



RAVENSDALE
INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL



**RAVENSDALE INFANT
AND NURSERY
SCHOOL**

WELCOME

On behalf of the Governors and staff I would like to welcome you to Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School.

We consider our school to be a friendly and exciting place to learn, where our children are 'ready, respectful and engaged' in their learning. Our value is a thread that runs through everything we do:

We nurture each of our children by enriching their lives with knowledge, skills and quality experiences so that they can positively contribute to society.

'The school promotes pupils' broader personal development well. Pupils understand the school's values. They talk about the importance of respect and kindness. They are developing as thoughtful individuals with a growing awareness of the world.' **Ofsted July 2025**

We are a warm and welcoming, committed team of Staff and Governors who work in partnership with all of our parents.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School and am fully committed to ensuring we are 'ambitious, spark imagination and celebrate success' for every one of our children and staff.

Mrs Lorna Blanchenot

CONTACT DETAILS

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Website :

<https://www.ravensdalei.derby.sch.uk/>



WHO WE ARE

Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School is a warm and welcoming school for children aged 3 to 7 years where we nurture each and every child as individuals. We work closely as a positive and supportive staff team alongside our parents and community. We strive to ensure that all children become fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers whilst at our school and become the best version of themselves through our personal development programme. Our three 'golden threads' of reading, outdoor learning & personal development are woven through our planning and practice at every opportunity.

'We have thoroughly enjoyed our time at Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, and we are grateful for the wonderful educational experience and support that our daughter has received. The school has played a vital role in shaping her academic and personal growth, and we will always cherish the memories and relationships she has formed during her time there.'

Former parent

SCHOOL DAY AND SETTLING IN

Breakfast club welcomes children from 7.45am
The gates open at 8.40am
Our school day begins at 8.50am and finishes at 3.20pm

Admissions:

All admissions must go through Derby City Council.
Requests can be made via telephone - 01332 642730,
email admissions@derby.gov.uk or on line at
www.derby.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions/



OUR CURRICULUM

At Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, our curriculum is designed to teach, promote and celebrate our 3 core values of READY, RESPECTFUL ENGAGED. We welcome and celebrate our diverse community, which stretches far beyond our school catchment area by starting each school year focussing on being RESPECTFUL individuals.

All children receive a carefully planned broad, balanced and progressive curriculum at Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School. The children are nurtured and supported to ensure that each and every one makes progress from where their learning journey begins and is able to be fully ENGAGED with all aspects of our curriculum.

The curriculum is purposeful and meaningful for our children, ensuring they have every opportunity to become life-long learners. We ensure any barriers to access and success are overcome for any disadvantaged or vulnerable child. Our curriculum design aims to ensure a seamless transition between year groups and key stages, including being READY for their next stage of education and life beyond school.

'books make us want to discover new things and take us to new places' **Year 2 child**



ENRICHED CURRICULUM

At Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, we have thoughtfully developed our outdoor spaces to seamlessly blend both indoor and outdoor learning. We deliver 'Go Wild' outdoor learning sessions. Each session is delivered with a Forest School ethos and is a valuable and vital resource in helping our young people explore, learn and discover possibilities beyond the limits of the classroom. Our core values are - that of respect for others, our natural environment and ourselves.

'I like looking after nature' **Year 1 child**

'We learn about nature and how to look after it' **Reception child**

An important element of our school is to use the outdoor environment at all opportunities to enhance and enrich our curriculum.



We offer a wide range of after school clubs. Recent examples are:

Basketball
Lego
Multi sports
Gymnastics
Football
Art

Class teachers deliver most music learning opportunities supported by specialist music teachers.

