Charlton with Cropthorne PRE-SCHOOL

CURRICULUM 2026

'Where learning is fun in our nurturing environment.'

Our Purpose: To enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age within our local community. Supporting each child to grow, learn and thrive.
Our Vision: To provide a happy, secure, caring and stimulating environment where children can learn through play and exploration enabling them to reach their full potential.
Our Values: We are committed to promoting:
Free play, friendship, inclusion and equality, self-esteem and confidence, independence, communication and language skills, resilience, community and parental involvement.

We offer your child:

- A specially tailored curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage preparing for the smooth transition to First School.
- Individual care and attention with an effective Key Person system ensuring each child feels safe, supported, valued and everyone is included.
- Fun and friendship with children and other adults, helping children to build positive relationships with both peers and adults.
- Opportunities for you and your family to be directly involved in the activities of the group and in your own child's learning journey.
- The knowledge that the Pre School staff are qualified, experienced and knowledgeable and provide high quality care and education you can trust.

Family values…
Growth and learning happen naturally within our nurturing environment where we provide rich, diverse experiences and opportunities for each child and their individual needs. We are very family focused supporting not just the children but all our family members.

Meet the team….
We are a close, knowledgeable and dedicated team where each bringing our own strengths and experience to the setting. We pride ourselves on our consistency of staff and the strong relationships we have built over time. Many of our team members have worked together for years and some are parents of children who have attended the preschool creating a real sense of community and continuity. We extend this warmth to our families offering a friendly welcome every day. Our door is always open for a cuppa and a chat' approach whenever you need us.

Community…
We are a small and friendly setting serving two villages and the surrounding area, nestled in a quiet and tranquil location. We value being part of a close-knit community and have built strong, meaningful relationships within it.
We are very fortunate to access to a beautiful church garden providing a safe and enriching outdoor space where children can play, explore and grow.
We maintain strong links with the church including visits for seasonal stories and hosting our annual nativity. We enjoy contributing to community events such as Harvest festival, Mother's Day, Christmas, Plough Sunday. Remembrance Day and the village fete. Our community connections also extend to our neighbouring village and primary school in Cropthorne, supporting smooth transition for our children.



Supporting our youngest children

Our youngest children are supported to feel safe and secure through strong relationships with familiar adults. As their confidence grows, they begin to communicate their needs and explore their environment and then communicate their needs and explore their environment more independently.

They are encouraged to take part in a range of activities, both indoors and outdoors, developing their gross and fine motor skills while knowing support is always available. Our staff gently scaffold their play, helping them build confidence and new skills.

Children are supported to listen, follow simple routines and understand expectations through clear instructions, visual cues and consistent guidance.

CL	PSED	PD	L	M	UW	EAD
Join in with songs. Can retain attention for short periods of time. Understand simple instructions 'put your coat on'. Can pronounce one syllable words clearly and some multi-syllabic (with some immature speech sounds).	Can settle self during transition from parent to key person. Can tolerate delay. Beginning to show an interest in making friends. Can tell an adult how they feel. Can take turns sometimes.	Run safely. Gaining independence in toileting. Starting to gain independence in self care, e.g. putting own coat on, finishing a zipper, feed themselves.	Enjoy songs and rhymes. Join in with some words in songs and rhymes. Draws/ mark makes freely. Enjoys sharing books with an adult. Beginning to recognise their name, or starting letter of their name.	Can say when they have lots or more than someone else. Can complete a simple insert jigsaw. Says some numerals. Interested in sorting objects (colour, type or size). Describes an object by its size, shape or colour.	Talk about their family and people who are important to them. Interested in finding out how things work. Explore and talk about natural things going on around them e.g. notice the weather.	Enjoy moving to music. Enjoy making sounds 'music' with instruments. Enjoy and take part in songs. Enjoy taking part in pretend play. Create pictures using paint and other media. Make simple models.

Core songs and rhymes:



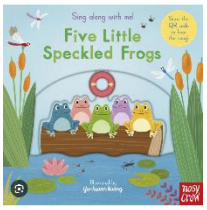






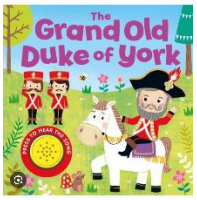


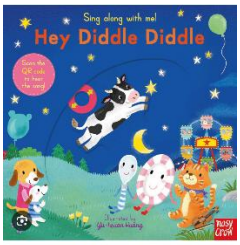


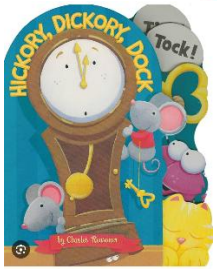


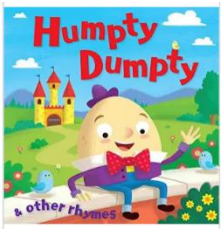


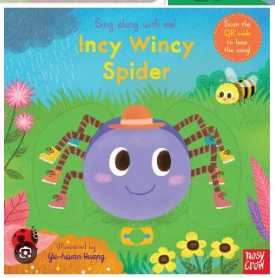


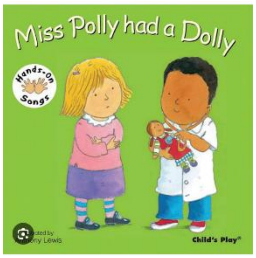


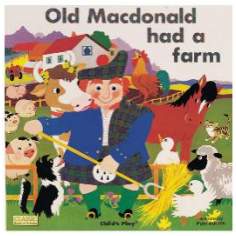




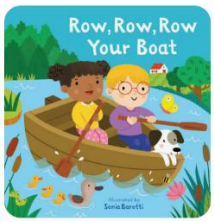




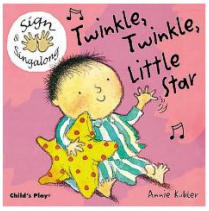












Supporting our older children

As children grow in confidence and independence, we support them to take a more active role in their learning. They are encouraged to make choices, develop their own ideas and engage in more complex play and activities.

Children build strong communication skills, expressing their thoughts, ideas and feelings with increasing confidence. They begin to form friendships, work collaboratively and develop important social skills such as sharing, turn taking and problem solving.

Through a wide range of experiences, both indoor and outdoors, children continue to develop their physical skills and coordination. They are supported to follow routines, listen carefully and respond to instructions, helping to prepare them for the transition to school.

Our staff continue to guide and extend learning through thoughtful questioning and support, helping each child reach their full potential.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/657aed70095987000d95e0e6/EYFS_statutory_framework_for_group_and_school_based_providers.pdf

The areas of learning…

Prime areas	Specific areas
Communication and language Physical development Personal, social and emotional development These "three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive."	Literacy Mathematics Understanding the world Expressive arts and design "Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied,"

Personal, social and emotional development

Within a nurturing environment, children are individually supported to develop the confidence to try new activities, to develop resilience and be able to deal with disappointment and express their feelings. We sensitively support children to speak in a familiar group, to always tell the truth (part of British values) and build trusting relationships with adults so they find it easy to ask for help if they need it. Through activities, conversation and practical example, they learn ways to express their own feelings and to have respect for the feelings of others. They are encouraged to share and play co-operatively, following and understanding the need for some rules, including knowing what behaviour is unacceptable. They learn to show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings and develop positive relationships with adults and the other children. As a setting we have a strong sense of community.

Communication and language

In small and large groups as well as individually, children are encouraged to extend their vocabulary and fluency by talking and listening, taking turns in conversation, expressing their opinion, following instructions and by responding to stories, songs and rhymes. They will be encouraged to talk about their own experiences by looking at photo's in their all about me books. We try to provide exciting activities to stimulate their curiosity and to give them new experiences that they can reflect on later. They will be encouraged to join in with role play and act out experiences in character with other children developing new vocabulary through experiences.

Physical development

A range of equipment and opportunities, both indoors and out of doors, allows children to develop confidence and enjoyment in the use and development of their own bodily skills allowing space and time to practise and refine skills through play. Skilled adult supervision enables children to safely create and meet physical challenges, developing increasing skill and control in moving, climbing and balancing. At the same time, children are supported in the development of the fine motor skills required to use tools and to handle small objects with increasing control and precision; scissors, playdoh tools, pencils, threading…

The children are encouraged to know the importance of healthy practices and to manage their own basic personal care and toileting needs when they are ready. We will support parents in toilet training their child, if necessary, when the time comes.

Children begin to understand the importance of physical activity and make healthy food and lifestyle choices understanding the need to brush teeth, drink water and eat a balanced diet.

We try to allow children to use the outside area whenever they wish; we are fortunate in having a large garden and, weather permitting, all children go outside for a part of each session for more physical play on the ride on equipment, ball play or organised games. We also have a sand pit, and a digging area in the garden.

Specific areas:

Literacy

A well-stocked book corner gives every child the opportunity and encouragement to become familiar with books, able to handle them and aware of their uses, both for reference and a source of stories, language and pictures. In role play situations we provide opportunities to 'write' by making signs, taking menu orders, making a shopping list or leaving a message. The children will see adults writing and the children soon become familiar with the look of their own names on their snack mats or coat pegs. We develop listening skills; rhyming and linking sounds to letters through playing games in small groups. We focus on developing the muscles ready for learning to write when they start school in a range of activities; tipping and pouring, digging, mark making in sand, with paint, squeezing tweezers, sponges, in playdough with cutters, scissors, stampers and rollers. Their hands aren't fully developed until nearer 6 years old.



Core books:



Mathematics

By means of adult-supported practical experience, children become familiar with the sorting, ordering, sequencing and counting activities which form the basis for early mathematics. As they use their developing mathematical understanding to solve practical problems, children are assisted to learn and use the vocabulary of mathematics, identifying objects by shape, position, size, volume and number and develop concepts of time. Songs, games and picture books help children become aware of number sequences and, when they are ready, to use simple mathematical operations such as adding. We use mathematical language all day long as we play with; dice, games, puzzles, water play, sand play, playdough, as we construct and when we line up.

