



Little Explorers Nursery  
at  
Eccleston St Mary's  
Guide for Parents



## **Introduction – About Us**

Little Explorers Nursery is governor-led provision for three and four year olds, situated within Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School, at the heart of the local community.

Having opened for the very first time in January 2022, we are committed to providing high quality nurturing and education for all the children in our care. Each child is unique and we are passionate about getting to know every individual in order to enable them to reach their full potential.

Our Nursery is a fun, friendly and stimulating place to be.

## **Staffing**

The provision is currently staffed by Mrs Kamel (Level 3 Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Mellor (Teaching Assistant/Qualified Teacher). Both are very experienced in Early Years.

## **Provision Spaces**

With the current staff structure we can accommodate 16 children. However we can accommodate 26 children with the appropriate adult:child ratios.

## **Sessions**

Wraparound care is available from 7.45 am until 6.00 pm, with Little Explorer children welcome to attend our school Breakfast and After School Clubs (session times are 7.45 – 8.45 am and 3.15 – 6.00 pm respectively.)

Dedicated Nursery sessions run from 8.45 – 11.45 am and 12.15 – 3.15 pm with care at lunchtime being available between 11.45 am and 12.15 pm. Children may attend as many or as few sessions as you wish, although we would highly recommend a minimum of three dedicated sessions to enable them to settle into Little Explorers with ease.



### **Eligibility and Funding**

Children are eligible to start at Little Explorers as soon as they are three years of age. This provision will incur a charge (please see separate details) but every child becomes eligible for 15 universal funded hours in the term following their third birthday. Some parents will be able to apply for the extended 30 hours of funded care, dependant on their personal work circumstances. For further information and to check whether you are eligible, please follow the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

### **Parental Visits and Taster Sessions**

If you are considering sending your child to Little Explorers, we would love to show you around our purpose-built indoor and outdoor areas. We would also love for you to meet our dedicated staff team.

Please telephone Mrs Readett in the school office on 01257 451317 or email [bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk) to make an appointment.

Once you have made the decision to send your child to Little Explorers, we would recommend them attending for a taster session (free of charge) in order to help them to settle in. This session can be arranged at a mutually convenient time for both parents and staff.

### **Waiting List**

All three and four year old children are welcome at Little Explorers Nursery. However, if the nursery is 'full', your child's name will be put on our Waiting List.



## **Session Times**

<b>Session Time</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Sessional Rate</b>
Breakfast Session 7.45 am to 8.45 am	1	£4.50
Morning Session 8.45 am to 11.45 am	3	£13.50
Lunch Session 11.45 am to 12.15 pm	0.5	£2.25
Afternoon Session 12.15 pm to 3.15 pm	3	£13.50
Afterschool Session 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm	1 2 2.5 equivalent hours	£4.50 £9.00 £11.25

## **Session Booking**

When your child first starts at Little Explorers, you will be asked to state which sessions they will be attending and requested to complete a Parental Agreement Form. You will be invoiced for these sessions on a half-termly basis and payment should be made promptly. You can request weekly invoices/payment if this is more convenient.

## **Changes to your Booked Sessions**

Should you wish to make changes to your hours, you should request this in writing before the start of the next term. However, we will try to accommodate your booking in any way we can but please be aware of the following:-

- 1) We will accommodate extra sessions providing we can do so. Please apply in writing.
- 2) If you wish to 'change days' but still attend the same number of sessions, this will be allowed, as long as we can still adhere to our adult : child ratios. Please apply in writing.
- 3) If you cancel a pre-booked session, you will still be charged for the hours booked.



## **Lunch**

Lunch, which is freshly prepared daily on the premises by our school cook, is available at an additional cost (currently £2.50 a day). There is always a vegetarian option available and food intolerances can be catered for. Alternatively, your child may bring a packed lunch, if you prefer.

## **Snacks**

Children receive a piece of fruit each day and are also offered toast as a mid-morning snack.

## **Drinks**

Parents should provide a newly-refilled water bottle for their child each day to ensure they stay well-hydrated. Please note, fizzy drinks and squash are not permitted.



## **Uniform**

The nursery uniform consists of a bespoke jade green sweatshirt and purple polo shirt. These items can be purchased from Badgers of Heskin.

Please access their website at:- <https://badgersofheskin.co.uk/>

Email : [enquiry@badgersofheskin.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@badgersofheskin.co.uk) or phone 01257 786887

We also have our own preloved PTFA sale each term. Please contact the school office if this is of interest to you – 01257 451317.

Please note, uniform is not compulsory. However, it is beneficial to have for photographs and visits within the community and other excursions.

**Please ensure all uniform items are clearly named.**

## **Other Clothing**

In Winter, please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat and mittens/gloves as we like to spend as much time outdoors as possible.

In the Summer, please ensure they have a sunhat and sun cream.

Parents should also provide a pair of wellies and black Velcro pumps (for PE activities) which can be kept in Little Explorers.

An all-in-one outdoor suit is also useful for outdoor play. It can also be helpful to have a change of clothes just in case it is ever needed.

## **Nappy Changing**

We would prefer children to be toilet trained before starting nursery but we would be happy to work alongside you to encourage this.

If your child is not yet toilet-trained, please provide nappies, wipes and nappy bags.



## **EYFS**

Children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage for three and four year olds, with its emphasis on learning through play and child-led experiences. Opportunities for both indoor and outdoor learning are constant.

Each child is valued as an individual and encouraged to explore the world around them and to learn through new experiences.

## **Reporting to Parents**

Every child has their own learning journal folder, which the staff complete regularly, recording your child's observations and achievements. The learning journal will be sent home at the end of their time at Little Explorers.

Each child will also have a Seesaw Class App which you can access online to see photos and information on their day-to-day life at Little Explorers.

Staff are available at the beginning and end of every day, if you wish to have an informal chat. Should you require a more formal talk with staff then please telephone the school office to make an appointment.

## **Illness**

For the health and wellbeing of all the children attending Little Explorers, your child should not come in if they are feeling ill. It is our policy that children should be absent from our setting for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. Please ring the school office before 9.30 am to report your child's absence.

## **Medication**

Medication will be administered by school staff when absolutely necessary ie required 4 times a day. Only prescribed medicines can be given and must be in the original prescribed container with the child's name and dosage

A medication consent form must also be completed.