

Buckminster Pre-School Prospectus

Foundation 1 and 2 Unit

2023-2024



Welcome to Buckminster Pre-School

Our ethos of Learning is through play which uses structured play activities to promote the development of gross and fine motor skills, the first step before children can use writing tools successfully.

While playing and communicating, children are able to socialise, learning about the world around them, appreciating and using number, shape and size, as well as developing physical and creative skills. But most important is that they never stop having fun and that they enjoy being children.



Introduction

We have a light and spacious room with a fenced and gated outside area. Our ongoing commitment to staff training ensures a balance of experience and the very latest approaches to our pre-school education. The Pre-School is part of the school and overseen by the Headteacher and the school governing body.

Outdoor Learning

The philosophy of Outdoor Learning is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

We have our own spinney at the school which allows us all year-round access to a woodland area. We have planned activities or we just explore the natural environment. Through play the children have the opportunity to learn about how to handle risks and use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

Our Pre-School aim is to:

- Provide high quality care and education for children 3 to 4 years old.
- Work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop.
- Offer children and their parents a service that promotes quality and values diversity.
- To provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
- To promote learning through play.

We offer your child

- Individual care and attention made possible by a high ratio of adults to children.
- Fun and friendship with children and other adults.
- Getting to know the children individually.
- Opportunities for you and your family to be directly involved in the activities of the group and own child's progress.
- We feel that it is important for all staff to know the children's individual needs.



Opening Times

We open for 38 weeks each year, this is in line with Leicestershire Council school term times.

Opening Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.30-3.30	8.30-3.30	8.30-3.30	8.30-3.30	8.30-3.30	Extended hours can be requested

Snack

A healthy snack is provided daily, where we sit together, cut fruit and pour our own drinks. We ask that you provide your child with a drink bottle which they can easily access during the day.

Lunch Times

Please provide a healthy packed lunch and a drink - please do not bring in any items containing nuts or peanuts. You can order a hot dinner for your child by informing Mrs Floyd in the morning when you drop your child off at Pre-School.

Fees

Fees are payable half-termly, in advance. Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent without prior notice or for a short time. In case of prolonged absence, families should contact the Headteacher. Your child’s attendance at the Pre-School is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fess and/or Government Funding.

Once a child is eligible for the government funding (the term after their third birthday), parents choosing to use the grant elsewhere will be charged the equivalent value for their child's Pre-School session.

Should you have any queries regarding fees/payments please contact us.

Fees

£6.00 an hour for Pre-School non-funded hours 8.30-3.30.

£10.00 per month consumables fee for full time children and £5.00 per month for part time children.



We are proud to be able to:-

- Give time and attention to each child.
- Talk with the children about their interests.
- Help children to experience and benefit from activities we provide.
- Allow the children to explore and be adventurous in a safe environment.

Within our small group all children are supported in developing their potential at their own pace. We work together to ensure we plan a well-tailored curriculum to meet each child's individual needs. For our children we follow the Early Year Foundation Stage framework, by means of developmentally-appropriate play activities and a high degree of adult input, we offer a curriculum that leads to the nationally approved Early Years Foundation Stage Goals and prepares children to progress and develop with confidence.

Learning Journal

Your child's Learning Journal celebrates their experiences. Overtime, it shows a story about your child's learning, friends and the experiences they enjoy and share with others.

We watch and notice each child at play as this helps us to understand and support their individual wellbeing and development. We really get to know each child as a unique person with special skills, interests and ideas. The more we understand about your child, the better we can support their learning.

At Buckminster Pre-School, as a small setting we feel it is not necessary to operate a keyworker system as we all support your child's learning. We would like to encourage you to contribute to your child's learning journal and feel free to add family photographs and achievement.

Every Child's Learning Journal will include the following

Amongst all the notes and observations, you may see reference to areas of the Early Years Curriculum know as Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which support children from birth to the end of their Reception year at school the government and early years professionals use the abbreviation EYFS. This is a very import stage as it helps your child get ready for school and it is a legal requirement.

The aims of our curriculum are:

To provide a learning experience for all children. These will be flexible, adaptable, balanced and relevant to individual children.

To ensure that each child has a positive experience at their own level in order to promote confidence and self-motivation for learning in the future.

To provide a curriculum that considers and responds to the children's developmental needs, allowing them to make progress according to their differing abilities.

Areas of Learning and Development			
Prime Areas			
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Relationships • Self-confidence and Self-awareness • Managing Feelings and Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving and Handling • Health and Self-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening and Attention • Understanding • Speaking 	
Specific Areas			
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers • Shape, Space and Measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and Communities • The World • Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring and Using Materials and Media • Being Imaginative

Alongside the seven areas of development there are also the Characteristics of Effective Learning which describes how your child learns best.

The 3 Characteristics of Effective Learning are:

Playing and Exploring:

- **Engagement** – Finding out and Exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to ‘have a go’

Active Learning:

- **Motivation** – Being involved and concentrating, keep trying, enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

Creating and Thinking Critically:

- **Thinking** - Having their own ideas, making links, choosing ways to do things.

Staff will refer to these areas of learning and characteristics when playing and preparing activities and also when assessing and observing your child. Adults will consider the Characteristics of Effective Learning within the observations, assessments and planning cycle of the EYFS.

Parents

Parents are regarded as an important part of our Pre-School who have full participatory rights.

These include a right to be:

- Valued and respected.
- Kept informed.
- Consulted.
- Involved.



How our parents can take part in our Pre-School

Our Pre-School recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. We see ourselves as partners with the parents in providing care and education for their child. There are many ways in which parents can be involved in making the Pre-School a stimulating place for children:

- Exchanging knowledge about their child's needs, interests, activities and the child's progress with staff.
- Helping with sessions.
- Sharing their own special interest with the children.
- Being part of the School PTFA.
- Being involved with events.
- Joining in community activities in which the Pre-School take part.

A child who is tense or unhappy will not be able to enjoy Pre-School Life, so it is important for the parents and staff to work together to help the child settle, feel confident and secure in the group. This may take longer for some children and parents should not feel worried if their child takes a while to settle, they are always welcome to stay with their child for as long as necessary.



Uniform

Pre-School's uniform enables the children to enjoy messy play without the fear of ruining their 'special' clothes. It offers the children a sense of identity and belonging.

- Sweatshirts and polo shirts (blue with Pre-School logo) can be purchased from Nationwide School Uniforms.
- Wellington boots.

Please provide the following for your child:

- Coat.
- A bag with a complete set of spare clothes.
- Sun hat and sun cream when appropriate.

All items of clothing must be labelled

Our Staff

Mrs Floyd and Mrs Bagshaw are paediatric first aid trained with all other staff having first aid training. All staff are child protection trained.

They are committed to continual development and the regular attend courses to ensure that we offer our children the best care and education.

FS1

Mrs Carole Floyd	Pre-School Lead	Early Years Degree - Level 6
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FS2

Mrs Becky Bagshaw	Early Years Lead	Teacher
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Policies

All our policies and procedures are designed to offer the best possible experience for the children and families in the group. Our policies and procedures are reviewed on a regular basis. A copy of our policies and procedures are also available on our website.

Special needs

A part of the Pre-School policy is to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual children and we consider any special needs a child may have. The Pre-School works to the requirements of the 1992 Education Act and The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2014).

Notice Period

If your child will no longer attend the Pre-School we will require 4 weeks written notice. If you fail to give notice you will be charged for fees for the four weeks.