

Grove Pre-School  
St Mary's Grove,  
Nailsea,  
BS48 4NQ  
**Tel:** 07749240004 (during session hours)  
07722326993 (alternative/out of hours)  
**Email:** [info@grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk](mailto:info@grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk)  
**Website:** [grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk](http://grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk)



## Spring Term 1 Newsletter 2025

We hope you are enjoying your winter break.

We enjoyed the festivities at the end of last term with the party, visit from Father Christmas, concert and the get together with refreshments and hamper prizes. We raised an amazing £270 – thank you to everyone who contributed and everyone who attended, it was lovely to see so many of you!

On the last day of term we said goodbye to Mrs Bradbury, we wish her well in her new job and role. All of Mrs Bradbury's key children have been re-allocated and this has been updated via Tapestry. If your child is starting with us in January, their key person will introduce themselves to you and welcome your child on their first day in January – if they are returning and have been reallocated from Mrs Bradbury your child's new key person will formally introduce themselves to you too.

We are excited to welcome Debbie Mitchell to our team as Pre-school Assistant! A parent herself, she has had experience working with children previously and is look forward to getting to know the children and learn more about being an early years educator. We hope everyone will warmly welcome Debbie to our Pre-school community. We are also pleased that Nikki Ferguson will be joining the leadership team as Assistant Leader from January!

We are looking forward to welcoming our new children joining us from January and welcoming our existing children back after the break. Our first day of the new term is **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### Arrangements for drop off and pick up

#### **Early drop off**

If you wish for your child to start Pre-school earlier, we offer an 8.30 start for a fee of £6 each time, please arrange this in advance via email or talk to a member of staff.

-Drop off is from 9am, at the start of the day, a member of staff will greet you and your child at the gate, please remain outside the gate before this time.

-A member of staff regularly checks the gate for new or late arrivals in the morning.

Children can enter once a member of staff is there and the remaining members of staff will be inside to welcome everyone.

-Children are welcome to come in independently if they are able to. However, you can bring your children in, help hang their things up on a peg (new starters will make their peg hanging name cards during their first week) and help them to settle on the carpet ready for morning registration.

-Mornings can be busy, if you wish to speak to a member of staff you are welcome to wait until we have welcomed all the children into Pre-school and helped them with their individual needs and a member of staff is available.

-For 12pm pick up, we bring the children out to parents/carers at the gate, for 3pm pick up, we welcome parents/carers in to collect their children. Please wait outside the gate until a member of staff invites you in. You may be asked to show photographic ID if a member of staff who hasn't met you yet is on the gate.

Please notify us at drop off if there are any changes to the person picking up or notify us ASAP if this changes throughout the day. If someone different is to pick up your child, they will be required to bring ID. They will also need to provide us with a password if they are not on the registration forms.

**Drop off for full day or AM session– 9am (or 8.30am if booked for an early start)**

**AM session pick up- 12pm**

**PM session drop off- 12pm**

**Pick up for full day or PM session- 3pm**

## Themes and learning opportunities

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and should support children to gain a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. We also follow the non-statutory guidance, 'Development matters' to help support our own knowledge.

We will provide a high quality, enabling environment that supports the seven areas of learning and nurtures children's interests. The curriculum will continue in the format of 'themes' and will support each unique child. The themes will be as follows:

7<sup>th</sup> January- 17<sup>th</sup> January: Winter

20<sup>th</sup> January- 14<sup>th</sup> February: Transport and construction

24<sup>th</sup> February- 21<sup>st</sup> March: People who help us

24<sup>th</sup> March- 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Spring and animals

5<sup>th</sup> May- 6<sup>th</sup> June: Health and wellbeing

9<sup>th</sup> June- 4<sup>th</sup> July: Space, the world, travel, summer

7<sup>th</sup> July- 21<sup>st</sup> July: School and transitions

We will also be following and supporting the children's interests and incorporating them to support their learning. Alongside our themes, we have accompanying songs and themed poems from 'The Poetry Basket' as well as letters of the week – the first letter of the first week back will be 'O', the number of the week will be number '5' and the poem will be 'I can build a snowman'- the children know this poem well as they learnt it to perform for the winter concert.