RAVENSDALE NURSERY

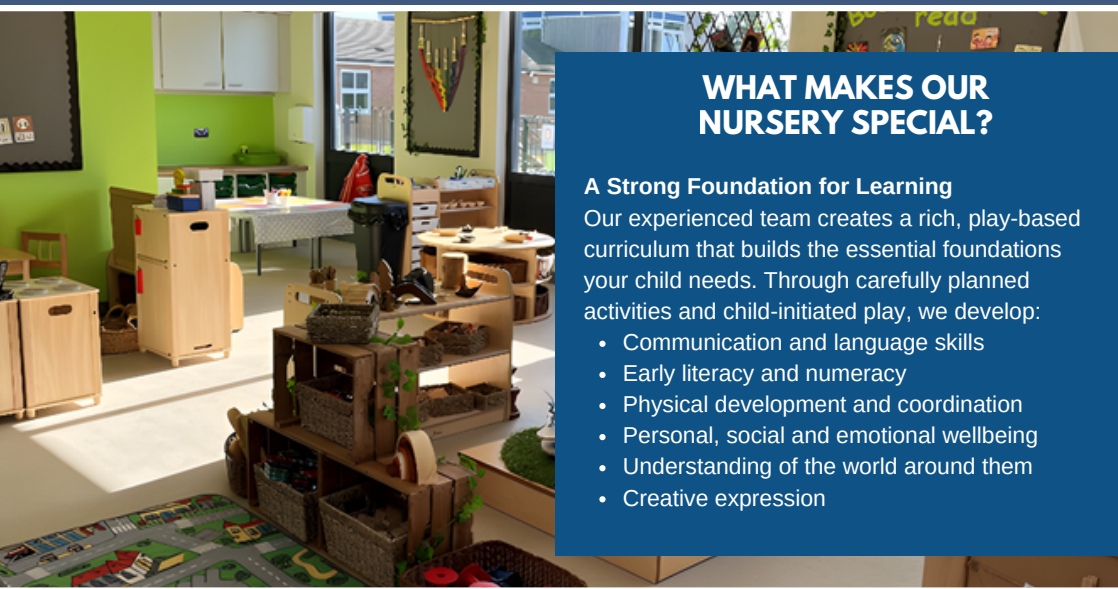
Welcome to Ravensdale Nursery – Where Every Child's Journey Begins

At Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, our Nursery provides a warm, nurturing environment where children aged 3 and 4 can flourish. We understand that choosing the right setting for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make, and we're proud to offer a place where every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Our Flexible Provision

We offer flexible options to suit your family's needs:

- **15 hours at the beginning of the week** (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning)
- **15 hours at the end of the week** (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, Friday)
- **30 hours** for eligible families



WHAT MAKES OUR NURSERY SPECIAL?

A Strong Foundation for Learning

Our experienced team creates a rich, play-based curriculum that builds the essential foundations your child needs. Through carefully planned activities and child-initiated play, we develop:

- Communication and language skills
- Early literacy and numeracy
- Physical development and coordination
- Personal, social and emotional wellbeing
- Understanding of the world around them
- Creative expression

RAVENSDALE NURSERY

At Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, we make the first steps towards reading exciting, playful, and full of curiosity! One of our golden threads throughout the school is reading and developing a lifelong love of books and stories, and this begins right here in our nursery. Through the Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics approach, children develop early phonics skills by listening carefully, exploring sounds, enjoying rhymes, and clapping out syllables in fun, engaging ways. These experiences help them tune into the sounds of language while building confidence and enthusiasm for learning. By the time they move into Reception, children are well prepared for formal phonics and early reading, making their transition smooth, happy, and full of excitement for what comes next. At Ravensdale, we nurture every child's curiosity and love of reading—setting them on a path for lifelong learning success.



RAVENSDALE NURSERY

Nurturing Relationships

We know that strong, positive relationships are at the heart of your child's development. Our dedicated staff take time to get to know each child as an individual, understanding their interests, needs, and personalities. We work closely with you to ensure your child feels secure, confident, and ready to learn.

Learning Through Play

Children learn best when they're engaged, curious, and having fun. Our Nursery environment is carefully designed to inspire wonder and discovery, with opportunities for:

- Exploring outdoors in our dedicated early years outdoor area
- Creative activities including painting, music, and role play
- Stories, songs, and rhymes that build language skills
- Mathematical exploration through games and practical activities
- Building friendships and learning to work together



RAVENSDALE NURSERY

Preparing for School

As part of Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School, our Nursery children benefit from a seamless transition into Reception. They become familiar with the school environment, routines, and staff, making the move to their next class an exciting and confident step rather than a daunting leap.

