



COVID-19: Please read newsletters and visit the website for up to date information and specific notices, which may change the school routines!

Welcome to Newnham St Peter's Pre-School. Our pre-school offers places to children aged 3 years to school age. Pre-school children form part of our Acorns class bubble (pre-school, reception and year 1 children) based in our Acorns classroom and adjoining Orchard room. Pre-School children are included in all aspects of the school day and love;

- Our fun and stimulating early years outdoor area, with play slide, climbing structure, tunnel and digging pit.
- Stories, songs and play time
- Arts, crafts and messy play
- Playing instruments with our specialist music provider
- PE sessions in our school hall
- Outdoor learning in our on site Forest school
- Visiting the school library.

Each day is a new and exciting adventure. Children learn through a variety of open ended and adult led activities, supporting, encouraging & challenging our children.

Sessions

We are open Monday to Friday during term-time offering full day sessions (08:45 to 15:00) or half-day sessions (08:45 to 12:00; 12:00 to 15:00).

Morning session: Families are allocated a drop off time (in line with our Covid risk assessment). When you arrive at school please enter via the black gate from the park. We have a one-way system in place, please follow the blue arrow to the Garden gate and exit via the school car park. A member of staff will be on duty to assist.

Collection - If your child is only booked in for the morning session, please collect your child at 12:00 prompt. Please enter via the main car park and report to reception.

Afternoon Session: Please arrive for 12pm, prompt via the main car park and report to reception.

Collection - Families are allocated a collection time (in line with our Covid risk assessment). When you arrive at school please enter via the black gate from the park. We have a one-way system in place, please follow the blue arrow to the Garden gate and exit via the school car park. A member of staff will be on duty to assist.

NB: No vehicles are permitted in the school car park.

Newnham St Peter's Pre-School Welcome Pack

Snacks, Lunch and Drinks

Please provide a **clearly named**, drinks bottle, filled with water or weak squash for your child's session. Fresh drinking water is available to refill your child's bottle. Milk is also available at snack time along with a piece of fresh fruit &/or veg.

If your child attends all day, or for the afternoon session please provide a healthy lunch box and ensure your child's lunch bag is clearly named! **Please cut grapes, cherry tomatoes, sausages etc in half/quarters.**

Below is an extract from Public Health website for a helpful guide, as to what we encourage to see in your child's lunch box;

- A good portion of starchy food, for example wholemeal roll or bread, wraps, pitta pocket, pasta or rice salad.
- Plenty of fruit and vegetables, for example an apple, satsuma, handful of cherry tomatoes or carrot sticks, mini-can of fruit chunks in natural juice or a small box of raisins.
- A drink of semi-skimmed milk or a portion of dairy food, for example individual cheese portion or pot of yogurt.
- A portion of lean meat, fish, eggs or beans, for example ham, chicken, beef, tuna, egg or hummus.
- A drink, for example unsweetened fruit juice, semi-skimmed milk or water.



Please note due to allergies our school is a nut free zone - Please ensure no nuts or products containing nuts such as peanut butter and oat /nut based bars are included in your child's lunch

Communication Book

A communication book will be given for parents/carers and staff to communicate.

The communication book is read daily by a member of staff and sent home at the end of each session. Please use this for any small matters such as, sleepless nights, minor concerns, minor injuries, out of pre-school achievements, exciting news or to let us know who is collecting your child (if it isn't your child's usual person collecting). If you have any urgent matters, please speak to a member of the pre-school team or pop to the School office.

Staff will also use this book to communicate 'low priority' information. There is always time for brief informal chats at the beginning and end of each session or appointment for more in depth conversations can be made.

Illness / Medication

We follow the public health 'guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings'. We impose a strict policy with sickness and diarrhea, of 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. Some illnesses do not exclude but we do ask that children are not sent into pre-school if they are too poorly to take part in the day. If you are unsure if there is an exclusion period for an illness please see the Public Health guidance link below or contact the school office to enquire.

Public Health Guidance link;

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_infection_control_in%20schools_poster.pdf

If your child is absent, for any reason please inform the school office, as soon as possible

If your child becomes ill at pre-school, staff will make a judgment and if necessary will contact parent/s or one of your emergency contacts to collect.

Medication; Medication can be administered by school staff but requires a medical form. Please ask at the school office.

Allergies; Please ensure any known allergies are recorded on your registration form and discussed with a member of staff.

Accidents; If your child is involved in an accident at home we require you to complete a pre-existing accident form.

Any accidents that happen during pre-school will receive first aid treatment by a qualified first aider and an accident form will be completed, which you will receive a copy of.

Special Educational Needs

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) ensures that the special educational needs of children are met. We work closely with parents and have access to outside agencies, who can make their expertise available to all. Parents are fully informed, consulted and involved in all programmes of support.

Ofsted

The last Ofsted inspection was prior to the merge with Newnham St Peter's School on 13th April 2016 where Newnham Early Birds Pre-School was rated a **GOOD** provider. All future Ofsted inspections, for Pre-School, will be combined with the Newnham St Peter's School inspections.

Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS). The fundamental principles of the EYFS are that every child is unique, and that by providing positive relationships and an enabling environment we can promote the learning and development of every child to reach their full potential.

The EYFS is based on quality, play based learning that adapts to the needs, interests and abilities of every child.

The curriculum focuses on three 'prime' areas of learning – personal social and emotional development; communication and language; physical development – and four additional 'specific' areas of learning – literacy; mathematics; understanding the world; expressive arts and design. The prime areas underpin all our activities and must be developed in order for children to build the more refined skills that form the specific areas.

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In addition, the curriculum focuses on how children learn by exploring the three Characteristics of Effective Learning – playing and exploring (engagement); active learning (motivation); creating and thinking critically (thinking). As practitioners, we observe how children learn and support them in developing skills in all of these three areas

For a free parents guide to the EYFS please visit

https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

During play sessions we provide a range of exciting, educational and stimulating activities and experiences to support children's development in a playful way. Adults support the children using a 'scaffolding' approach - this means that they will provide lots of support and guidance initially when children are learning new skills or tackling new activities then, as the child's knowledge and skill grows, they will gradually withdraw the level of support to enable the children to become capable, independent learners.

Assessments and Planning

In early years settings we use a combination of formative and summative assessments in respect of your child's development. Key adults will observe the children engaged in a variety of activities, both child- initiated and adult-led, in order to make judgements about their stages of development within the different areas of the curriculum.

Key adults use these observations and assessments to plan for your child's 'next steps' in learning, which we facilitate through a variety of child and adult led activities and other experiences.

Parents/carers are welcome to view their child's learning journey at any time, and will be invited in, periodically, to discuss their child's development.

Clothing

Please bear in mind that in line with the EYFS curriculum, we actively encourage messy play that may include using sand, water, mud, paint, glue and other items – as such PLEASE do not send your child to pre-School in their best clothes! Although we do ask the children to wear protective clothing for messy play, they will inevitably at times get paint, mud, water etc on their clothes. As such please provide a **CLEARLY NAMED** bag of **NAMED** spare clothes everyday.

We love to get outdoors, in all weathers, and enjoy visiting the 'Forest School' so wellies and waterproof coats are a must, to be kept at Pre-School all year round!

Cold Weather: Warm, waterproof coats, hats, gloves and scarves are essential!

Warmer Weather: Light, waterproof coats, sunhats, no open toe sandals.

PLEASE APPLY SUNCREAM BEFORE THE SESSION and provide a clearly named bottle of sun cream to keep at Pre-School.

Funding

All 3 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free childcare the term after their third birthday (September, January & April)

Some working families are entitled to 30 hours free childcare. To check eligibility criteria and to apply please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

Fees

All non-funded hours are chargeable at £4.10ph.

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Some working families are entitled to Tax-Free Childcare, for every £8 the government pay £2! To check eligibility criteria and to apply please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

New Starters

Enrolling your child in an early years provision can be an emotional and anxious time. To help ease any worries, meet the staff and familiarise with Newnham St Peter's school we offer a free taster session (3 hours) to all our children, where parent/s or carer/s must stay with your child. The taster session is a great opportunity to discuss any concerns or special needs.

We understand that some children can find settling into nursery difficult and that children settle into a new environment in lots of different ways and timescales. We advise discussing a settling in programme with a member of the pre-school team, who will happily offer a more flexible approach such as;

- Increasing sessions over a period of time
- ~~Slightly later start time initially – Sometimes the playground can be overwhelming for new starters, who have not visited our school before.~~ (not currently available – if your child finds settling into session at your allocated time distressing, please discuss with one of the early years team)
- Bringing a special Comforter or small toy; we actively discourage the use of dummies and/or bottles for this purpose as these have been proven to adversely affect children's speech and dental hygiene. We will work with parents to support them in weaning their children off these items. **If you wish to bring a comforter, please discuss with a member of staff to ensure this is covid safe!**

Leaving when your child is distressed is very upsetting however children often calm down once their parents/carers have left. Rest assured if your child does not settle, once you have left or becomes unsettled during their session, and staff are unable to comfort your child a member of staff will give you a call to discuss/arrange collection.

Attending Newnham St Peter's pre-school gives children an excellent foundation in helping them become school ready, and with an early introduction to the school premises, daily routines and staff this will help support their transition into reception.

Please be aware, attending Newnham St Peter's pre-school does not guarantee your child a place at the school. School applications will need to be submitted via Gloucestershire County Council, who allocate places based on the admissions process. More information on the admissions process can be found on our website.

Useful Info

Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Station Road, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1AT

School Office: 01594 516208

Head Teacher – Mrs. Nolan

Acorns Teacher – Mrs. Broady

Acorns Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Jones

Acorn Teaching Assistant – Mrs. Murdock

Apprentice Teaching Assistant – Miss Whiting

Business Administrator – Linda Tetlow admin@newnham-st-peter.gloucs.sch.uk

Pre-School Administrator – Jo Young - earlybirds@newnham-st-peter.gloucs.sch.uk

Website - <http://www.newnhamstpetersschool.org.uk>

Facebook – Please like our page, newnham st peter's c of e primary school and pre-school