Welcome to Oaklands Nursery School

Oaklands

"From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow"

Oaklands Avenue, Wolstanton, Newcastle-Under-Lyme, ST5 0EX
Tel: 01782 987075
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Website: www.oaklands.staffs.sch.uk

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Oaklands Nursery School. Thank you for considering us as a provider of your child's care and early education.

We are a Local Authority Maintained Nursery School providing nursery education for children aged two to five years with a caring, passionate and experienced staff team. We are situated in the heart of the Wolstanton/Porthill community, Newcastle-under-Lyme and offer a mix of part-time (15 hours) and 30 hours places for working parents which can be taken flexibly across the week. We also have 2 year old provision and paid additional hours for those who require it.

At Oaklands, we put the children at the heart of all we do, providing a truly child centred, creative and holistic approach to early years education. Our approach nurtures and empowers children to be curious, make their own choices and become confident and resilient individuals. Through this approach, we aspire to foster a lifelong love of learning.

Our purpose built nursery has a stimulating environment, innovative and exciting curriculum and large outdoor space and woodland area which hosts our Forest School provision. We provide a happy, caring atmosphere where children can flourish and learn. The children are warmly welcomed at the door each morning with smiles; hugs and words of comfort if needed. Children have many opportunities to grow their knowledge, they have great fun and learn many things during their time here.

What makes us special and unique:-

- We are the only Local Authority Maintained Nursery School in Staffordshire.
- We employ a qualified teacher (QTS) and a highly qualified early years staff team.
- We are a friendly and inclusive Nursery which has been judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for the fourth time in May 2023.
- Our outdoor classroom provides children with the same wealth and richness of play opportunities as the indoor classroom.
- We have a large Forest School area, which we use to support children's resilience and emotional wellbeing.
- We been awarded the SAPERE Philosophy for children Silver School Award

Call in and see us, book a visit or come along to one of our open day events for more information telephone 01782 987075 or email office@oaklands.staffs.sch.uk
We look forward to meting you soon.

Mrs Sally Lynch
Head of School

Our Vision and Values

Oaklands, creating strong roots for future growth through inspired education, nurture and play.

"From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow"

Our values underpin our practice. We believe that high quality early years care and education is about supporting and developing strong, curious, confident children.

Belong- Nurture- Care- Inspire

A place to belong, nurture, care and inspire

Our Mission

- To celebrate, respect and value everyone as unique individuals.
- To provide a happy, caring environment where children feel nurtured and safe.
- To help children to develop their confidence and independence.
- To provide high quality education and care where children develop their full potential in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- To provide an exciting and stimulating environment that fosters curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.
- To 'lay the foundations' for their future learning.
- To promote close relationships with families and share the education of their children.
- To provide families with accessible, affordable, high quality education and childcare.

Admissions

Oaklands admits children as follows (subject to available places):

Acorns- 2 year old room admits children from the age of 2
Mighty Oaks- 3 and 4 year old room admits children from the term after your child turns 3 (depending on available spaces, we can admit September, January and April).

To apply, please complete an application form available on our website, you will also find a link to our Admissions policy.

Funding

Childcare Choices

2 year olds
You could be entitled up to 15 funded hours, subject to eligibility criteria. For more details of these, visit www.staffordshire.gov.uk/think2 .
Or for 2 year old funding for Working Parents. Applications should be made through www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

3-4 year olds
All 3 year and 4 years olds are entitled to 15 hours of early education for 38 weeks funding from the term after your child turns 3 years old.
In addition to the universal 15 hours some families could also be entitled to an extra 15 hours- up to 30 hours per week over 38 weeks.

Your child is eligible from the beginning of the term after their 3rd birthday:
Children born between / Free place starts
1st January – 31st March / Summer Term (from 1st April)
1st April – 31st October / Autumn Term (from 1st September)
1st September – 31st December / Spring Term (from 1st January)

Extended hours available from September 2024!

From September 2024 we will be open from 7:30-5:30 Mon-Thurs and 7:30-5pm on a Friday.

