

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



Summer Term 1 Newsletter 2024

We are looking forward to seeing you all again and hearing about your children's break. A warm welcome to our new families joining us this term. I hope everyone else has had a good break.

Our first day of the new term is **Monday 15th April**.

It was fantastic to get everyone together at the end of last term for the Easter Hat parade. We raised a total of £120.00 from the tombola, refreshments and donations. Thank you again for your contributions and a big thank you to our local supermarkets: Co-op and Tesco for their donations of the refreshments and some of the tombola prizes, thank you to all the families and staff that donated too. We have donated £20 to the Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal for Lola - <https://justgiving.com/page/lolamorrisarmy>

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:

15th April- 26th April: Spring and animals

29th April- 24th May: Health and wellbeing

3rd June – 28th June: Space, the world, travel, summer

1st July-22nd 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. We also look at important PSED subjects throughout the year including: **Keeping Clean-washing hands, oral hygiene, internet safety, healthy eating, being a good friend, self-regulation, staying safe in the world.**

Show and Tell

At Pre-school we welcome every child to bring something in from home to 'show and tell' during morning registration. One item will be shown a day that is relevant to our theme or letter of the week. It's a great opportunity for the children 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.

Our first sound/letter of the week after half term is 'z'

Take Home Ted

Take home Ted is our Pre-school Teddy, children who are due to start school this September will all have a chance to take him home **for a week** so he can join them on their adventures- this could be anything from a trip to the library or visiting family. Please add pictures, some words or allow your child to draw a picture of them with Ted visiting so they can share it with their friends when he returns with them to Pre-school.

Organised Educational Visitors to Pre-school and Outside of Pre-school

During next term we have some exciting visitors planned as well as some visits to The Whiteoak Academy of Hannah More infants and Grove Junior School where we have kindly been given a raised bed to do some planting in. This will give the children the opportunity to extend their knowledge of Understanding the World, as well as help their physical development- **Please make sure your child has their own wellies** for Pre-school as we will be using them for these visits and also whilst playing in our own garden area on wetter days.

Premier Sports

We are looking forward to premier joining us for three sessions during this term, they focus on developing children's physical development in a variety of engaging ways.



Ovda Ovsyannikova Dance Company

We hope to have Svetlana visit us to show us how to do some different dances from around the world to help us celebrate international dance day



Primary School Places September 2024

Primary school places for September 2024 will be announced on **Tuesday 16th April- please confirm with us the school place your child has been allocated**

For more information on the school application process, please see the link below

[Offer day for new school places | North Somerset Council \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://n-somerset.gov.uk)

or

<https://n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/allocated-school-places-bulk>

We will be inviting teachers from the allocated schools to visit Pre-school once we have information on school places. I will notify you when I have confirmation of any dates, if it occurs on a date that your child does not attend, they will be invited to join where possible.



School admissions

A colorful NHS poster for Healthy Start. At the top right is the NHS logo. Below it are five cartoon food items: an apple, a box of cereal, a broccoli, a carton of milk, and a tin of infant formula. The text asks 'Are you pregnant or do you have children under the age of four?' and explains that users can get help to buy fruit, vegetables, pulses, milk, and infant formula, and also get free Healthy Start vitamins. A QR code is provided with the text 'SCAN ME'. Below this is a section for a 'Payment card' that is 'Automatically pre-loaded with money' and can be used in any food shop that accepts card payments. For free vitamins, users are directed to email healthystart@n-somerset.gov.uk. At the bottom, there is a 'Healthy Start' logo, the website www.healthystart.nhs.uk, and social media handles for Twitter and Facebook (@NHSHealthyStart). A 'Better Health North Somerset' logo is also present.

Hot Weather Safety

As the weather (hopefully) starts to warm up, children will need **named sun hats and suitable clothing**- shoulders and feet need to remain covered. It can take time away from learning and playing if we need to apply suncream to children throughout the day so we ask for children to have **ALL DAY suncream applied before they attend Pre-school**. On warmer days, we will check that suncream has been applied before children enter Pre-school, if they do not have suncream on you will need to take them home to apply it or come up ASAP to apply it to them. We will provide shade where possible and give regular reminders to drink water- **please provide water only in named bottles** as this is recommended for oral hygiene reasons and to discourage children from drinking out of other's water bottles.