You can view the poem on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK6NiUDaTV0> or [I Can Build a Snowman](#)

## **Show and Tell**

At Pre-school we welcome every child to bring something in from home to 'show and tell' during morning registration. It's a great opportunity for them to extend their communication, language and personal, social and emotional development. To make it fair, we ask that children show something **once** a week to allow everyone to have a turn. We are asking for children to bring in specific items such as something that shows their achievements, something they have made, something related to our letter of the week or an item related to our current theme.

## **Helpers at Pre-school**

If you or a family member have a job or a hobby that you would like to come to Pre-school to tell our children about or if you would like to come and read a favourite story or help us with our garden area, it would be lovely to invite you in. It's great for our children to hear from different members of our community.

## **Planned Educational Visitors to Pre-school**

It is always great for us to have visitors from our local community to Pre-school we are hoping to have 'Rock Out Baby' join us for some sessions next term, we have a taster session booked in – they play live covers of well known songs as well as classic nursery rhymes, with sessions involving interactive puppet play, sensory scarves, bubble discos and a huge musical parachute. We are hoping the sessions will help to develop children's confidence, support emotional wellbeing and creativity- look up for information in weekly updates!



## **Number Day**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024, we will be participating in The NSPCC Number Day again- They are Celebrating 25 years of the event



We are having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in Dress up for Digits. Children are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme or creating a picture at home! To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, but we'd love everyone in Pre-school to take part in this special event.

We will continue to look at numbers 1-5 at depth

**Developing brighter futures**

## **Fundraising**

Currently, we are raising funds to replace and purchase new and updated resources.

We are also looking at lowering the ceiling in the Pre-school room- this is something that will be costly and will be carefully planned to ensure it will not disrupt Pre-school.

Lowering the ceiling will help to reduce the rising heating costs and improve the acoustics in the Pre-school room. There has been a gofundme set up by a parent, if you are able to donate, any amount will be gratefully received. As I write this, we currently have £1095.00 raised!

To raise money for the ceiling, past and present parents/carers have already arranged a Halloween party and a Christmas party and they are looking to hold more events in the future. A lot of hard work has gone into making this possible- a special thanks!

Donations can be made here: <https://gofund.me/504e1ef8> or using the QR code below.



## **Collection for The North Somerset Baby Bank**

One of our kind parents collected donations for the North Somerset Baby Bank, last year they organised the donation of 120 gifts for Christmas – this year they organised a donation of 320 gifts! Thank you to all the families and staff who donated

## **Volunteers**

We are looking for some volunteers to help run our Grove Pre-school fundraising committee!

Mrs Bradbury was previously helping to run the committee and has done a fantastic job over the years, writing letters asking for donations, organising the hampers and making purchases from the committee for the children such as experiences, including our visit from Noah's Ark Zoo farm and our new invaluable outside resources and garden materials. If supporting the running of the fundraising committee is something you are interested in, please let a member of staff know.

## **Supporting children with SEND- Special Educational Needs.**

At Grove Pre-school Ms Reynolds is our INCCO – inclusion co-ordinator.

We support children of all abilities using tools such as Makaton, a routine board, visual prompts and self regulation support. We use documents such as individual progress plans, nurture plans and ABCC charts to give children the extra help they need with their learning and behaviour.

We also look closely at speech and language support and refer those who meet criteria, for more information and resources to help your child with their speech and language, please visit -

[Early Years Speech & Language Therapy – Children and Young People's Services](#) or <https://sirona-cic.org.uk/children-services/services/early-years-speech-language-therapy/#resources>

In North Somerset there is a great organisation that supports parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities, they hold events, workshops and offer advice.

