



Pre-school Staff

Teacher: Ms. Pitman
Teaching Assistant:
Mrs. Knight

We would like to wish our new and old families a warm welcome. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

School Website: Our Class Page
[Foundation Stage 1](#)
(Pre-school)

Pre-school Newsletter Advent Term 2025



Interactive - [Please click underlined links within this document for further guidance, support, etc.](#)

Communication

We use [Class Dojo](#) to share weekly messages with parents and there is the option for parents and teaching staff to send private messages.

If you need to contact the school urgently, please phone the office. If your child is unable to attend pre-school, please ensure you let the office know and send me a message via Class Dojo.

Our [school website](#) contains lots of useful information, please spare some time to explore the website and become familiar with it.



Nursery Curriculum

RE - To Know You More Clearly

Branch 1: Creation and Covenant:

In this branch, the children will be introduced to the Creation Story, and learn how prayer helps us become closer to God. We will introduce the children to our Prayer Area and learn how to make the sign of the cross and the [class prayers](#). The children will learn how God wants us to love and care for the world and that this is one way in which we show care for each other.

Key Knowledge/Objectives

* God made me * God made my family * I am part of God's family * God made the world and everything in it
* Care for all of God's creations.

Our RE topic links closely with our main topic for this half term 'This is me'.



Communication and Language

During this first half term, we get to know the children as we encourage them to tell us about their experiences, their families and their interests. We provide a language-rich environment, commentating on what children are doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added. Through conversation, storytelling, singing, circle times and role play, children will have the opportunity to hear and use a range of vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Starting pre-school is a huge step in your child's learning journey. It starts with a warm friendly welcome and help to 'find their feet', to feel secure and sow positive seeds for their future learning experiences. Our focus is to get to know each other and learn how to take care of ourselves, each other and our classroom.

The children will learn about our expectations for behaviour. The children will also learn more about themselves and their similarities and differences with others. We will start to discuss our feelings and begin to share and take turns with the resources.

Physical Development

Discovering how to use their bodies independently and with increasing control, is an amazing part of your child's development. We will provide opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom for the children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, coordination and agility. Our PE sessions, dance activities and outdoor area will support children in developing their gross motor skills.

Fine motor control will be supported with mark-making opportunities, scissors, tools, pegs, tweezers, crafts and 'Dough Disco' to name a few!

Literacy and Mathematics

The children will have lots of opportunities to hear and discuss stories as they explore the characters and plot further, through small world play provision. We will share songs and rhymes, and support children in recognising and then writing their own name. We will have maths sessions across the week as well as challenges in provision for the children to investigate. The children will be touch counting, exploring shape and comparing the size, weight and capacity of objects through their play.

Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design

This half term the children will be learning more about themselves and one another as we start with the topic, 'This is Me'. They will explore their faces, draw their families and talk about similarities and differences.

They will explore aspects of God's world through autumnal walks around the school grounds and will begin to understand how they can help to care for the world around them.





Parental Support

Independence

Ensure your child attempts to dress and undress by themselves and put on their coat and shoes. The children are expected to tidy, sweep, take care of and respect the environment at school - please encourage this at home.

Communication and Language

Please speak to me if you have any concerns regarding your child's communication and language development.

[Please click this link and read the following to find out more.](#)

[Videos, information and activities](#)

Reading and Singing

Develop a love of reading and singing nursery rhymes.

It is important to embed reading with your child into your daily routines. Stories before bedtime are a great way to end the day. However, you **must** read to your child and engage them with books at other times. Please join your local [library](#) - books are free to loan. Make visiting the library a weekly/fortnightly event.

[Oxford Owl](#) [National Literacy Trust](#)

Important Information

Weather, Clothing and Outdoor Learning

A large part of our learning happens outdoors, ensure that your child has a coat every day.

Even if the sun is shining!

The children need to be dressed according to the weather, hats, gloves, scarfs etc.

If the sun does shine... Sun hats must be in school every day. Sunscreen to be applied before school - if your child attends full- time you might want to buy a 24-hour sunscreen to ensure that your child is protected throughout the day.



Change of Clothing

Your child needs to have a small bag for life that will remain in school with a full change of clothes. Please put your child's name on the bag.

School Uniform

[Information can be found here.](#)

All uniform orders now online.

[Price & Buckland](#)

(for items with school logo)

Helpful Tip

Buy some [printed name labels](#) to stick onto clothing - use the family surname, and then you can use them for all of your children's clothing, footwear, coats, hats, water bottles etc.

Dates for your diary...

**This list is not conclusive - please continue to check the [school website](#), [Class Dojo](#) and read school text messages.*

September

****New children to our pre-school have individual start dates, please check your Class Dojo messages.**

1st and 2nd

Inset days – school closed

3rd

School opens

October

17th – Last day of half-term

18th – 2nd Nov

School closed

November

3rd School opens

Things to do at home with your child:

Read daily with your child, older siblings, grandparents and other family members can all help!

Singing - please sing nursery rhymes with your child - [Click me](#)

Check **Class Dojo** daily I will post additional activities or share activities to do at home.

