



'Laugh, Learn and Grow Together.'



Welcome to Little Chestnuts Preschool

We look forward to meeting you and your child as they embark on their learning journey. We provide high quality education and care for children aged 3-4 years, through a range of fun and exciting learning experiences which follow the interests of each and every child and the educational programmes from the EYFS curriculum.

Our Vision

Little Chestnuts is a small, happy and friendly preschool where your child's learning journey with Cleeve Prior C of E Primary School begins. We encourage our 3- and 4-year-old children to actively explore, develop and build upon their own curiosities and interests through support and positivity whilst also developing their independence. Through language rich, open ended play and learning opportunities our warm and welcoming indoor and outdoor environment enables your child to laugh, learn and grow as part of our Cleeve Prior school family.

Our Aims

- To have fun playing and learning together.
- To offer children an exciting and carefully structured curriculum, following the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, which enables the children to develop their own interests and plan and initiate their own learning.

- To develop positive and supportive relationships with parents, carers and families, ensuring all children develop to their full potential.
- To value and celebrate the richness of diversity through an understanding that all children and families are unique.
- To nurture and develop children's creativity, curiosity and independence.
- To create a stimulating and challenging environment which engages children's interests and promotes independence.

Our Staff & Governors

Mrs S. Laughlin Head of School

Mrs K. Norden EYFS Lead

Mrs J Gwilliam Pre-school Lead

The School Governors meet at least once a term and make decisions about how the pre-school is run. They have legal duties, powers and responsibilities. As a group, they are formed from parents, teachers, Local Authority representatives, community representatives and Cleeve Prior Parish Council representatives.

If you would like to find out more information about joining the governing body, please speak to Mrs. Laughlin

Admissions

Children are eligible to begin their free preschool entitlement (15 hours) the term after their third birthday. Working families may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours per week of funded early education. This is called the 30 hours offer. Children can join our preschool as soon as they turn 3 years old but this would be charged to their parents until the term following their 3rd birthday.

Preschool Sessions

Children are able to attend preschool for 15 hours per week. Working families may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours per week of funded early education. This is called the 30 hours offer. This entitlement can be taken either across mornings, afternoons or whole days.

Morning session: 8.45 - 11:45am

Afternoon session: 11:45 am - 2:45pm

Lunch: 12-12:45pm

Children are able to stay for their lunch. All children are required to bring a healthy packed lunch. The children sit in the hall for lunch with the rest of the school supervised by our team of lunchtime supervisors.

To enquire about pre-school places at Little Chestnuts Pre-school (3-4yrs) **Tel:**

01789 772276 or email Cleeve Prior C of E Primary School's office:

office@cleeveprior.worcs.sch.uk

Playing and Learning

All the staff at Little Chestnuts Preschool are fully qualified. The preschool follows the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' (EYFS) which starts from birth and continues through their time at preschool until the end of their Reception year at school. All the staff in the preschool are highly skilled in planning and delivering a range of learning opportunities for the children. All these opportunities are delivered through a balance of child initiated and adult led activities. A large percentage of the learning takes place through planning in the moment.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is based upon four principles:

A Unique Child

At Little Chestnuts Preschool we recognise that all children are unique and all develop at different rates and we encourage all children to be resilient, capable and confident and we nurture positive attitudes and dispositions to learning.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. During your child's time at preschool, we develop caring, professional relationships with the children and their families and encourage positive relationships between the children and their peers.

Enabling Environments

At Little Chestnuts Preschool we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting children's learning and development. The indoor and outdoor provision is designed to allow the children to explore and learn safely. The environment supports the children to become independent and children can choose to move between the indoor and outdoor environment freely, with adult supervision. The children enjoy 'Wellie Wednesdays' at the beginning of the year which leads up to them joining Willow Class at Forest School by the Summer Term. Throughout the year preschool children have access to the extensive outdoor provision. On Wednesday mornings from 10-11am our preschool children join a stay and play session which takes place in our school hall/playground and which welcomes parents/carers and their children from the local area.