For more information you can visit their website:

[NSPCWT](#) or <https://www.nspcwt.org/>

There is a great YouTube channel that shows some Makaton in action- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVR4-zug\\_Upe9pWcz1jRalw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVR4-zug_Upe9pWcz1jRalw) or [\(1203\) Makaton with Lucinda - YouTube](#)

## **Extra Sessions**

If you are looking for any extra sessions for your child throughout the year or from September 2025, do let us know ASAP so we can reserve those sessions for you as we receive enquiries and take new children throughout the year and cannot guarantee that they will be available if they are not reserved.



Open, Fairer, Greener

# Time to start school

Parents of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 need to apply for a Reception place for September 2025.

Applications open by 12 September 2024  
and close at 11.59pm on 15 January 2025



You can apply online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

A Parent's Guide to Starting School will be available on the website by 12 September.

School Admissions Team  
North Somerset Council  
Town Hall  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1UJ

Email: [admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions)



## Are you pregnant or do you have children under the age of four?

You could get help to buy fruit, vegetables, pulses, milk and infant formula.

You could also get free Healthy Start vitamins.



SCAN ME

### Payment card

Automatically pre-loaded with money

Use in any food shop that accepts card payments

For free vitamins, email [healthystart@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:healthystart@n-somerset.gov.uk)



Apply online for NHS Healthy Start  
[www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/NHSHealthyStart) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NHSHealthyStart) @NHSHealthyStart



## Safeguarding

**Our Safeguarding statement: "We are committed to promoting the welfare of and safeguarding all of our children and expect everyone to share this commitment"**

Our designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is Nicola Brierley, the designated safeguarding officer (DSO) is Caroline Reynolds and Louise Luffman is also qualified to deal with any instances or queries relating to safeguarding. If you would like to speak to us privately, we can accommodate this.

Below is a reminder of our statutory duties in safeguarding all children:

There may be times when staff are required to have difficult conversations with you. Where staff are concerned about a child's safety or welfare, they may ask questions you may find uncomfortable or upsetting. Please understand they are normal procedure and we are not passing judgement.

If we need to take further action, as a result of our conversation, we will inform you, unless we feel doing so would cause more risk. We must do this as part of the statutory duties that apply to **all** early years providers. We are required to note any existing injuries on an existing injuries form.

Please let us know if your child has an injury at home or on their way to Pre-school. We understand that children have accidents. If you do not inform us when you drop your child off, we will need to ask you how your child has any injury such as a bruise or other mark. This will then be recorded for you to sign.

If you would like to discuss anything further, please speak to a member of staff.

## Absences

Please let us know via telephone call, each day of absence before 9am if your child will not be attending and why, for our safeguarding and records. You can call either telephone numbers 07722326993/07749240004. If you are unable to call, please email us: [info@grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk](mailto:info@grovepreschoolnailsea.co.uk).

**Please do not post on Tapestry as this may not be seen soon enough.**

Please do not expect a reply, if we have not received communication from you, for safeguarding reasons, we will contact you.

## Family Corner by The Early Years Alliance

At Pre-school, we are a member of Early Years Alliance, they are now offering a new service for families - [Family Corner | Features and tips about your child's development / https://www.familycorner.co.uk/#msdyn-mkt\\_trackingcontext=475c98c2-952f-4a0e-a049-1f8c15ad0462](https://www.familycorner.co.uk/#msdyn-mkt_trackingcontext=475c98c2-952f-4a0e-a049-1f8c15ad0462)

Family Corner: helps families to develop positive home learning environments.

On Family Corner, the Alliance's family arm, they offer a wide range of exciting sessions for parents and carers who would like to learn more about supporting their children's learning.



early years alliance

## Term Dates January 2025- July 2025

Term	First Day of Term	Last Day Of Term
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Spring Term 2	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Summer Term 2	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

Pre-school is closed during Bank holidays and doesn't usually receive funding.

However, this year Easter Monday - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and May Bank holiday Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May falls within funded days and this can be transferred to another day – alternative sessions will be arranged if Mondays are a day your child usually attends and they don't attend 30 hours.

