



Information for Preschool Parents 2026/27

Preschool Sessions

As a school-based Preschool, we can offer a variety of sessions to your child. Our Preschool is open between 8.45am and 3.15pm. The school gates open at 8.40 in the morning and 3pm in the afternoon.

Every child is entitled to 15 hours funding, which can be used for;

5 mornings or 5 afternoons

or

2 full days

If you are a working parent eligible for 30 hours funding, you can access;

5 full days

Even if you are not eligible for 30 hours funded you can ask for your child to be in Preschool for more hours, which are priced at a rate of £5.50 per hour.

Preschool sessions run as follows;

Morning session - 8.45am and 11.45am (Gate will be open at 11.40 am)

Lunch - 11.45am and 12.45pm

Afternoon session - 12.45pm to 3.15pm (Gate will be open at 3pm)

Preschool runs during term time only.

Starting Preschool

We understand that initially settling your child into a new environment can be tricky, so we will work with you to help smooth their transition into the Preschool environment. On the first day back in September, we will hold a stay and play for you and your child to come into the Preschool setting and explore the toys, books and resources.



If your child still finds it tricky to settle then it may be that they only come in for an hour for the first few days, or that they bring something from home such as a soft toy with them to begin with, whilst they get used to their new routine.

We find that routine is the key to successfully settling – most children understandably find the separation from carers difficult to begin with, and we expect some tears, but persevering and bringing them every day means that in most cases the tears don't last for more than a few days.

We always welcome parents into our Preschool. Staff are available at the beginning and end of the sessions to chat through any worries or concerns you may have, or to hear things your child has done that you want to celebrate. We also have a parent's board in the Preschool cloakroom where you can write a celebratory note to put up to let us know the amazing things your child has done, from learning to ride a bike, to using the toilet, or anything you are proud of them for!

We hold regular "Stay and Read" sessions, as well as craft mornings, and other activities for parents to come and be involved in their child's school life.





Where to find us

In the mornings the gates to the left-hand side of school as you face it on Lydes Road will open around 8.40am. The door to Preschool is on the right before you get to the playground; it will be open and staff will be ready to greet you and your child.

Each child will have a peg of their own, and there they can keep their coat, their lunchbox if they have one, wellies (that are kept in Preschool) and a bag with spare clothes in. There will be a trug to put book bags into. Your child will be given a bookbag on their home visit and can change their book any day from the wide selection we have in Preschool. There will be a box of books available to you to choose a book from in the cloakroom.

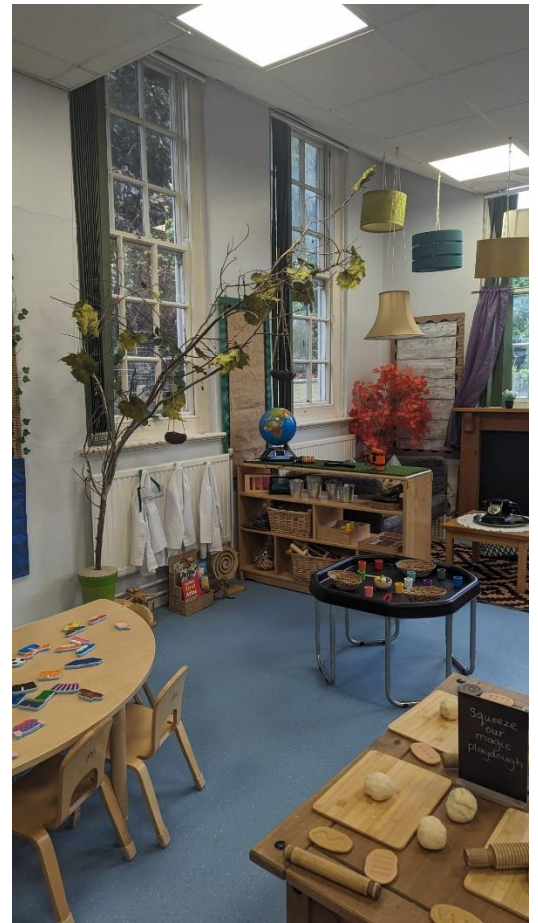
The children will 'self-register' using a picture of themselves

and a log slice with their name on that they hang in our "Preschool family tree" then they

are free to enjoy the activities on offer, and you are free to leave them to enjoy their time in Preschool.

At the end of the session

At 11.40am and 3.00pm the staff will open the side gate, and you are able to come and collect your child from Preschool. The children will wait on the carpet area in Preschool with the staff until you come in, and then we will release them to you to tell you all about the things they have been doing that day!