Learning and Development

We understand that children develop in different ways and at different rates. The Early Years Foundation Stage has seven areas of learning. All the areas of learning are equally important and are all interconnected by the characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

There are three Prime areas of learning in the EYFS are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Communication and Language**

The four specific areas are:

Literacy

Understanding of the World

Mathematics

Expressive Arts and Design

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development is important for children to lead healthy and happy lives and this area of the EYFS curriculum is driven throughout all that we do when the children are actively learning, playing and exploring and creating and thinking critically.

'We are kind and friendly to one another and help one another to learn and grow.'



Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. We ensure that the children have a wealth of learning opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

'We love learning outside!'



Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all areas of learning and development. Our preschool is a language rich environment in which back and forth interactions are encouraged.

'Our pupils thrive in a language rich environment.'



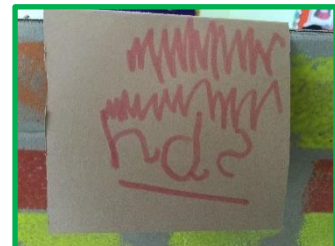
Specific Areas

Literacy

Books and stories are an especially important part of our curriculum. By providing children with access to a developing range of reading materials, linked to their interests, they develop a love of reading.

At preschool we provide opportunities that encourage children to develop their listening skills and to explore a range of rhymes and stories. When they are ready, we begin to introduce letter sounds.

'The children develop a life-long love of reading and writing.'



Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. They will also have opportunity to explore shape, space, and measures in the learning provision.

It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in

(Development Matters July 2021)



mathematics. (Development Matters July 2021)

Understanding the World

We guide children in making sense of their physical world and their community. In preschool we provide opportunities for exploring, observing and finding out about



Expressive Arts and Design

Opportunities are provided and encouraged for children to share their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through a variety of experiences in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Children have lots of opportunities to engage with the arts.

'We love creating in our lovely indoor and outdoor learning areas.'



Key Person

During your child's time at Little Chestnuts Preschool, each child and family will be allocated a key person. This person will be a valuable link into settling your child into preschool and for communication throughout your child's time with us. Although all the staff in the preschool will work with all of the children, their key person will lead the group sessions for your child and give feedback about progress. Your child's key person will also be responsible for compiling your child's Learning Journey.

Learning Journeys

Each child's key person keeps a record of their progress and achievements. These records are collected through observations of the children throughout their time at preschool and shared with the parents regularly throughout the year. We encourage all parents to be involved in their child's learning journey and welcome your 'WOW' moments captured at home. This special book is for you to keep when your child leaves preschool and we hope you treasure it for years to come. Every half term there is an opportunity to come into school and for your child to share their Learning Journal with you. As a result of this, you will be able to complete a Proud Cloud with your child which will be added to your child's journal.

Daily Routines

Children arrive at school at 8:45am, 11:45am or 12:45pm and will be met by the preschool lead or a member of the preschool staff at the preschool entrance. Throughout the morning and afternoon sessions the children will take part in child-initiated learning and adult led learning. The children have an opportunity to sit together and enjoy fruit, bagel and milk time, rhyme and story time. The children will be collected from the side school gate or pre-school entrance at 11:45am or 2:45pm.

Your child's time with their key person at the beginning of the session is very important for their learning and development. Please ensure that your child arrives at preschool on time. We also ask that you arrive on time to collect your child. If you are unexpectedly delayed, please contact the school office.

Clothing

We ask that all children come to nursery in sensible clothing, appropriate for weather conditions as the children will have access to the outdoors all year round. Could we also request that your child has a pair of named wellies to keep in school and a change of clothes, in case of accidents.

