If you need a longer, more confidential chat please let us know. Staff are always available in person, via telephone, video call or e-mail. If something is bothering you or your child then let us know straight away and we will deal with it immediately.

Parking

Please do not to park too close to the junction, in the school bus stop or over people's driveways including the staff car park. We are operating a flexi drop off from 9 to 9.15 to alleviate queuing and crowding, this should alleviate parking issues a little too. The safest place to park is on Mycock Lane (by the pencil fence) as traffic is very fast on the Main Road. We do acknowledge that the little village of Flagg was never designed to accommodate so many cars at once, so we need to try and work together for the safety of the children and the peace of mind of Flagg residents. It's better to park further away and walk than to park dangerously. If possible, please get your child out of the car on the kerbside as it is much safer. There is a parking area, if necessary, shown on the map opposite where the recycling area used to be. It is a short walk and obviously care needs to be taken when crossing the road, there is also no footpath for some of the way.



INSET Days/Bank Holiday

Flagg Nursery School is part of the Local Authority school system and so we have five INSET (In-service training) days like the primary schools. On these days the nursery is closed to children for staff training. This academic year the INSET days are Monday 4th and Tuesday 6th September, Friday 27th October, Friday 22nd December and Tuesday 7th May. Training for staff this year includes safeguarding, paediatric first aid, food safety, internet safety, GDPR and promoting early communication and literacy skills.

Dates for your diary: Dates for the whole academic year can be found on the website

Wednesday 25th October 2pm	Harvest festival
Thursday 21st September 9.15am and subsequent 5 Thursdays	Family Support Parent group in the village hall
Thursday 26th October	Break up for half-term
Friday 27th October	INSET day, nursery school closed to children
Monday 6th November	Back to school
Wednesday 13th December	Christmas concert: Bears class 2pm
Thursday 14th December	Christmas crafts and singalong Cubs class 9am
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas party
Thursday 21st December	Break up for Christmas holidays

Sarah Brown