Partnership with Parents

We believe that parents are children's first and most important educators. We value your knowledge of your child and work in partnership with you to support their development. Through regular communication, learning journals, and opportunities to be involved in your child's learning, we ensure you're part of every step of their journey.



RAVENSDALE NURSERY

A Safe and Happy Environment

Your child's safety, wellbeing, and happiness are our top priorities. Our Nursery provides a secure, caring environment where children can take well-managed risks, build resilience, and develop independence at their own pace.

Come and Visit Us

We'd love to welcome you to Ravensdale Nursery. Come and see our wonderful learning environment, meet our friendly team, and discover why our Nursery is such a special place for young children to begin their educational journey.



OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL)

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme is an approach we follow at Ravensdale Infant and Nursery School that transforms playtimes into rich, engaging learning experiences for our children. OPAL recognises that play is essential for children's development and wellbeing, and that outdoor playtimes offer unique opportunities for growth across all areas of learning.

The Impact of OPAL

Research and experience show that "...better, more active and creative playtimes can mean happier and healthier children, resulting in a more positive attitude to learning in school, with more effective classroom lessons, less staff time spent resolving unnecessary behavioural problems, fewer playtime accidents, happier staff and a healthier attitude to life." (OPAL)

This powerful statement captures the transformative effect that quality outdoor play can have on our entire school community – from the children themselves to the staff who support them, and ultimately to the learning environment we create together.

Our Outdoor Play and Learning opportunities at lunchtime aim to help our children to:

Develop independence, resilience and perseverance

Through self-directed play and manageable challenges, children learn to make decisions, solve problems independently, and persist when things become difficult. They develop the confidence to try new things and learn from their experiences.



OPAL

Increase physical activity

Active play supports children's physical health and development, helping them build strength, coordination, and stamina whilst having fun. This contributes to healthier lifestyles and improved concentration in the classroom.

Enhance creativity, language skills and storytelling

Open-ended play opportunities encourage children to use their imagination, create their own narratives, and develop rich vocabulary as they communicate with peers during play. This supports literacy development in meaningful, contextual ways.

Investigate through maths, engineering and science

Outdoor play provides natural opportunities for exploration and discovery. Children engage with mathematical concepts (measuring, counting, patterns), engineering challenges (building, constructing), and scientific investigation (observing nature, testing ideas) through hands-on experiences.



OPAL

Improve social skills and emotional wellbeing

Playing with others helps children develop crucial social skills such as cooperation, negotiation, empathy, and friendship-building. The freedom and joy of outdoor play also supports positive mental health and emotional regulation.

Encourage positive behaviour

When children are engaged in meaningful, enjoyable play that meets their developmental needs, behavioural issues naturally decrease. Children learn to manage risks appropriately, respect boundaries, and develop self-regulation skills.



How OPAL Works in Practice

The OPAL approach involves providing children with access to varied, stimulating outdoor environments with loose parts and natural materials that can be used in multiple ways. Rather than highly structured activities, children are given the freedom to direct their own play whilst staff supervise and support as needed.

This approach recognises that children learn best through active, child-led experiences that are relevant to their interests and developmental stage, creating a positive cycle where engaged, active children become more effective learners throughout the school day.

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS & SUPPLIERS

GIRLS & BOYS

Grey skirt/grey pinafore dress/grey trousers/grey shorts

White polo shirt with collar

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without logo)

White/grey socks/grey tights

Blue/white check Summer dress (Summer months only)

Black shoes/black boots

All children should have a blue book bag which should be brought to school every day. These can be plain or include the school logo

INDOOR PE KIT

Plain white t-shirt

Black or navy shorts

black or navy leggings

Black pumps/trainers

School blue sweatshirt or cardigan

OUTDOOR PE KIT

Plain white t-shirt

Black or navy shorts

black or navy jogging bottoms/black or navy tracksuit/black or navy leggings

Trainers that can be independently fastened

School blue sweatshirt or cardigan

On PE days the children come to school dressed in their PE kit

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

Morley's School wear, 446 Nottingham Rd, Chaddesden, DERBY, DE21 6PE

Uniform Direct, 54 Babington Lane, DERBY, DE1 1SX

Tesco Online, www.clothingattesco.com

Most supermarkets stock all uniform requirements

PHOTO GALLERY





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