Our core FREE funded offer:

Full Day- 9-3pm
Morning Session- 9-12pm
Afternoon Session- 12-3pm

We are now thrilled to be able to offer further optional wraparound provision from **7.30am – 9.00am** and **3.00pm to 5.30pm** (5pm Friday). This will be charged at **£5.50** per hour and must be booked in advance.

Please complete the form link to book your requirements- https://forms.office.com/e/Kt9NAHNY8e. Any additional hours/wraparound care will be invoiced and payable in advance.

External before and after school providers

We also work closely with local providers for wraparound provision- who will look after the children and bring and collect them from nursery.

There are more details and information in the school office and on our website:

JW Care Club- Telephone: Jackie Williams 07916 347186 (also offer school holiday provision)

Childminders- We have a list of local childminders who can provide care before and after nursery.

Meet the Team



Mrs Sally Lynch
Head of School



Mrs Debbie Davies
School Business Manager



Mrs Claire Smith
Early Years Teacher (QTS)



Mrs Liz Davies
2yr Lead Practitioner



Miss Sam Dixon
Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Debbie Jevans
Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Dawn Wooley
Early Years Practitioner



Mrs Sarah Boulton
Early Years Practitioner



Miss Laura Shepherdson
Early Years Practitioner



Ms Heather Shaw
Early Years Practitioner



Miss Tilly Birchall
Early Years Apprentice



Mrs Jane Barlow
Office Administrator

Mr Paul Newton
Janitor

Mr Mike Tunnicliffe
Handyman/Gardener

Mr Nick Madeley
IT Support

Attendance

Excellent attendance is important to enable your child to fulfil their full potential.
Getting children into good routines and habits as young as possible supports their learning and development. Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important for your child to attend nursery regularly:

- To learn.
- To have fun.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To achieve.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.



However, if your child is unable to attend nursery due to illness please call the school office on the first day of absence.

01782 987075







"If we could see the world through the eyes of the child, we would see the magic in everything"

Chee Yai Tang

Our Curriculum

At Oaklands Nursery School we deliver a curriculum based on the framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. This describes the seven areas of learning and development which are implemented through planned, purposeful play.

In line with this framework we value and respect each individual child's needs, interests and characteristics of learning and respond to them through planning/ providing purposeful 'in the moment' learning opportunities.

As we work through the stages of the Early Years Foundation Stage we begin to look closely at the seven areas of learning and development:

- Communication and Language (CL)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

In addition to following children's interests, we have four key themes that thread throughout the year, ensuring that our children have a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are unique – Learning about ourselves, our culture and how to express our emotions and interests

Celebrations – We celebrate many different religious festivals, cultural and inclusive events throughout the year

Nature- Forest School- Develop a love and exploration of the natural world and observing seasonal changes

Philosophy for Children (P4C)- Develop ways of thinking together, sharing our thoughts and exploring questions about 'Big Ideas'

'Play is the highest form of research'

Albert Einstein

Our Environments-Acorn Room








Oaklands provides children with a rich and varied environment. We feel that by adding authentic resources into children's play spaces, we can create rich and engaging experiences for children that promote a deeper connection to the world around them.

Outdoors








"The best classroom and richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky"

Margaret McMillan

Our Environments-Mighty Oaks Room








We create rich and engaging experiences for children that promotes cultural diversity, equality exploration, imagination, creativity and curiosity. There are a range of well resourced areas that children can access independently or work with an adult.

Outdoors








"They're not just playing in nature, they are learning, creating, sensing, believing, relaxing, exploring, observing, wondering, connecting, discovering, appreciating, understanding, experimenting"

Penny Whitehouse

Our Policy on Outdoor Play

All children will be given the opportunity to play outside throughout most of the day whatever the weather. We ask that you dress your child for nursery appropriate for the weather: warm clothes and waterproof coat when it's cold and wet; sun hat and suncream when it's sunny.

Children love to get wet and muddy when they play outside. We provide protective clothing for them to wear, however we do ask you to provide your child with a pair of wellies.

We teach children how to minimise how messy they get and they do get better at this as they get older, but it is part of their learning and development- so expect them to get messy playing in mud!

We will not compromise on allowing children to play outdoors as we believe it to be an essential part of young children's learning and development.

