



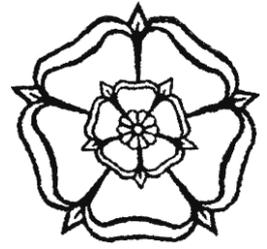
Thornton-in-Craven Community Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs K Smith



Welcome to Thornton-in-Craven Primary School Nursery!

If you are considering sending your child to our Nursery then the information below will be of interest. Should you require further information please feel free to contact us in person or by phone on 01282 843381.

Thornton-in-Craven Community Primary School Nursery

Our Nursery is part of Thornton-in-Craven Community Primary School. It is a 10 place Nursery for children aged 3 and 4 years with its own entrance and fenced play area. We take children the term after their third birthday, if places are available. There are three intake times in the year at the start of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms (dependent on availability for places).

Nursery Admissions

If you would like your child to attend the Nursery then you need to contact the school secretary in person or by phone (01282 843381) to arrange to visit the school and complete an application form. When a place becomes available we will contact you the term before your child is eligible to start.

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free early education or childcare and some children of working parents will be eligible for a further 15 hours free provision under the government '30 hours free childcare' scheme.

Eligibility for 30 hours free childcare

All 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free early education but some children are entitled to an additional 15 hours. The eligibility is as follows:

Who will receive it?

The Government has set out the eligibility criteria for this additional entitlement:

- Both parents are working (or sole parent in a lone parent family) and each parent/carer earns on average:
- A weekly minimum salary equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) (for under 25 year olds) or national living wage (NLW) (if over 25 years old), and
- Less than £100,000 per year

Or

- Both parents are employed but one or both parents is temporarily away from the workplace on parental, maternity, paternity or adoption leave or statutory sick pay, or
- One parent is employed and the other parent has substantial caring responsibilities based on specific benefits received for caring, or
- One parent is employed and one parent is disabled or incapacitated based on receipt of specific benefits.

Additional Information

- You do not need to actually work 16 hours per week, but your earnings must equal at least 16 hours work at minimum wage/national living wage. This equates to a minimum income requirement for a parent/carer over the age of 25 of £115.20 per week, or for 21-24 year olds of £107.20 per week.
- A parent/carer will be eligible if they expect (on average) to earn this amount over the coming 3 months: for example, for a parent/carer who is on a zero hours contract, they will qualify if on average they work two weeks out of every three, and when they are working they get 25 hours of work at the minimum wage.
- 'Parent' means a parent who has parental responsibility for the child. In cases where a parent has remarried or is living with a partner, the step-parent or partner must also meet the earning threshold.
- Foster carers are only eligible for the extended entitlement for their own children (if they meet the criteria); they are not eligible for children they foster.

How can I check if I am eligible for the additional entitlement?

Parents/carers need to apply via the Government's HMRC website. You will then be able to input your details and be issued a voucher code for each child (multiple births such as twins are issued an individual code). You will then take this voucher code to the childcare provider of your choice and discuss how you will take up the hours for your child.

If you decide to apply for a 30 hour place at our Nursery on receiving the code we will advise you of your allocation as soon as possible. Places will be allocated in accordance with our Nursery Admissions Policy.

Nursery Sessions

Our Nursery opening hours are from 8.50am to 3.20pm, Monday to Friday term time only. We also offer a breakfast and after-school club.

We offer a choice of options regarding Nursery sessions:

- 15 hours beginning of week over two and a half days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning);
- 15 hours end of week over two and a half days (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday);
- 18 hours over three days (Monday to Wednesday or Wednesday to Friday - the extra session funded as part of the 30 hours free entitlement for eligible children, or for a fee if not);
- 30 hours over four days (for those entitled to the free 30 hours funding).
- 30 hours over five days (for those entitled to the free 30 hours funding).

There is a small charge to cover the half hour for lunch each day. This is £3 and includes a cooked meal. If your child would rather have a packed lunch then this can be accommodated but there will not be a reduction in the lunch club fee as supervision costs will still need to be met.

The Nursery Curriculum

The Nursery curriculum is broad and balanced providing opportunities for children to engage in a journey of discovery and exploration. We aim to create a happy and caring environment with exciting learning opportunities where children feel valued and can thrive to achieve their best.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and provide for the 'Seven Key Areas of Learning' and 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' to ensure each child can develop at their own rate and can become independent, creative and confident learners. Our nursery children will be in a class with reception aged children and their education will be delivered by a fully qualified teacher supported by a higher level teaching assistant.

There is a good balance between teacher led learning and child initiated play, both inside and outdoors, where children are encouraged to make choices, to express ideas, to reflect on experiences, to share thoughts, to make discoveries and solve problems, and to engage in first -hand experiences. The provision is organised into different learning areas (role-play, construction, creative, literacy, numeracy, music, sand and water) which provide rich, stimulating resources and experiences to help children work towards the Early Learning Goals.

There are times when the children gather together in small groups or as a class for stories, phonics, number activities, circle time games and singing. Able children will be able to learn alongside the reception children if they are ready and if they want to. Planned experiences often focus on a theme designed to help children develop basic skills and concepts as well as promote their knowledge and understanding of the world. They provide a flexible framework for learning that takes into account the range of abilities, skills and interests of the children. We love to tune into the children's interests and fascinations and support them develop their ideas.

During their time in the Nursery the children will forge very close links with the Reception children and with each other. We can use the hall and outside space for P.E. and dance and make good use of the school field and allotment for nature investigations/growing activities. Throughout the year we observe children as they play and learn, set personal targets and next steps, and assess against the developmental age related bands as set out in the Early Years Framework.

Starting Nursery

We aim to make the transition from home to Nursery as smooth and as stress free as possible which is why we them to attend 'stay and play' sessions before they start.

Entry into Nursery can be staggered if needed so that the staff can welcome each child as they arrive and help them settle in. Parents are encouraged to come into the classroom and help settle their child at an activity for a few minutes before saying farewell. The children are gradually introduced to the Nursery/reception class routines and are encouraged to develop independence, good communication and social skills and a love of learning through play and structured activities.

Parents as Partners

We understand that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and so aim to work in partnership with all our parents. We always listen and value what parents have to say about their child and their learning and development. There are times when we invite parents to join us for 'stay and play', 'read and relax' and special celebration days. Our door is always open.