

Pre-School Prospectus



YOUR CHILDS EDUCATION STARTS HERE...



St Stephens Pre-School



Welcome

Your child is at a crucial stage in their development and research shows that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years of life than at any other time. As a parent you will always play a very important role in fulfilling your child's potential.

The Pre-School Team hope to play their part too by offering your child a variety of experiences and activities designed to kick-start their education, further their personal development and to encourage learning by making it fun.

This Prospectus is intended to give you information about the Pre-School but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

We hope that you and your child will enjoy your time at St Stephens Pre-School.





St Stephens Pre-School



Meet the Team



Mrs Barrett
Pre-School Manager



Mrs Penn
Deputy Manager



Miss Borlase
Early Years Apprentice



Mrs Taskis
Pre-School Assistant

St Stephens Pre-School Aims

- ♦ To provide a happy, safe, secure and stimulating environment in which every child's individual needs are valued.
- ♦ To offer a broad, balanced and diverse curriculum where learning is fun while also providing basic skills for the future.
- ♦ To encourage independence and confidence through play, offering learning opportunities indoors and outside.
- ♦ To enable every child to reach their full potential in all areas of learning, by recognising that every child is unique.
- ♦ To create a feeling of high self esteem in each child, the key to happiness and productive learning.
- ♦ To offer equal opportunities for all children by encouraging them to participate in their own learning.



Our Sessions

Our sessions are term time only and are open to:

- ♦ 2 year olds—fee paying and government funded
- ♦ 3 and 4 year olds with 15 or 30 hours funding

All Children are entitled to 15 hours of nursery funding which can be claimed from the term following their 3rd birthday.

Extra funding is available for children aged 2-4 if you meet the eligibility criteria.

You can access information and advice on how to apply by visiting -

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

You may use your funded hours as either half days, full days or a mixture of both. We may be able to ammend your child's sessions, should your circumstances change, if we have the availability.

Pre-School Provision

Our Nursery is very spacious and has excellent provision both indoors and outdoors. Inside we have a large spacious classroom with a range of provision:

Arts and crafts	Words and numbers	Music, singing, and dance
Sand, water & playdough	Reading area	Technology
Mark Making	Role play	Construction

We are also able to access the main school hall for PE sessions.

Our outside area provides opportunities to develop your child's gross motor control and broaden their knowledge of the natural environment. Your child will be encouraged to explore, discover and problem solve to extend their learning. Our outdoor provision includes:

Sand and water	Space to run and climb	Mark making
Bikes	Ball skills & outdoor games	Mud Kitchen
Role play	Loose parts	Construction



We also enjoy using the school's extensive grounds for our twice weekly Wild Tribe sessions.

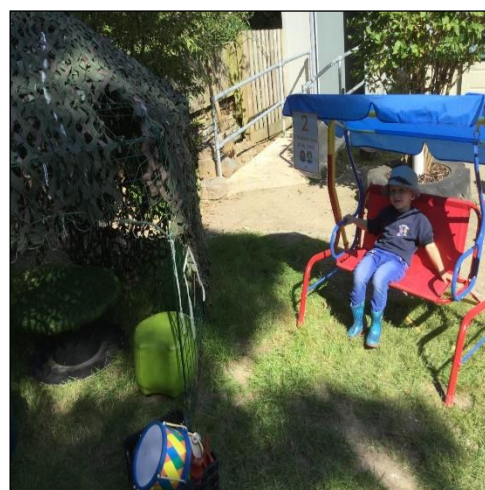
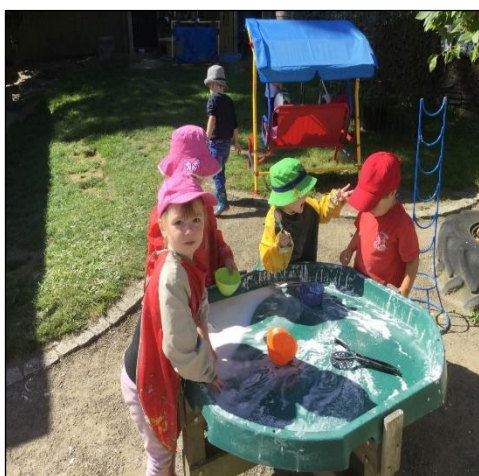
The Early Years Foundation Stage

Here at pre-school we support and encourage each child's individual interests and their current schemas as we believe this is the most effective way for children to learn. We ensure that the provision supports these interests so the children are able to explore them in greater depth.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is broken down in to seven areas of learning which are supported by Characteristics of Effective Learning the Nursery staff ensure that all areas of development are accessible in a interesting, stimulating and supportive way.

