

Nursery Uniform

Uniform is available to order online or buy direct from stock held in the main office. It is not compulsory but does help your child to understand when it is nursery time. If you do not choose to wear uniform, please save best clothes for home. We use paint, glue, and many different malleable materials that will end up on your child's clothing. Please remember your child is exploring and they will not always remember to push their sleeves up or put on an apron. These skills will develop over time.

Changing Baskets

Each child has an individual basket for changing supplies to be stored in. Please check and replenish this at the beginning of the week. Baskets should contain nappies, wipes, nappy sacks and spare clothes. Please name all items of clothing (shoes, socks, vests and spares that are provided). The easiest option is to use a permanent marker pen. To help with progress towards toileting independence please do not use popper vests for nursery.

Please do not bring any additional bags into nursery as the cloakroom is only designed for coats.

Outdoor Exploration

All nursery children are given the opportunity to access the outdoor learning environment each day. As we move into the Autumn and the weather changes, please ensure your child arrives at nursery wearing a named coat and hat. **Do not send children to nursery in crocs or wearing scarves** as these can be dangerous when using outdoor climbing equipment. Make sure to name all items of clothing including socks and shoes as the children will take these off to access large equipment in the hall.

Volunteers

We warmly welcome parents, carers and grandparents to come and join us in nursery. We always need extra help checking through and filling our activity packs. Volunteering could extend to sharing a skill – like helping us to look after our nursery garden or reading to the children. Please speak to your child's key person or call into the office if you would like to volunteer.

Fundraising

We try to raise funds across the year to help pay for special events and trips. This term we will have a sponsored movement event. We hope you will be able to help us with this fundraising.

Toys from Home

Please do not bring toys from home into nursery as it can be difficult for nursery staff to keep this separate and safe to return. Nursery toys are shared but toys from home are not for everyone to play with and this can be difficult for young children to understand.

Safeguarding Reminders

- Please **do not leave any young children unattended** in cars when dropping off and collecting.
- Please **ensure all children coming to nursery are strapped into a suitable car seat**. This is UK law.

Parents and carers who do not use the correct car seats and those who leave children unattended can be **reported to social services for failure to safeguard** a child by calling 03000 267 979.



Autumn Term 2026 Newsletter Willow Room



Welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us in nursery this term. We are very excited for you to be part of our wonderful school community. Please do not hesitate to ask any member of staff if you have a query. Or alternatively email us at rosemary.lane@durhamlearning.net or telephone 0191 5271168.

Our planned curriculum for the Willow room children

The nursery environment within the Willow room has been carefully created with resources to encourage exploration and investigation. The provision has been selected to follow the interests of the children whilst promoting the development of the PRIME areas of learning – Personal Social and Emotional, Communication and Language and Physical development. Resources are displayed to encourage independence and child led enquiry. Children in the Willow room often explore through schematic play. They gain a fascination and become very engrossed in this, repeating it over and over. For example, transporting objects around by using their hands, pockets, bags and baskets. Children in the Willow room meet together with their peers to share snack, read a short story, sing some familiar songs and rehearse some favourite nursery rhymes.

Celebrations

- Christmas

Core Songs

- Friends
- Twinkle star
- Incey Wincey Spider
- Autumn Leaves are Falling Down
- Jingle bells

Core Books

- Whose stripes?
- Pets
- Jump
- Orange Pear Apple Bear
- Dogs
- Elephant Wellyphant
- Goodnight Moon
- Doing the animal bop
- Walking through the jungle
- Oh Dear
- Hooray for Fish
- Dear Zoo
- Where's Spot?

Termly focus settling in

Family engagement

- Stay and Play visit

Parent workshop

- Emotional regulation information will be shared as a short video on Seesaw – this explains our approach to supporting children with their emotions
- Fire safety reminders

Parent evening dates – 7th December 3-5pm. All parents are invited to sign up for an appointment to find out about their child's progress and engage with setting next steps for their child to work towards.

Nursery fees are paid via your code. We ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of snack food, and baking/play dough materials. 15hour places pay £2 and 30 hours places pay £2.50. This should be given to your child's teachers in the Willow room each week or as a lump sum for the half term. Thank you

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 Staff training	2 Return to nursery	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 An introduction to hall activities	30			

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 An introduction to hall activities	2	3
4	5	6 Hall movement play	7	8 Hall movement play	9	10
11	12	13 Sponsored movement group 1	14	15 Sponsored movement group 2	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Half Term	27 Half Term	28 Half Term	29 Half Term	30 Half Term	31

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Children in Need day	14
15	16 Christmas photo week	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Stay and Play 2pm	25	26 Stay and Play 2pm	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Christmas Party for Maple and Willow with a parent	3	4	5
6	7 Parent meetings	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Staff training day – no nursery	19
20	21 Holiday	22 Holiday	23 Holiday	24 Holiday	25 Holiday	
	29 Holiday	30 Holiday	31 Holiday			

If your child is unwell and unable to come to nursery you must let us know by either telephoning 01915271168 or emailing rosemary.lane@durhamlearning.net

As a school we have to follow safeguarding policy and this requires us to find out where a child is when they do not attend school.

Are you interested in becoming a **school governor**. We have a **vacancy for a parent and co-opted governor**. As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school.

This role may be particularly of interest if you have skills in finance/accounting, human resources, data or education but we invite applications from anyone who is interested in helping the school be the best it can be. Full training is available, and governors are encouraged to attend regular training sessions, either in person or online.