Understanding the world

Our wonderful village setting allows children to explore and experiment with a range of natural and manufactured materials using their senses. Children are assisted in exploring and understanding their environment both at Preschool and at Forest School. We talk about season changes, we garden, bird watch, discuss the weather and how plants grow. Children learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions as we discuss their families using our All about me books. We discuss and use language to develop the concept of past, present and future.

A range of safe and well-maintained equipment enables children to extend their technological understanding, using simple tools and techniques as appropriate to achieve their intentions and to solve problems. We use technology safely and purposefully when exploring and extending knowledge, ideas and activities.

In our Forest school sessions, our children learn to care for everything that is living; creatures and plants.

We are part of a wider community and are involved in many events during the year.

Expressive arts and design

Children are encouraged to use a wide range of resources in order to express their own ideas and feelings and to construct their individual response to experience in two and three dimensions. We celebrate children's creations by displaying them for everyone to appreciate. Art equipment, including paint, glue, crayons and pencils as well as natural and discarded resources, provides for open-ended exploration of colour, shape and texture and the development of skills in painting, drawing and collage alongside sensory materials, sand, water, gloop, playdough, clay. Children join in with and respond to music and stories, and there are many opportunities for imaginative role play, both individually and as part of a group with varied scenarios, Hairdressers, pet shop, pirate ship, garden centre, train station, post office. We also have group times when the children can play a variety of instruments and learn about rhythm and movement to music including our fortnightly ballet sessions led by Holly from Riverside Ballet.

All about me books…

Over 20 years ago, we introduced "All about me books" for all children as they start at Charlton with Cropthorne Preschool. These become a treasured record of the time spent with us. We journal how they grow and develop from their first days until they are ready to transition to their chosen First School. At Preschool we regularly share the children's books as any other reading material, sharing their life and adventures building language and core memories.

Trips and events:

During the year, you and your child will have the opportunity to participate in;
Weekly sports sessions (Wednesdays)
Fortnightly ballet sessions (Thursday)
Christmas trip
Forest school walk to Clives of Cropthorne (Friday)
Summer trip
Pershore trip; park, library, No 8 show
Big school Nativity
Cropthorne Walkabout
Forest school (Friday)
Easter bonnet parade and duck race
Sports Day

Events and Experiences

Throughout the year, we provide a wide range of events and experiences designed to enrich children's play, while broadening their knowledge and understanding of customs, traditions, and the world around them.

- Harvest – When this falls during term time, we visit the church and contribute to seasonal displays.
- Children in Need – We take part by dressing up in a chosen theme, decorating Pudsey with donated pennies, and enjoying baking and craft activities.
- Halloween – We share themed stories and explore creative activities focused on cats, bats, and spiders.
- Bonfire Night – Children watch fireworks videos and take part in large-scale art activities, painting to music and discussing their own experiences.
- Remembrance Day – We watch a thoughtful CBeebies video, create poppy crafts, and visit the church to see displays and veteran silhouettes, encouraging meaningful conversations.
- Christmas – We perform a Nativity for parents, families, and friends. Celebrations also include singing, a group trip, a party, and the creation of handmade gifts and keepsakes with the children.
- Chinese New Year – Children explore cultural traditions through food tasting, red envelope activities, and themed videos.
- Pancake Day – When in term time, we enjoy pancake races, tasting activities, and share the story of Mr Wolf's Pancakes.
- Valentine's Day – Each key person sends a handmade card to their children, we have a focus on friendship, kindness, and inclusion.
- Mother's Day and Father's Day – Children create handmade gifts and cards to celebrate.
- Easter – We hold an Easter bonnet parade, enjoy themed crafts, and take part in a duck race on the village green.
- World Book Day – Children can dress up (optional) and celebrate their favourite stories together.
- Comic Relief – We support the event in fun and engaging ways, such as wacky hairstyles or wearing clothes inside out.
- Transitions to 'Big School' – We support children through this important stage by introducing Forest School sessions on Fridays to build familiarity. Our Reception teacher and the Headteacher visit during the Spring and Summer terms. Transitions are gradual, with increasing time spent in preparation for the move. We also provide school uniforms in our role-play area and an "All About Me" resource focused on Cropthorne First School, updated annually with relevant information and photos.
- Birthdays – Children's birthdays are celebrated in a special way. Parents may send in a cake to share, children can choose a birthday hat, and each child receives a birthday card.

We take an inclusive and sensitive approach to all celebrations, recognising and respecting different family structures, experiences, and religious and cultural backgrounds.

Transitions:
All too soon we start talking about transitions. Children are independent in their hygiene, they are learning how to solve conflicts, regulating their emotions, have built confidence in new experiences, have a dominant hand in mark making and using tools, they know the routines, expectations of behaviour, they can line up, wait their turn to speak, they can zip up their coats, are confident to join in stories, ask more complex questions, attempt to write their name, enjoy rhyming activities, follow instructions.

Communication:
We send regular Newsletters via Email with what has been happening at Preschool and upcoming events.
We have an active WhatsApp parents' social group where parties, events are shared.
Tapestry – we use this secure journal platform to share observations of your child; we also share invoices and accidents on here too.