Children must be allowed to experience the world around them in a full, messy, muddy, wet environment if they are to make useful meaning of it.

Getting wet does not cause us to catch a cold. If the cold virus is around, we will pick it up regardless of whether we are wet or dry.









Uniform

Uniform is entirely optional but we do have sweatshirts, polo shirts, warm hats, summer caps and bags for sale from the nursery office. We keep a limited number in stock, but you can order at any time throughout the year, an order form is available on our website or contact the school office –we have a selection for you to try on for size. Payments can be made online or by cash.



Class Dojo

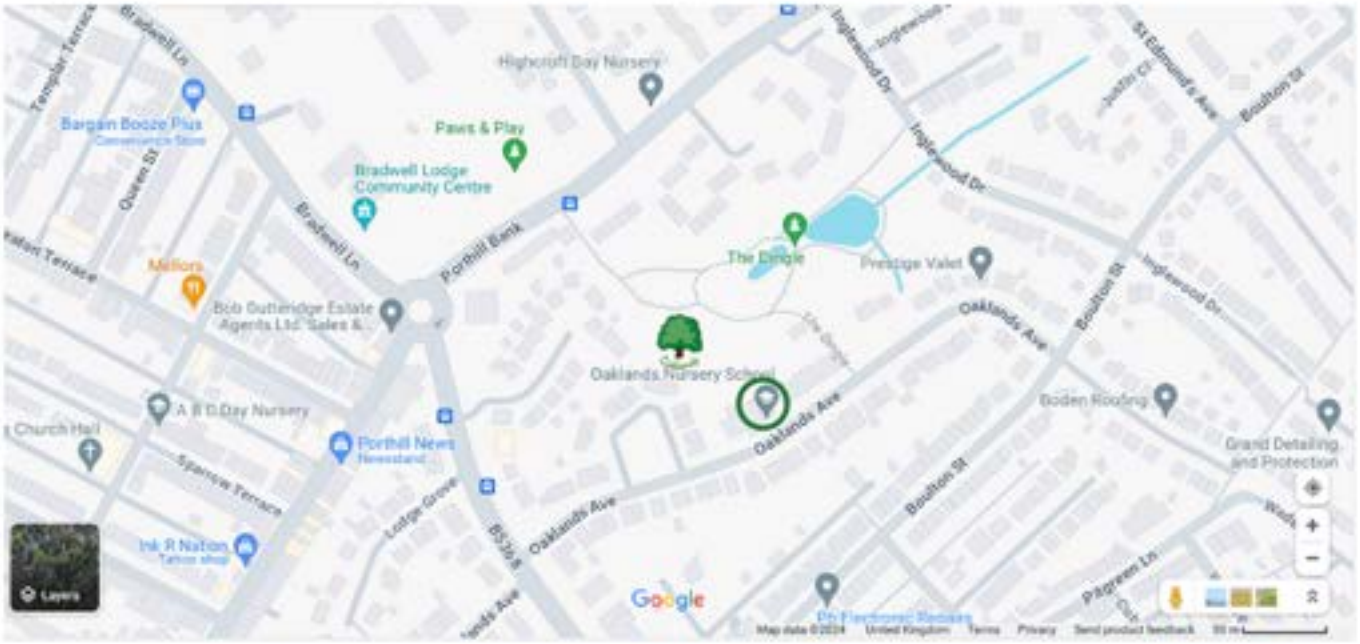


We are always trying to update the way we communicate with our parents and families. This is to ensure that we are always in touch about the welfare and learning of our children.

Class Dojo is a communication platform that we use in school between practitioners and parents. Class Dojo makes it easy for us to capture magic moments and send important updates to parents and carers, as well as allowing both parent and practitioners to send private messages. These messages will only be seen by the staff and parent involved. The story pages will be seen by all, these include things such as events in school, what we are going to be learning about next week and any dates for the diary we need you to be aware of.

You can use it on any device, it is a simple free mobile app for iOS or Android and can also be used on a computer at www.classdojo.com.

Where to find us:



Oaklands

A place to belong, nurture, care and inspire

Working in close partnership with Ellison Primary