## BBC Tiny Happy People

Another useful online resource for parents/carers, recommended by the North Somerset Early Years Team, with lots of information on how to help your child and support their development is BBC Tiny Happy People. You can visit the website here:

[BBC Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people) or <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

**TINY HAPPY PEOPLE**



## Fees

Invoices are issued via Tapestry 'Memos' – if you have any questions please speak to Caroline Reynolds

### Session Fees

If paying privately the cost is **£24.00**, per session (3 hours) this can be paid monthly/weekly/daily or half termly in advance.

Fees continue to be payable if a child is absent.

Where there is availability, we will sell sessions.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like to book any temporary extra sessions.

Early starts from 8.30am are available, paid privately at the cost of £6.

### Each child's attendance is conditional upon continued payment of any necessary fees and/or funding.

We expect children who are eligible for funding to use funding for all their sessions at Pre-school or to pay fees as above, we therefore expect that at the end of the first week of term we will have received a payment from each parent/carer for a monthly/weekly/ daily or half termly payment or a completed Funding form.

2 year old 15-hour codes and 30-hour codes last approximately 3 months from the date you received the code, you should receive an email but please make a note to re-check/verify every 3 months.

For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare)

### Tax-Free Childcare

You can subsidise payments via tax free childcare if you are eligible, a contribution is made towards your payments, for more information visit: [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare) or

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

The URN Ofsted registration number, if using tax free childcare is: 2653730

Registered as: Mrs C Reynolds, Grove Preschool

### Resource fee

We ask for a resource fee contribution, without it we would be unable to cover extras such as fruit, drawing materials, extra resources, Mother's/Father's Day, Easter gifts etc. You can pay termly (6 times a year) or yearly.

Hours attending per week	Resource fee per term	Total per year
3-15	£11.00	£66.00
16-30	£16.00	£96.00

### Late Collection Fee

If you are consistently late to collect your child, due to at least two paid members of staff having to stay with them at Pre-school, a charge of £6 per 15 minutes will be incurred

### Bank details for Pre-school

Grove Preschool Nailsea Limited

Account number: 19949720

Sort code: 04-06-05

Please use your family name as the reference.

We do not take cash payments.

## Information for new starters and reminders

### Pre-school Curriculum goals

At Grove Pre-school we will provide an enabling environment that supports and extends all children's learning and development, including children with English as additional language and Special Educational Needs.

We will implement the Early Years Foundation Stage to holistically cover all 7 areas of learning and development and support all characteristics of effective learning through flexible planning which is responsive to individual children's needs, interests and experiences.

As follows are goals that are important to us at Grove Pre-school. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to help children to be able to learn, remember and master some important skills by the end of their journey at Pre-school.

#### **Communication and language:**

- To know and be able to recite, with actions, at least 6 poems from the Poetry basket with support
- To know and be able to sing at least 6 familiar songs, with actions
- To be able to retell our chosen Pre-school stories - 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle, 'Misha Makes Friends' by Tom Percival, 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Three Little Pigs' by First Readers

#### **Personal, social and emotional development:**

- To be aware of their different emotions and know at least 2 healthy ways to help regulate their own emotions, with the help of our wellbeing area.
- To know our pre-school 'take 5' rules that support our British values. –listen to others, take care of our things, play safe be safe, share and take turns, be kind to all.

#### **Physical Development:**

- For children to be able to complete an obstacle race
- To be able to be independent and knowledgeable about their self care -to be able to use the toilet, washing their hands properly, putting their shoes and coats on.
- To make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and oral hygiene

#### **Literacy:**

- To show an early interest in stories and a passion for reading with a focus on our 4 chosen Pre-school books - 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Misha Makes Friends', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'The Three Little Pigs'
- To know the structure and storyline of our 4 chosen Pre-school books and be able to reference them and describe what happens during the different parts – beginning, middle and the end.
- To recognise and write some of their name

#### **Maths**

- For children to be able to subitise and have a deeper understanding of numbers 1-5
- To be able to describe a familiar walk and route we take at pre-school

#### **Understanding the world**

- To know the metamorphosis process of a caterpillar to a butterfly and to know how to grow a seed into a plant
- To have positive attitudes about the difference between people

#### **Expressive Art and Design**

- To be able to show different emotions through the media of dance, paint and role play
- To be able to play percussion instruments with increasing control and meaning

## Food and drink



**Please inform us of any changes to allergies or dietary requirements as soon as possible.**

As part of the EYFS we will be encouraging children to make healthy choices about food and drink, please help support this by providing healthy food choices in their lunch box and only water in their water bottles for Pre-school.