Developing brighter futures

Eid Mubarak!

We hope that everyone celebrating Eid has enjoyed their celebrations over the break. Next week we will be looking at Eid al-Fitr- an Islamic holiday marking the end of Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is a time of increased worship, charity, and good deeds. Eid al-Fitr means the feast, or festival, of breaking the fast. We have a display on our interest table- if you would like to add to this or talk to us about your traditions we would love to hear about them.



Nailsea Carnival

We are excited to take part in Nailsea Carnival this year. We would love for as many children, their siblings, parents/carers and family to take part! - With staff and adults joining in and dressing up too!

This year's Carnival is due to take place on **Saturday 6th July**. Procession entrants should assemble at Clevedon Road car park from **12:15pm**, ready to be judged by **12:30pm**.

The procession leaves **Clevedon Road car park at 1:00pm**.

A map of the procession route can be found on our website at www.nailseacarnival.org.uk/processionmap

This year we have chosen one of our core Pre-school books to be our theme, 'The Colour Monster' it is a favourite for the children and they know it well.

Costumes will be simple to put together - there are several colours to choose from, there is an attachment on Tapestry regarding the carnival if you would like to see more illustrations:

Multi coloured- mixed up

Red- Anger

Green- Calm

Yellow- Happy

Grey- Fearful

Pink- Loved

Blue- Sad



There will be a sign up sheet for parents/carers to confirm their attendance at the carnival and to come in to Pre-school and create masks/ banners/props with your children from the first day of term.

We would love to have a mix of all the different emotions.

If you have any questions, please talk to a member of staff.

Term dates April 2024- July 2024

Term	First day of term	Last day of term
Summer Term 1	Monday 15 th April 2024	Friday 24 th May 2024
Summer Term 2	Monday 3 rd June 2024	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Extra Sessions and Bank Holidays

If you are looking for any one off sessions for your child throughout the term, please ask a member of staff.

If you are looking to reserve extra regular sessions from September 2024, do let us know ASAP so we can reserve those sessions for you as we receive enquiries and take new children throughout the year.

Bank Holidays

We are closed for all bank holidays this year as they do not fall within the funded days.

Term Dates September 2024- July 2025

Term	First Day of Term	Last Day Of Term
Autumn Term 1	Monday 2 nd September 2024	Friday 25 th October 2024
Autumn Term 2	Monday 4 th November 2024	Friday 13 th December 2024
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 7 th January 2025	Friday 14 th February 2025
Spring Term 2	Monday 24 th February 2025	Friday 4 th April 2025
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025
Summer Term 2	Monday 2 nd June 2025	Monday 21 st July 2025

Pre-school is closed during Bank holidays and usually does not receive funding.

However, Easter Monday - 21st April 2025 falls within funded days and this can be transferred to another day – we will be in touch to arrange alternative sessions closer to the time.

End Of Year Arrangements

Leavers Party/Farewell

Every year we arrange a leaver's party for the children starting school in September, this year, due to there being no step-up session due to the mix of children, we will need to hold this on a day that some younger children usually attend – this will take place on **Monday 15th July from 12pm** if your child is not starting school and they usually attend a Monday PM, they will need to be collected at 12pm or if they just attend the PM they will be unable to attend. We will arrange for them to attend an alternative session during Summer term 2. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. We will also be inviting parents/carers of children leaving school to a short concert and farewell during the session

Last Day of Pre-school

On the last day of Pre-school this year – **Monday 22nd July**, during the afternoon session we invite all families to join us for a small sports day and to bring your own picnic – weather permitting, this will take place on The Grove field, with the inside of The Grove reserved if it rains. We hope you will all be able to join us.

Timings will be confirmed closer to the date.