Please read the following: The importance of talking to your child [Learning to Talk 3-5 Years](#) Please see our Class page for more click ['useful links'](#)

Useful Website Links

[FS1 ADMISSIONS](#)

[MEALS](#)

[PAYMENTS AND COMMUNICATION](#)

[SCHOOL UNIFORM](#)

[FINANICAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE](#)

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

(advice) [Should I keep my child off school? \(Poster\)](#) [EARLY YEARS PUPIL PREMIUM](#) - Are you eligible?

[MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AT HOLY CROSS](#)

House Keeping

Emergency Contact Numbers

If you change your contact number, please inform the office ASAP. If grandparents, friends or relatives are collecting your children on a regular basis we must also have their contact details. Please ensure you check your phone throughout the day, on a regular basis. We will phone you in an emergency. We will leave a voice message if possible and send a class dojo message.

Footwear

Children will have the opportunity to bring a pair of wellies. These are very useful as we spend a lot of time on the field, doing Forest Schools and using water play in the outdoor learning area. Please put them in a strong plastic bag with their name on and hang them on their peg.
Please do not send your child to school in trainers with laces, Velcro or slip on.

Parent/grandparent volunteers

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer. Please contact me if you would like to read stories or support creative activities. Please send me a message via Dojo.

Pick up and drop off routines

Adults must bring the children into the classroom, help your child hang their coat and put their lunch box and water bottles in the correct place. After this, support your child in finding their name card, the children can 'trace' their names before they join the teacher on the carpet for our first group activity.

Breakfast club

If you are using the breakfast club facility you can drop your child off at the main entrance at the school office and ring the bell in the foyer. A member of the breakfast club staff will welcome your child. Parents are not allowed into the school building at breakfast club. If you are collecting your child from After School Club you will use the same entrance for collection. Please follow the link for times and price packages.

<https://www.holycrossschoolhucknall.com/parents/wrap-around-care/>

In the first few weeks of pre-school the children will be tired. Ensure they have a good sleep routine.

Only use wrap-around care if you need childcare for your child.

EYFS Uniform (pre-school and reception class)

In pre-school the children are asked to wear a navy jogging bottoms, blue t shirt and a navy jumper, cardigan or sweat top and black, navy or white unbranded trainers.
Long hair must be tied up with **hair bands in school colours**.
In EYFS we do not wear shirts and ties as these can fall into the sand and water play. We do not have a PE kit as our uniform is made for all activities.

Water bottles

Please could you ensure that your child always has a water bottle in school with their name clearly labelled on it.
Please ensure that these are washed daily.

Fruit

The government provides each child with a piece of fresh fruit each day. We are a healthy school and would like to promote healthy eating. Please do not send snacks into school for your child. Children will very often try new things when they see their friends trying it.

'Cool Milk' link

Your child will receive free milk until they turn 5. Unless your child has an intolerance or allergies towards milk, we do encourage the children to drink their milk at pre-school.

Timings – please always be on time.

Start of the day

School gates open: 8.40 am

Pre-school open: 8.45 am

Morning session ends: 11.45 am – collect your child at the school office.

Afternoon session open: 12.20 pm – drop your child off at the school office.

End of the day

School gates open: 3.20pm

Pre-school ends: 3.20 pm – promptly.

Please be on time, collect pre-school children first. If someone else is collecting your children, make sure you tell them the correct collection time, older siblings are collected **after** collecting pre-school children. The rest of the school finish later than pre-school to facilitate this.

Preventing the Spread of Illness

Handwashing:

Teach your child to wash their hands thoroughly before eating, after using the bathroom, and after touching public surfaces.

Covering Coughs and Sneezes:

Encourage your child to cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze.

Vaccinations:

Staying up-to-date with your child's vaccinations can help protect against many common illnesses.

Illness

When to Keep Your Child Home

High Temperature: Keep your child home until the fever has resolved.

Vomiting or Diarrhoea: Keep them home for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to prevent spreading infections like norovirus.

Symptoms of Specific Illnesses: The following illnesses, and many others, require your child to remain at home:

Conjunctivitis

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

Strep throat

Whooping Cough

More information found here: [\(link\)](#)

When Your Child Can Attend

Mild Cold/Cough:

A minor cough, sore throat, or runny nose is usually acceptable as long as your child is otherwise well and does not have a high temperature or require pain relief.

Packed Lunches

We encourage a healthy balanced lunch box. Government guidelines also recommend a healthy balanced meal.

If you are sending grapes in as part of your child's packed lunch, **please cut them length ways**.

Popcorn is **not** allowed and ensure any meat or fish does not contain bones.

This helps towards choking prevention.

We do not warm up food; the children need picnic finger type food.

We are a **nut-free** school, so do check that no lunchbox items contain nuts.

All children will bring home any uneaten lunch, so that you are able to see what your child has eaten during the day.

Finally -BUT most importantly...

Your child's happiness is our number one priority. If you have any questions regarding your child's development, learning, well-being, other or concerns or worries, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

You can message me via Class Dojo, I am happy to give you a call or meet with you.

If you or your child or family experience any changes to your circumstances, for example; moving to a new house, separation, death, **anything** that may impact yours or your child's well-being, please let me know. We will do whatever we can to help. We must be made aware of home circumstances. This will enable us to ensure your child receives further support in school, if necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our Newsletter, please keep this hand for future reference and support. Don't forget to click the links!

Ms. Pitman – Pre-school class Teacher