

Winterbourne Valley Pre-School

“Where we are all nurtured in our learning and personal development according to the beliefs of the Christian faith.”



Information for Parents

Strong roots, successful futures.

© 01305 889297

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Early Years

An ethos for learning

Young children learn best through active, hands-on experiences. In our Early Years setting, we place great importance on practical learning that encourages curiosity, exploration and discovery. Our curriculum is imaginative, stimulating and enjoyable, with a strong emphasis on learning through purposeful play.

We believe children thrive when they feel happy, confident and secure in their environment. Creating a nurturing and supportive start to school life is therefore at the heart of everything we do at Winterbourne Valley Pre-School, ensuring each child feels valued and ready to learn from the moment they join us.



Session Times and Extended School Services

Our Pre-School is based in the Foundation Base and is open to children from the first full term after they turn 2 years 9 months.

Session Times:

- **Morning:** 9.00am–12.00pm (£24 per session)
Lunch time session: 12.00–1.00pm can be added (£8)
- **Afternoon:** 12.00pm–3.00pm (£24 per session)
- **Full-day:** 9.00am–3.00pm (£48 per day)

Children are also welcome to attend Extended School Services:

- **Early Birds Sessions:** 8.00–8.30am and 8.30am–9.00am
(£4 per half hour session)
- **After School Club:** 3.00pm–4.30pm (£12 per session)

15 hours free funded childcare places from the first full term after they turn 3 years old.

We also offer 30 hours of free childcare for eligible families with a valid HMRC code.

For more information or a booking form, please contact the school office on 01305 889297.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum supports children from birth to five years old. Many children will already be familiar with elements of this curriculum if they have previously attended a nursery or pre-school.

The EYFS curriculum is organised into key areas of learning and development, which together support the whole child. These areas include:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Each area of learning is carefully sequenced into developmental stages that reflect children's growing abilities and understanding. The final stage in each area is known as the Early Learning Goals, which most children are working towards by the end of the EYFS (Reception Class). The curriculum is designed to equip children with the essential skills, knowledge and emotional resilience they need for future learning, with a strong emphasis on learning through play.

Helping Your Child to Learn

There are many simple and enjoyable ways you can support your child's learning at home. Encouraging independence is key — allowing your child to dress and undress themselves, put on socks and shoes, and manage simple tasks builds confidence and resilience.

Mark-making is an important early skill, so providing opportunities to



use pencils, crayons and paints helps develop fine motor control and early writing. Talking with your child about the world around them, sharing experiences and explaining how things work all support language development and thinking skills.

Sharing books together is one of the most valuable ways to support learning. Enjoying stories, talking about pictures, characters or information helps children develop a love of reading. Encouraging your child to ask questions, explore new ideas and talk through their thinking helps them become independent learners and problem-solvers.

Research shows that young children can find listening challenging, particularly when there is a lot of background noise such as television or music. Creating quiet moments for conversation or shared reading can greatly support your child's ability to listen and concentrate.

If your child finds listening difficult, you can help by encouraging them to repeat short instructions or sentences back to you. This supports memory, understanding and communication. Above all, children learn best by being actively involved — by seeing, hearing, doing, touching and practising skills repeatedly in everyday life.

Learning Through Play

Play is central to our approach to learning in the Early Years. Through play, children revisit, practise and deepen their understanding in meaningful and enjoyable ways. We believe that learning which is engaging and fun is more memorable and effective.

Play experiences are thoughtfully planned and skilfully supported by our staff to ensure all areas of learning are developed. Children are consistently encouraged and praised, building confidence and a positive attitude towards learning. Clear expectations, modelled by adults, help children develop good manners, positive behaviour and respect for others within a calm and supportive environment.

The Outdoor Curriculum

The outdoor environment is an integral part of our Foundation Stage learning. We turn the outdoors into a classroom, giving children the freedom to explore, create and learn in a practical, hands-on way.

Children have regular opportunities to work



outside with an adult, as well as to engage in independent play. They can build large structures, use sand and water, ride on large vehicles, and take part in imaginative play. Outdoor activities support learning across all areas, including early maths, science, literacy, and creative development. Some children thrive particularly well when learning in this way.