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, Caroline Reynolds is our designated safeguarding officer (DSO) in their absence, Lorna Bradbury and Louise Luffman are 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, as per standard procedure, for you to sign. If you would like to discuss anything further, please speak to a member of staff.



Photographer at Pre-school

This year, we will be having a photographer visit Pre-school on **Wednesday 1st May**, all children in on that day will be photographed and you will receive a sample and be able to buy digital or physical copies if you wish.

If your child does not attend on a Wednesday and you would like photographs, you will be able to sign up for a time slot from the first day of the new term so that you can bring them to Pre-school for their photo on the day.

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.

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. 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 From April 2024 there have been some changes to funding for 2 year olds, please see the poster below for more details. 2 year old funding

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)

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

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.



HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Please find below a summary of the Government's new funded childcare offer. More details will be passed on as the Government releases information.

Existing funded childcare for 2, 3 and 4 years old and Tax-Free Childcare (TFC), will continue.

Eligible working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year (although parents can use fewer hours over more weeks of the year) from when their child is 9 months old to when they start school. This will be rolled out in stages.

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours funded childcare a week..

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children under the age of 5 will be entitled to 30 hours funded childcare a week.

What childcare is available for families on Universal Credit?

Parents on Universal Credit are also set to get further support. Currently, up to 85% of childcare costs can be claimed back. By Summer 2023, parents will be able to access the funds upfront, rather than in arrears to make it easier for them to get a job or increase their hours. This removes any gap in funds and eases parents into the childcare cost's payment cycle. The maximum amount of support will also be increased by almost 50%, to £951 for those with one child and to £1,630 for those with two.

For information, regular updates, and details on how to apply for childcare funding, please visit Childcare Choices, a parent friendly website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



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.

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

If we have not received communication from you, for safeguarding reasons, we will contact you.

Start of day reminder

We have noticed that lots of parents/carers have been coming into Pre-school at the start of the day, this can be unsettling and create a more chaotic start to the day for some children with so many different adults in the building- Please remember – **parents/carers are not permitted to enter the toilets at any time for safeguarding reasons** – a member of staff will be in there assisting children every morning.

Drop off is usually operated from the gate, we feel this works well for everyone and it allows the children to settle quicker at the start of the day as well as promoting independence – it's lovely to see the children walk in together, helping each other – please aim to say goodbye at the gate and allow your child to come into Pre-school, they will be helped by a member of staff once inside. – If your child needs you to come inside, you are welcome.

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 Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas, '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 box.
- To know our pre-school rules that support our British values. – Play safe, be safe, share and take turns, listen to each other, be kind to others and have fun!

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 5 chosen Pre-school books - 'The Colour Monster', '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 5 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 instruments with increasing control and meaning

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 £4 each time, please arrange this in advance via email or talk to a member of staff.

Drop off is operated from the gate, we feel this works well for everyone and it allows the children to settle quicker at the start of the day as well as promoting independence – it's lovely to see the children walk in together, helping each other.

Please wait outside the gate until a member of staff invites your child in, you are welcome to come in with your child if you feel they need this. Mornings can be busy, if you wish to speak to a member of staff you may need to wait until we have welcomed all the children into Pre-school and helped them with their individual needs.

At the start of the day, a member of staff will greet you and your child at the gate, please remain outside the gate, 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 children and help them get organised for the day.

At pick up we welcome parents/carers in at 3pm, 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, please notify us, they will be required to bring ID and provide us with a password if they are not on the registration forms.

Drop off – 9am (or 8.30am if booked for an early start)

Pick up- 3pm for all

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. No popcorn or other choking hazards.

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.**

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 text messages sent where possible.

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.

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>

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.

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.

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 private Facebook group where we used to share updates and information for current staff and families- **however, I will be closing this down shortly as I have noticed in recent years that this is not being accessed by all families- all communication will be via Tapestry**

We do have a Facebook page where we share more general information and updates- please like this page if you are on Facebook-

to like our page search **Grove Preschool Nailsea**

Instagram

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/grovepreschoolnailsea> - this is not a source of communication.

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.