

Pre-school Information Booklet

Opening Times

The pre-school will be open Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 3.30pm with availability for children aged 3 to attend our afterschool provision between 3.30pm – 5.45pm. We are open Term Time only. The pre-school will be closed on INSET days and these dates will be issued in advance and available on our website. Parent(s)/carer(s) will not be expected to pay for any INSET days, or public holidays.

Our Curriculum

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at Cavendish Pre-school. Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. Our pre-school is registered to deliver the EYFS and we follow the legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage. The EYFS focuses on what matters most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. You can find out more about this guidance together with 'what to expect when' and how to support your child during their foundation years at <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/>

How will my child be learning?

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development.



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These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The Pre-school team teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This curriculum will continue to the end of your child's reception year in school, it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

Our Team

We are fortunate to have a highly experienced team at Cavendish Pre-school and we use Jolly Phonics scheme together with Letters and sounds as a fun way of supporting early reading and writing skills. We use read write Inc memes to aid letter formation and we use 'Numicon' to support mathematical development as we have found it helps children to visualise what a number actually represents.

The Pre-school operates a key person system which will support your family settle into Pre-school. Your child's key person will compile their learning journey and liaise regularly with you about your child's learning and progress. Your child's key person will be assigned to your child before they start sometimes children develop special relationships with particular adults and your child's key person would be altered accordingly.

What your child will need to bring to Pre-school

Your child will need to bring a bag (a small backpack or drawstring bag due to limited coat peg space) containing a complete change of clothes including knickers/pants and socks. We will provide protective clothing but there are bound to be the odd accident and lots of fun with messy play, water, mud and sand. Sunhat and sun cream (labelled bottle please) during the summer months, a pair of wellington boots which can be left at Pre-school, nappies and wet wipes (if applicable) together with any nappy cream you use. A waterproof jacket at all times and a coat in the winter months. Pre-school days involve paint, glue, glitter, mud, running, jumping, climbing, the list goes on! For this reason, please dress your child in clothes which are suitable to play in and which are hard wearing and washable! Please ensure all your child's items are named.

Snacks and Meals

Mealtimes at Cavendish Pre-school are full of fun, a social environment where children are encouraged to develop independence by serving themselves, to chat with friends and staff about what they have done at pre-school and home and to share and enjoy new experiences. We know that our food choices in the Pre-school provide fuel for learning and we want to make sure all children in the setting benefit from our healthy eating policy and learn to understand and make choices about what they eat. Children are able to have a hot school lunch or you can provide a packed lunch. The school menu is on the

Cavendish website, the pre-school will provide morning and afternoon snacks, milk and water to drink. The children will also take part in cooking activities and helping to prepare the snacks and tea.

Birthdays

We will celebrate your child's birthday at Pre-school and you are welcome to contribute to this by bringing in something to share such as stickers that they all enjoy. If you wish you may bring in cake to be sent home with children please check with the pre-school team for any allergies if you wish to contribute in this way. Also please let us know if you do not want us to celebrate your child's birthday at Pre-school.

Parent Partnership

We understand the importance of working together and realise that you know your child the best. You will receive daily handover from your child's key person. The Pre-school will also provide regular opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress. Our tapestry on-line learning journey will also provide you with the opportunity to add photos and observations from home and to see the observations completed by the pre-school team on a daily basis. We would also welcome you to share any skills with the children at pre-school or help during any of our sessions.

Further information regarding security, safeguarding, fees, illness and medication, visits and outings are all detailed in our terms and conditions. Policies are available on the school website for parents to view.

Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of the pre-school team if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. You can contact me via email at preschool@cavendish.e-sussex.sch.uk

We hope that you and your family will have an enjoyable and happy time at Cavendish Pre-school.