The seven areas of learning and development are:

Prime Area	Specific Area
Communication & Language Development	Literacy
Physical Development.	Mathematics
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design



Play and Creativity

It is widely recognised that play and creativity play a significant part in the development of young children. This means your child will have time to learn and discover through activities they find interesting and meaningful. Your child will be supported through their learning and guided to extend the knowledge they already possess. These activities take place indoors and outdoors and your child will have masses of opportunity to discover and follow their own interests.

In Pre-school, play and creativity is what's at the heart of what we do and we are excited to show your child that learning is fun.



Prime Areas

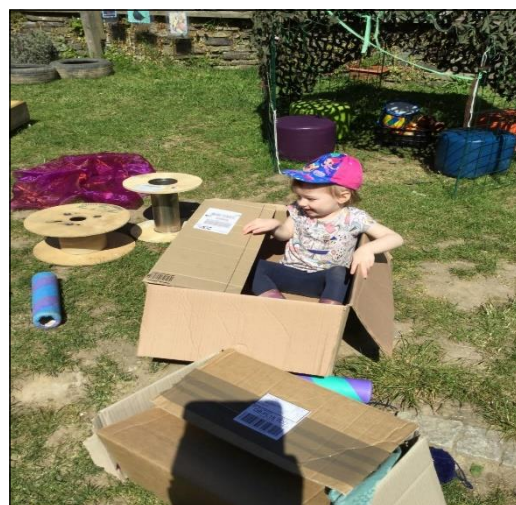
Communication and Language Development

This involves giving your child the opportunity to experience a rich language environment, to develop the confidence and skills to express themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.



Physical Development

The area of physical development encompasses enabling opportunities for your child to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Your child will also be encouraged to understand the importance of daily physical activity and how to make healthy choices in relation to food.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development involves inspiring your child to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to encourage them to form positive relationships and develop respect for others. We will help them to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings and to understand what is appropriate behaviour in groups. We will nurture their success and foster confidence in their own abilities.



Literacy and Maths

Your child will have access to a wide range of reading materials these include a wide variety of books and poems to really ignite their curiosity for the written word. We begin to link letters and sounds and encourage mark making, correct pencil grip and provide a variety of hand, arm and shoulder strengthening activities to support their early writing development.

For mathematics we will provide your child with wide ranging opportunities to develop their number skills. This will include problem solving and an understanding of shape, space and measure. We all know that maths is not just about the lessons we learn in school, but is applied in so many ways during our daily lives. We want to make numbers fun.



Understanding the World

This area of learning will allow your child to make sense of their physical world and the community they live in. In our Nursery we will provide the opportunity for your child to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.



Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts will enable your child to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We really want your child to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art activities, through music, movement and dance. Role play is very important and we encourage lots of role play, we change the activities in the role play area regularly and have lots of role play resources readily available. We also teach design and technology as part of this subject.



Partnerships with Parents

As parents you are the first educator of your child. We believe a close working partnership between parents and staff is a valuable tool in educating your child.

Good communication between staff and parents enables us to inform each other of relevant concerns you or your child may have. We appreciate being informed of any change at home that might affect your child and will treat anything you tell us in the strictest confidence.

We will keep a learning journey for your child which you will have access to throughout their time with us. This provides a learning log of your child's development. We are able to send snap shots directly to you of your child's day and learning through our Class Dojo page and on our pre-school blog.

We provide termly reports to let you know how well your child is doing and to give you an opportunity to discuss any concerns and you are invited to come and have a chat about your child's progress and next steps with us. However, you do not need to wait for these meetings if you have questions or concerns. We want you to feel welcome at our Pre-School and we will always make time for you.

