



WALTHAM PRESCHOOL FAQ's

Q. Do I need to provide nappies and wipes?

Yes, if your child is not potty trained you must include wipes and nappies/pull ups in a bag that is kept on their peg during the session. We provide all children with a canvas bag to use during their time at preschool. You must make sure this is replenished daily if needed. If your child is potty trained, we will need at least 1 spare pair of underwear kept in the bag on their peg. If your child soiled their clothes we will send home the dirty clothes, and this will need to be replenished.

Q. If you need to use some or all the spare clothes, will you let me know?

Yes, we will send the dirty clothes home and let you know at the end of the session

Q. If I am currently potty training my child at home and use nappies some of the time, can they wear nappies whilst in preschool?

We would prefer you did not put your child in nappies if they are training and they are dry most of the time. It can be confusing for your child if you go back and put them in a nappy for some of the day. We will remind the children to go to the toilet regularly throughout the session.

Q. My child wears pull-ups, do I need to bring in additional pull-ups each day they attend preschool?

Yes, if your child is not potty trained you must include wipes and nappies/pull ups in a bag that is kept on their peg during the session. You must make sure this is replenished daily if needed.

Q. Should I label my child's belongings such as their water bottle, Wellington boots and book bag?

Yes, everything needs to be labelled, including bags, shoes and water bottles

Q. My child currently enjoys a mid-morning or mid-afternoon snack when at home and I give them some specific things that they like, can I bring in some snacks for them to have whilst at preschool or do you provide them with a snack and if so what type of snack?

The children are all offered fruit and milk at snack time; this is provided to all children in the preschool setting. Due to some children having allergies we do not accept any

additional snacks from home. All children must have a water bottle every day and this is accessible throughout the preschool session for the children to drink from when needed.

Q. My child has a favourite teddy bear / comforter. Can this be brought into preschool?

We discourage children from bringing in toys/ teddies from home. They often get lost or broken and then cause additional upset for the child. We have plenty of new and exciting toys and activities in the preschool and your child will be easily distracted.

Q. Can children bring their own toys to preschool?

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Q. Will my child be able to have a daytime sleep?

We do not have a separate room for the children to sleep in, but we do have small mats and blankets for them to access if needed.

1Q. Can you administer medication to my child?

The school has strict procedures that we must follow when administering medication in school. We can ONLY give medication that has been prescribed by the doctor and is labelled with your child's name. Please see the preschool's welfare policy for more information or come and speak to a member of staff in the preschool and we can advise you further.

Q. Will my child get to play outside?

Outdoor play is actively encouraged during your child preschool session. Children will have access to our outdoor area in all weathers so please make sure they have suitable clothes in both hot and cold weather.

Q. If my child is ill or cannot attend their preschool session because of a medical appointment, am I required to contact the preschool to inform them that they will not be in, if so by when?

Yes, please call the school to report any type of absence and state the reason why. This will be recorded on the register.

Q. We are going on holiday, do I need to let the preschool know?

Yes, please call the school to report any type of absence and state the reason why. This will be recorded on the register.

Q. What if I need someone else to collect my child from preschool that are not on the list I provided to the school?

Please call the preschool or tell a member of staff at drop off if anyone who is not on the list of people who are authorized to pick up your child from school. Teachers will make a note of this and ask whoever is picking up to confirm their name to make sure it matches our records. The person collecting must also give the password that we have on file.

Q. Do you take the children on trips or walks during their time at preschool?

No, we will only use the school grounds.

Q. How can I find out how my child is developing at Preschool?

Teachers have a parent consultation in February to let you know how they are getting on. Teachers will also talk to speak to you if they feel there are things you need to know about their development at any time in the year. We also share achievements and photos of what they are doing in preschool through the preschool newsletter, which is shared once a term.

Q. My child will be eligible to go to Reception class in school next year will they automatically obtain a reception place as they are already in the school's preschool?

No, you MUST apply to the borough that you live in. All information for this will be communicated to you in plenty of time. Your child's place is not secured just because they attend the school preschool.

Q. How will you prepare my child for school?

It is wonderful to see your interest in your child's readiness for school! At our preschool, we prioritise creating a strong foundation for your child's academic, social, and emotional development to ensure they transition smoothly to their next stage of learning.

Here is how we prepare children for school:

19.1 Building Key Skills for School Readiness

Social Skills: We help children develop the ability to share, take turns, and work collaboratively with their peers. These skills are essential for making friends and participating in group activities in a school environment.

Independence: We encourage children to take responsibility for small tasks, such as putting on their coats, tidying up after activities, and managing their personal hygiene. These experiences build confidence and self-reliance.

Communication: Through storytelling, conversations, and phonics games, we foster your child's ability to listen, express themselves, and follow instructions—skills that are critical in a classroom setting.

19.2 Developing Early Learning Skills

Early Literacy: We introduce your child to phonics, letter recognition, and pre-reading skills through engaging activities, such as preschool rhymes, storytelling, and mark-making.

Early Maths: Basic concepts like counting, shapes, patterns, and problem solving are incorporated into everyday play to develop a strong mathematical foundation.

Fine Motor Skills: Activities like drawing, cutting, and using small tools strengthen the fine motor control needed for writing.

19.3 Supporting Emotional and Social Development

Emotional Regulation: We teach children strategies to manage their emotions, resolve conflicts, and cope with changes—important skills for navigating school life.

Building Confidence: Positive reinforcement and celebrating achievements help your child feel confident and excited about learning.

19.4. Creating Familiarity with a School Environment

Routines and Structure: We follow a daily schedule like a school day, helping children become accustomed to structured activities, transitions, and group learning.

Collaboration with Schools: If your child's next school is known, we communicate with the school to ensure a smooth transition. This might include sharing learning journals or holding transition meetings.

19.5. Personalising Support

We recognize that every child develops at their own pace, so we tailor our approach to meet your child's individual needs. For example:

If your child needs additional support in certain areas, we work closely with you to create a plan that ensures they are ready for school.

For children with additional needs, we collaborate with professionals to provide targeted interventions and strategies.

How You Can Support at Home

We also believe in working in partnership with families to prepare children for school. Activities like reading together, practicing dressing skills, or talking positively about school can make a big difference.

Our goal is to make the transition to school a happy, positive experience for your child. If you have specific concerns or areas you'd like us to focus on, please let us know, and we'll be happy to work together to support your child's readiness for this exciting new chapter!