Jewellery

We request that all jewellery is left at home as it is very easily lost and broken and can be dangerous when children are climbing. Staff cannot be responsible for any for any jewellery at preschool. We recommend that earrings are not to be worn.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Little Chestnuts Preschool is committed to promoting the welfare and the safeguarding of all children. We expect all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment. The school follow Worcestershire Safeguarding guidelines and the whole school policy for child protection and safeguarding. These policies are available on request. Please make sure that an adult always brings and collects your child- this must be someone over the age of sixteen. If a different adult is collecting your child, please inform a member of staff as we do not allow children to leave preschool with adults who we do not know.

Home/School Partnership

We encourage all parents/carers to become involved in a full range of preschool activities during their time with us. These include preschool visits, fundraising activities and special events/days, such as coffee mornings and curriculum meetings. We also encourage parents and carers to complete WOW stars to celebrate key moments of development which your child has displayed outside of preschool. There is a weekly newsletter which can be found on the school website.

Special Educational Needs

All children are welcome at Little Chestnuts Preschool and our experienced staff are able to offer a curriculum to meet the needs of every child. SEND policies and our SEND local offer are in place and available on our website or on request.

If you need any more information, please speak to Mrs Laughlin (SENDCo).

Holidays

At Little Chestnuts Preschool we follow Worcestershire Education Authority holidays and we keep these up to date via the school newsletter and on the school website.

Absence and medical matters

If your child is going to be absent from preschool, we request that you contact the school and let us know their name and reason for absence. This ensures that their absence can be authorised and recorded accurately on our systems.

If your child requires medication, please ensure that you feel they are well enough to be at preschool.

Staff are able to administer PRESCRIBED medication only. (medication must be labelled with child's name, D.O.B and dosage by a doctor). If your child requires medication to be administered, you will be asked by a member of staff to complete a form for the prescribed medication.

If your child requires regular medication, e.g. inhalers or allergies, separate permission and forms are required. A care plan will be put in place for your child outlining specific details of their medication and how it is to be administered.

Policies on the administration of medicine are available on request.

If your child is un-well, we advise you seek medical attention from your GP, however, here are some guidelines on some common childhood illnesses.

Chicken pox

Highly infectious disease, Red itchy spots-often pus filled, high temperature. *Your child should not return to preschool until all spots have dried up and have scabbed over.*

Conjunctivitis

Eye redness, watering eyes, sticky coating to eyes.

Children can return to preschool when the infected eyes have been treated and they are beginning to clear.

Sickness and diarrhoea

Your child is unable to return to preschool until **48** hours after the last bout of sickness and diarrhoea.

In case of any other illness please contact the school for advice.

Headlice

Headlice can be a reoccurring problem in an environment where there are lots of children in close proximity. If you do notice your child has headlice, please treat the problem straight away with guidance from the chemist and inform the preschool as soon as possible.

Transition to Primary School

We want to ensure that the transition from preschool to school is as smooth as possible and that all children leave preschool feeling happy and confident about the change. Staff will be able to give you information and support you with your application for a school place. As a preschool we work very closely with our Reception teacher and EYFS lead and in the term before the children start school, we will

arrange a number of visits to the Reception classroom, initially supported by Little Chestnuts staff.

School readiness- Part of our role in preschool is to prepare children for their next steps in their education and life. We believe that 'school readiness' is about the children having the skills, confidence and attitudes to cope with the new challenges they may face.

Photographs and social networking

We use lots of photographs in preschool for displays, documentation, learning journeys, publicity/press and work with other schools. Before your child begins preschool, you will be asked to sign a consent form to give permission for photographs of your child to be used.

Parents are able to use photographs taken at school events for their own personal use, however these photographs must not be sold or used on the Internet or social media/networking sites. To do so would break Data Protection Legislation.

Please remember that recording and photographing of other children other than your own child, would need permission from all the parents whose children may be included in those images.

Images taken on mobile phones have the same rules as for other photography.

The preschool operates a no mobile phone policy to ensure the safeguarding of all children in our care.

Our safeguarding policy is available on request.

PLEASE NOTE:

This brochure should be read in conjunction with the EYFS Curriculum Offer and Policy.