### Snack time

We will provide a variety of different fruit/ vegetables alongside a drink for your child to choose for a snack during the morning session- the cost is covered in the resource fee.

### Lunch boxes

Children staying past 12 or attending at 12 for lunch will need to bring a packed lunch in a named washable lunch box with and ice pack - we will provide a safe space for lunch boxes.

**Please remember to cut grapes and cherry tomatoes as these are a choking hazard for young children. We are a nut free setting, please do not include any nuts or foods containing nuts.**

### Drinks

We provide milk or water in a cup at snack time and lunch time. **Please provide a named water bottle for your child so they can have access to water throughout the day.**

## Clothing

We encourage outside activity and regularly go for walks.

With the changeable weather, please ensure your child has suitable clothing - no shoulders showing, and footwear- no open toed shoes.

Please provide named wellies in a bag, these can stay at Pre-school.

**Please apply all day sun cream and provide your child with a named sun hat on sunny days.**

Uniform is optional. Please provide changes of clothes in your child's bag,

If you wish to purchase any you can do so online:

<https://www.gouldgarments.co.uk/grovepreschool>

We sometimes have a selection of uniform you can purchase at a discounted rate, ask a member of staff for details.

## Books and book bags

We are very fortunate to have several boxes of books at pre-school the children can borrow these (new children will receive a book bag during their first week at pre-school, if not before) this will include a book to record any comments about the books read, what your child thought about the books and any reading progress. You can also use the record book to write a note for your child's key person.

There is also a 'Family book' enclosed, please fill this with family members, pets and anything of importance to your child. These are a great resource to help your child settle and to help them share their home life with us.

There are some information sheets in the bag, please take time to read them.

We will be sending several books home at a time so please only send in book bags a maximum of once a week or when the books have been read.

## Emergency Closures

In the event of extreme weather or illness causing staff shortages resulting in us having to close, a memo will be posted on Tapestry and a Facebook post will confirm this.

## Contact Details

It is important that we have up to date contact details- phone numbers and address, in case we need to contact you urgently to collect your child or if we have to close suddenly. Please notify us of any changes as soon as possible so we can update our records.

All our contact details are at the top of the newsletter.



## Online Communication

### Tapestry

**We use Tapestry as our primary source of communication to work in partnership with parents.**

Tapestry has multiple functions, not only can you view your child's personal online learning journal with records of photos and observations of your child you can also view documents and memos which will include information, **updates, newsletters, invoices, fee reminders and emergency closures due to weather etc.**

**Please check Tapestry regularly to view your child's observations and important Memos**

**Once you have read memos, please give it a 'like' so we know you have seen it.**

Email invites have been sent out from Tapestry to all new families and re-sent to parents/carers who have not yet set their account up (Please check junk/spam)

Thank you to the parents who have already signed up- if you are having any trouble accessing this or would like to add another family member to receive updates, please email and let us know.

### New Families

Please go into your child's account, on the right-hand side it says "About me" please complete this section to help us learn more about your child and create a starting point to help us support continual progression.

Please note: the staff have a rota for observations each staff has multiple key children, with this in mind, there will not be updates every time your child attends, but there will be focused observations and 'Wow' moments, There is a general update weekly for all families.



### Facebook

We have a Facebook page where we share more general information and updates, to like our page search **Grove Preschool Nailsea**

### Instagram

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/grovepreschoolnailsea>

**If you are having trouble accessing anything online please speak to a member of staff.**

**You are welcome to chat to a member of staff at any time, call us during session times or email us if needed.**