

Brent Knoll Pre-School

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Prospectus



**Part of Brent Knoll Primary School
and the Wessex Learning Trust**



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Welcome to Brent Knoll Pre-School

Welcome to Brent Knoll Pre-School from our Head Teacher - Mr Chris Burman

I am pleased to welcome you to Brent Knoll Primary School, which is now home to the Brent Knoll Pre-school. The old part of the school has been on this site in the village since 1861, though much of the present day building, behind the Victorian hall and entrance, dates from 2004. The Pre-School itself was only completed in December 2020, so is very new.

In April 2019, the school became an academy and it is now part of the Wessex Learning Trust. The key benefit of this change is that we now have the support of a new group of schools based around the Cheddar Valley. We do, however, continue to work closely with our community learning partnership based in Highbridge and Burnham, ensuring that our children benefit from new opportunities and the best possible transition to either The King Alfred's School (TKASA) or Hugh Sexey Middle School, when they leave us at the end of Year 6.

We are delighted to have been able to open our own pre-school as the early years are so crucial in a child's development. The plan is for the pre-schoolers to be very much a part of the whole school, taking part in the key events and sharing the big occasions with all the children, right up to year 6. For the pre-schoolers who move forward into our reception class we will be able to offer the best possible transition so that the children can make the best of starts in September, when the school year begins.



The school has grown in size in recent years, but it remains a really close community where children and adults know and support each other incredibly well. If you are looking for a school for your child where they really do belong, but that also offers many opportunities that would be envied by other larger schools, please do come and visit.

Chris Burman

Introduction

Brent Knoll Pre-School is sited in the grounds of Brent Knoll Primary School and opened in January 2021. Historically there has been a Pre-School facility in Brent Knoll for over 25 years, initially meeting in the school hall, the Parish Hall and more recently privately owned. We are excited to have the Pre-School, back home, on the school site where children can learn and play together.....



Early Years Curriculum

We aim to provide a balanced curriculum with a quality experience for each child. There are four guiding principles that shape practice within an early years setting:

These are:

A UNIQUE CHILD • every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS • children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS • children learn and develop well in **enabling environments** with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers. (See "the characteristics of effective teaching and learning" at paragraph 1.15)

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT • importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Meet the Pre-School Staff

The Pre-School is made up of a professional and highly qualified staff team. All staff have a strong knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage and are passionate about nurturing children as they take their first steps in the education system. All staff have first aid, safeguarding and health and safety training.

Miss Hayley Richens - Pre-School Manager and Reception Class Teacher

Miss Richens has been the early years teacher at Brent Knoll for several years. As well as leading the development of the new pre-school at Brent Knoll, she is part of the management of the area early years group that works with child minders, pre-schools and private nurseries across the Cheddar Valley and Burnham area. Hayley has a great deal of experience and as pre-school manager, she, with the rest of the staff team, can ensure all the children who come under the early years banner have their needs met. Hayley is also senior teacher at Brent Knoll Primary and is able to work alongside the head teacher and other staff to work on school improvement for all children, from 2 to 11.



Mrs Jo Wood - Pre-School Lead

As pre-school leader, Jo Wood comes to Brent Knoll following a successful period at All Hallows' Prep School, rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, where she was both the pre-school and forest school leader. Jo has a BA in education and early childhood studies and has an ethos that ensures children experience a safe, purposeful and positive environment that builds on their own interests and achievements.



Mrs Nicola Stevens - Deputy Pre-School Lead

Before joining the Brent Knoll team, Mrs Stevens had been involved in different forms of public service for some years, having worked as a community carer, the police service and another local pre-school. Like the other staff at Brent Knoll pre-school, Nicola is a qualified practitioner in childcare and is continuing to study to gain further qualifications in this field.

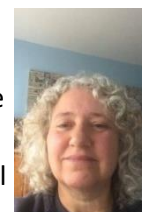


Mrs Sophie Bennett - Pre-School Assistant

Mrs Bennett has worked at the school for many years and moved into the Pre-School in recent years. Sophie is a qualified practitioner in childcare and has a passion for Early Years. She covered Mrs Wood's maternity leave as Pre-School Lead and is our Early Years SENCO.

Mrs Vickie Dickinson - Pre-School Assistant

Vickie Dickinson is well known within the school community as she has been involved in child care in Brent Knoll for many years. Vickie has been both a highly regarded childminder and a member of the village's previous pre-school team. For many older children, Vickie is also more familiarly known as 'Hedgehog', the title given to her as a Rainbows leader. The Rainbows themselves meet in the school hall every week.



Key Worker

Each child will be assigned a member of the Pre-School staff as their key worker. This adult will be responsible for ensuring the individual needs of your child is met and will be a key link between parent and Pre-School.

Daily Timetable

Beginning of a session - When arriving for a session please enter onto the school grounds, go to the side gate and ring the bell. A member of the Pre-School staff will meet you at the gate. On entering the classroom each child will self register themselves.

Snacktime - Mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks are provided for all children. A variety of fruit is always available and children are encouraged to prepare their own fruit.



Lunchtime - Parents can book hot lunches for their children at a cost of £2.10 a day. Our lunches are prepared and cooked by the catering staff at Berrow Primary using locally sourced and fresh products where possible. Eating with peers is a great social experience for the children and encourages them to adopt table etiquette and experiment with new tastes. Alternatively, you can supply your child with a packed lunch.



Hometime - We ask parents to arrive a few minutes before the end of their child's session and to wait at the side gate where the Pre-School staff will meet you with your child. If parents are collecting earlier than the end of a session, please ring the bell.

Sessions

The Pre-School offers a variety of sessions to suit all children's needs and family situations. Please indicate on the timetable attached your preferred session times and we will endeavour to accommodate everyone. Sessions will be filled on a first come first served basis. We also offer Wraparound Care from 8am to 5.00pm.



Healthy and Happy Children

Experiences that children have in the first five years of their lives can make lasting impressions on children which then move into adult life with them affecting their future life choices. We aim to create environments and learning opportunities that build social and emotional confidence. We aim to develop children's love of the outdoors with weekly Forest School sessions in our own forest school area on the school grounds and walks several times a week around the village. We are fortunate to be based in a beautiful environment where we can walk to local woods, along footpaths and climb the knoll. We aim to foster a love of reading, rhyme and song which will benefit the children with their reading and writing skills in reception and beyond.



Recording Progress

We use an online learning journal to monitor children's progress called Tapestry. This enables us to make observations of your child's learning which can be shared with you at home. Parents and carers are also able to submit their own observations, making this a two-way process of assessing children. We also use Tapestry to communicate with parents.



Uniform

Parents asked us if we would consider a uniform top for the children to wear. We have a small stock of Brent Knoll Pre-School polo shirts available to buy through Parentpay. Uniform is not compulsory. All children are gifted a Brent Knoll Pre-School Bookbag to support and encourage a love of reading.



Payments and Funding



The prices on the timetable are for children paying fees. Children under 3 years old and those who are three but are not eligible to access funding. See attached notes for information on funding. All payments are made to the school through Parentpay, a payment system that all parents will be given login details for.

Would you like to join us?

If you would like to join us please complete the Enquiry Form enclosed and we will get back to you to arrange a visit or to forward on registration paperwork. We look forward to meeting you and your child and starting a journey together.

Thank you for your interest in our Pre-School

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