In addition, children take part in weekly Forest School sessions, where they explore the natural environment, develop practical skills, build confidence and resilience, and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

School is a Partnership

We believe that parents are the experts on their own child. Parent meetings provide an opportunity for class teachers to discuss your child's interests, strengths and achievements, which helps us plan learning experiences tailored to their individual needs.



The class teacher is always happy to talk to you about any concerns, and we aim to respond promptly. Open communication is key to ensuring your child has a happy, confident start to school life.

Throughout the year, we will also invite you to be actively involved in your child's learning. School is a partnership, and your support at home makes a real difference to your child's progress and enjoyment of learning.

Assessment and Reporting

At Winterbourne Valley First School, we value strong communication between home and school. Parents are always welcome to speak to staff if they have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss their child's progress.

Assessment in our Pre-School is ongoing and is based on careful observation of children during everyday play and learning activities. This enables staff to build a clear picture of each child's development and to plan learning experiences that meet individual needs. When children start Pre-School, parents are invited to

complete an 'All About Me' form, which provides valuable information about their child's interests, routines and family, supporting a smooth and nurturing transition.

Observations and assessments are recorded on our online learning journal, Tapestry, which parents can access throughout the year to view their child's learning and achievements. We also hold two timetabled parent meetings each year, in the Autumn and Spring terms. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss progress, celebrate successes, raise any concerns and agree next steps together.

In the Summer term, parents of children who will be transitioning into our Reception class in September receive a written report summarising their child's learning and social and emotional development. Assessment information is shared with staff to support continuity of learning and a smooth transition into Reception.

Medical Information

For safeguarding reasons, the school is required to keep a record of all absences. Please inform us if your child is unwell. If you are unable to contact the school by telephone, we ask that you provide a brief note of explanation when your child returns.

As a general guideline, if your child has been unwell during the night, particularly with sickness and/or diarrhoea, we ask that they do not attend school the following day. This helps prevent illness from spreading and ensures the wellbeing of all children and staff.

Parents are asked to complete a medical questionnaire when their child starts school. This enables us to be aware of any important medical needs and is treated as confidential information. It is essential that the school is informed of any allergies.

If your child requires an inhaler to be kept in school, an authorisation form must be completed at the school office and will remain valid for the academic year. Any other medication, including short-term medication such as antibiotics, also requires an authorisation form to be completed each time. For safety reasons, we are unable to administer medication without the appropriate documentation.

Snack and Lunchtime

The school encourages all children to develop healthy eating habits. Each morning at approximately 10.15am, children enjoy a snack and a drink. As part of the government's scheme, a daily fruit snack is provided, which we encourage all

children to try.

All children under the age of five are entitled to free school milk. After your child's fifth birthday, milk can be purchased at a subsidised cost through Cool Milk at School Ltd. Further details and registration forms are included in this prospectus pack.

Healthy eating is also promoted at lunchtime. Children may bring a healthy packed lunch, clearly labelled with your child's name. Alternatively, children can order a hot school meal, which is freshly prepared and provided by Local Food Links, our school lunch provider. Information on how to order meals is included in the prospectus pack.

What to Wear and Bring to School

When your child starts school, they will need to bring a named water bottle with them. This will allow them to access water throughout the day. At lunchtime, children may drink water, or you may provide an additional non-fizzy drink, such as fruit juice or a smoothie, in their lunchbox.

We encourage children to wear comfortable, practical clothing that allows them to be active and independent. As learning in the Early Years is hands-on and exploratory, clothes should be suitable for play and activities that may be messy.

As we spend time outdoors every day and take part in weekly Forest School sessions, children will also need:

- A waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- A pair of named wellington boots

Please ensure that all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled, and check regularly throughout the year that labels remain in place. This helps us return items promptly and avoids unnecessary losses.

Thank you for your support in helping children to be comfortable, confident and ready to learn in all weathers.

We hope that your child's journey through our Pre-School will be a happy and successful one. In partnership with you, we hope that it will be full of exciting exploration, creativity and imagination as we learn together.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us via our school office:

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