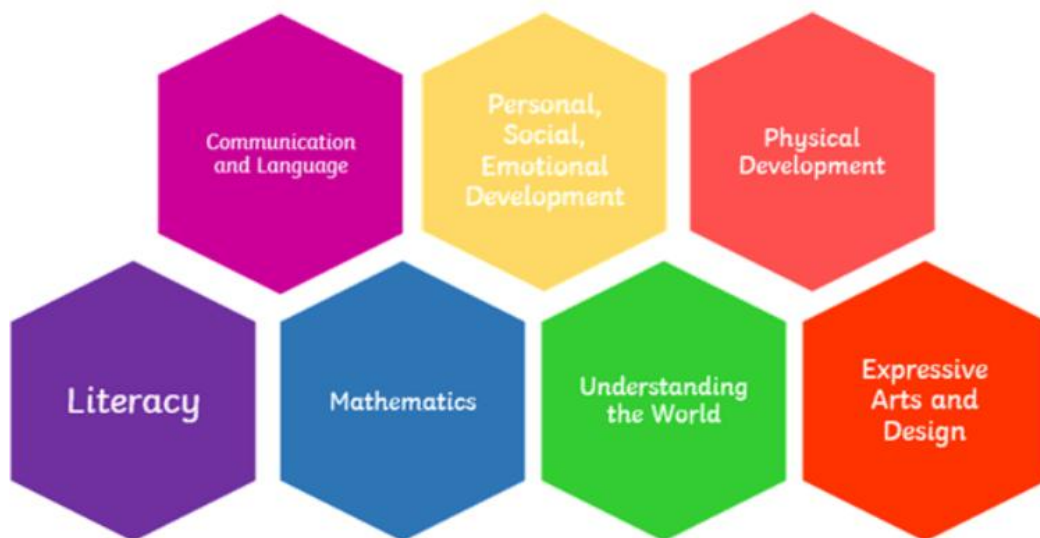
Planning the best environment for your child



Our Preschool classroom, along with our outside classroom, our Forest School area, and our playground, provide a fantastic range of opportunities for your child to explore and learn. Our play-based and curiosity approach curriculum is designed to build skills and experiences and prepare the children to develop these as they head into their Reception classes.

Our daily routine allows your child to engage in a range of activities, build relationships with other children, and to follow their own curiosities and interests.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage planning, which covers these 7 areas of learning, with the top 3 being the ones that are vital to underpin the learning in all other areas.





Children in Preschool develop both their gross and fine motor skills in the most fun and creative ways possible. One example of this is where the children enjoy painting outside on a hoop using a long-handled paintbrush. This is tricky but builds both gross motor and coordination skills.

The children explore lots of different materials and use a range of tools with the end goal being to hold a pencil ready for writing by the end of their time in Preschool.

Lots of our planned activities include using playdough, tweezers and specially adapted scissors to help develop and strengthen the muscles in our children's hands. This makes the transition to using pencils for writing much easier.



Looking carefully at our caterpillars teaches us all about the world around us and collaboration and communication with our friends, and the personal development of caring for living creatures.

Preschool have access to a large playground area which is ideal for riding on balance bikes and playing with pushchairs. The children learn how to take turns as well as how use pedestrian crossings!





As a school based Preschool we are lucky to be able to use the school hall for PE and games. We often start with getting to know you games using parachutes and pom poms and later use the space for dance, gymnastics and ball skills.

Preschool explores lots of different traditions and cultures and celebrate special times with all the children. We enjoyed finding out all about Chinese New Year!



We endeavour to make all the experiences your child has in Nursery meaningful, fun, provide the building blocks they need to grow and develop, and enable them to share their interests with us and their peers. We love to celebrate every success, and you can see just what your child has been doing on our online learning journey, Tapestry.



Food and drink

Please make sure we are aware of any food allergies your child may have. Please also be aware that we are a completely nut free school (including nut based chocolate spread in sandwiches)

Please send your child into Preschool with a named water bottle with water in it ready for the start of the day.

Every morning at 9am the children come together on the carpet to talk about our day, and we share toast while we chat.

At 10.30am the children in Preschool have milk or water and a choice from a selection of fruit. The children are encouraged to try new things, and we often find that in this friendly atmosphere children watch their friends and often try new fruits that they may not have at home.

If your child is staying for lunch, they can bring their own packed lunch, which needs to be healthy and filling, without any fizzy drinks or chocolate bars. For a small price of £2.50 your child can have a school lunch, cooked on the premises. There is always a choice of a meat option, a vegetarian option, a jacket potato with a variety of fillings or a sandwich. These are chosen from a menu that goes home with your child, and are ordered at the beginning of each half term.



What to wear

In Preschool we like to give the children lots of opportunities to explore, be active and experiment with paint, sand, water, and the outside. With this in mind the children need to be dressed comfortably and suitably.

We also want them to feel fully part of our school family, so we have a very simple uniform for our Preschool children.

We ask that all children come in a school jumper or cardigan, which can be purchased from Kitz in Malvern Link, or online. They should also wear black or green jogging bottoms and a pair of trainers that they can take off themselves. Many parents choose to purchase a green polo shirt to go under their child's jumper or cardigan.

In the summer months black or green shorts may be worn apart from on Forest School days.

No crocs or sandals please, these are not safe on the adventure playground, or when we are using the bikes.



The Preschool team look forward to welcoming you in September. Please phone the school office 01684 574219 if you have any questions!