General Information

Our Pre-School will promote self-confidence and a positive attitude to learning in all children whatever their gender, ethnicity, home language, special educational needs, disability or ability.

Positive behaviour

We adopt a very positive, pro-active approach to encourage the types of behaviours we want to see - frequently praising and drawing attention to the type of behaviour we like. We focus on a 'can do' attitude to promote children's independence and help them to build their resilience skills to believe they can achieve something. Our caring and supportive Pre-School fosters self-discipline, high self-esteem and respect for all.

Learning Journeys

We use observations to create your child's individual Learning Journey this is a record of work, photos, experiences, activities and progress during their time in Nursery. You can also contribute to the learning journey by sharing experiences from home.



Class Dojo

At Pre-School we also use an app called Class Dojo this is where we share information directly with parents either through a whole class post or a direct message. Each child also has their own portfolio where both the Pre-School and Parents can share photos and experience with each other.

Healthy Eating

A healthy snack is available to your child every day. Your child will be encouraged to visit the snack table and to follow the routines of selecting items from our food and drink choices. The snack table provides an ideal opportunity to develop social skills and independence as they sit in small groups eating and chatting together. They will also be encouraged to pour their own drink and clear away their dishes when they have finished. We offer a range of healthy foods including fruit, cereal, crackers and toast. We also use this time as a learning experience ensuring children understand the importance of being healthy and understanding what that means.

Clothing

The Pre-School does not have a compulsory uniform and we ask that you don't send your in their 'good' clothes. However, if you wish to purchase a school jumper they can be ordered via the school website. We offer a wide range of activities and some can be rather messy as we encourage the children to play and explore with mud, water and gloop we find that aprons don't always work!

Your child will also need wellingtons to be left at Pre-School for them to fully experience our wonderful outdoor play facilities as we access these in all weather conditions.

Please write your child's name with permanent marker in all clothing and belongings, including coats and wellingtons.

Useful Items for Pre-School

We have compiled a list of items that will be useful for your child to leave at Nursery.

- ♦ A complete spare set of clothes
- ♦ Wellington boots
- ♦ Hat— summer/winter
- ♦ Nappies, wipes, cream if applicable
- ♦ Sun cream



Sickness and Absence

Please would you let us know when your child is absent due to illness, you can call the school office on 01566 772170, or phone us directly on 01566 777109. You can also direct message us on our class dojo app—please provide us with some details of your child's absence. Also please let us know if your child has an infectious illness i.e. chicken pox, so we can inform other parents. If your child has sickness/diarrhoea, we have a 48 hour policy from the last episode before your child can return to Pre-School.

If your child is sick or does not attend a booked fee paying session you will still be charged at the rate of £16.50 per session.

Medicine

If your child is required to take a prescribed medicine four times a day you may bring this medicine to Pre-School, you will be asked to complete a form requiring you to give consent for our staff to administer the medicine to your child.

If your child needs pain relief i.e. Calpol before they attend a session then we ask that you keep them at home until they are well enough to return.

Head Lice/Nits

Head lice are unfortunately a part of school life and we suggest that you regularly check your child's hair. Occasionally we have to send a child home to be treated for visible head lice. Once you have completed the treatment your child can return to pre-school.

For more information on head lice see www.onceaweektakeapeek.co.uk

Key Person

Your child will have a key person to support them through their learning and development. They will build a close relationship which helps the children to settle, this bond encourages the child to feel more confident enabling them to explore and try new things in our learning environment. Your child's key person will spend quality time with them during their sessions ensuring their needs are met.

A final note....

Choosing a Pre-School for your child is a very important decision and I would always encourage parents to make informed choices by researching their options. We want the families who choose St Stephens Pre-School to understand and be committed to the school ethos. I hope that this prospectus has given you a flavour of our Pre-School. If you feel you need information, or if you have any questions you would like to ask, please contact us and we will be very happy to arrange a meeting. We are always happy to make appointments for prospective parents and would encourage you to visit the Pre-School to see for yourself what we can offer.



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