

Welcome to Devonshire Preschool



Information Booklet

Devonshire Pre-school

An enabling environment provides children with the space and resources to play, explore and learn. At Devonshire Pre-school, you will notice a calm environment and neutral space accented with well-thought-out resources purposely placed to support and extend children's learning. We enhance our play spaces regularly by reflecting on the children's progress, skills, and specific interests.

We believe that all children deserve an education rich in wonder and memorable experiences, alongside the purposeful acquisition of skills and knowledge. We believe that an education that does all of this gives children the best chance to become well-rounded, happy individuals, ready to succeed in an ever-changing world.



Mrs Hornby is the pre-school teacher.

Jungle Class

Children begin Preschool the September before they are due to start school. Jungle class have access to our extensive learning environment as well as the school trim trail, sensory room, dance classes, sports coach and regular balance bike practise.

Jungle class take part in the Blackpool tooth brushing scheme and Pre-school council where they are given the responsibility to make decisions about their learning and environment. We also have our own preschool library where children can borrow books to take home.

Jungle Cubs

Children who begin preschool in January or the term after their 3rd birthday are referred to as our Jungle Cubs. Jungle cubs have access to the same resources and learning opportunities as the Jungle class. They will continue their learning journey through to Jungle class in the September.

Preschool Hours and session times

Our pre-school is term time only (not open during the school holidays).

We open at 8.45 am and close at 3.00 pm Monday to Friday.

We offer several session types which are detailed below.

Dawn Session Times				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00	8.45–11.30	/	/

Dusk Session times				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
/	/	12.15–3.00	8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00

Sunlight Session times				
30 Hours for working parents				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00	8.45–3.00

AM or PM session times are available after a review with the preschool manager.

We accept the 30 free hour funding for working parents –to find out if you are eligible, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

We also offer an additional 15 hour block to be purchased at the cost of £90 per week.



Our Daily Timetable

	Welcome to preschool - We eat a snack and sing our morning song.
5 min	Let's think - We learn new knowledge about the world every week.
1 hr	Explore - We learn through play!
5 min	Phonics - We focus on phase 1 phonics.
1 hr	Explore - We learn through play!
5 min	Pre-reading - We learn core reading and comprehension skills before we learn the letter sounds.
30 min	Big play area — We focus on our gross motor and physical skills.
	Lunch
5 min	Story Time — We may read a book or learn a story by heart.
1 hr	Explore - We learn through play!
5 min	Maths —We learn numbers, shapes, and problem solving skills.
1 hr	Explore - We learn through play!
5 min	Pre-writing —We focus on our fine motor and gross motor skills.
30 min	Big play area —We focus on our gross motor and physical skills.
	Home time

Important information

Snack and Sundries

Sundries are charged at £1 per week and are paid through the parent pay app in advance of every month. Sundries covers the cost of items such as snack, fruit, juice, sun cream and wipes. Sundries also goes towards events such as parties and special occasions eg. valentines disco, trips to lidl/costa and our termly special events with parents.

During Snack time, children will help themselves from a selection of fruit with a choice of milk or water to drink. We offer a variety of snacks such as croissants, brioche, fruit loaf, waffles, pancakes and pastries. Fresh fruit is also available every day.

Your 15 or 30 hours funded childcare from the government does not cover the cost of these items. You will be given information on how to access parent pay during your child's first week in preschool.



Arrival and Collection

On arrival, please bring your child to the double doors as they are welcomed in by a member of staff. At this time, any relevant information can be passed on to staff.

At the end of the session, please wait by the double doors where we will dismiss each child one at a time to ensure safety. A member of staff may wish to speak to you at this time. It is very distressing for a young child to be left after the other children have gone home so please be on time.

Preschool Bag

Please bring a small bag each day to pre-school. In your bag you should have;

A spare set of clothing, socks and underwear.

Pull ups (if required).

Your pre-school bag should be taken home and brought back daily.

Water

Please do not bring a water bottle as your child will have access to cool, fresh drinking water from our water machine. Our staff can track how much the children are drinking daily when using our preschool cups to ensure that they have enough.

Devonshire School Uniform

Learning is a messy job! Each mucky mark is linked to a skill that children need to practice in order to perfect it. At pre-school we always use aprons and waterproof jackets. However, it is still possible for children to get messy. Because of this, we recommend that children wear the Devonshire uniform.

Wearing the uniform will help your child by making them feel part of the team, and means that you don't have to worry about spoiling their 'best' clothes. School uniform can be purchased from Ragamuffins or Tesco.

Please label all uniform, bags and coats with your child's name.

Boys

Grey trousers or shorts

Yellow polo shirt

Blue sweatshirt

Black shoes (**no laces**)

Girls

Grey skirt, dress or trousers

Yellow polo shirt

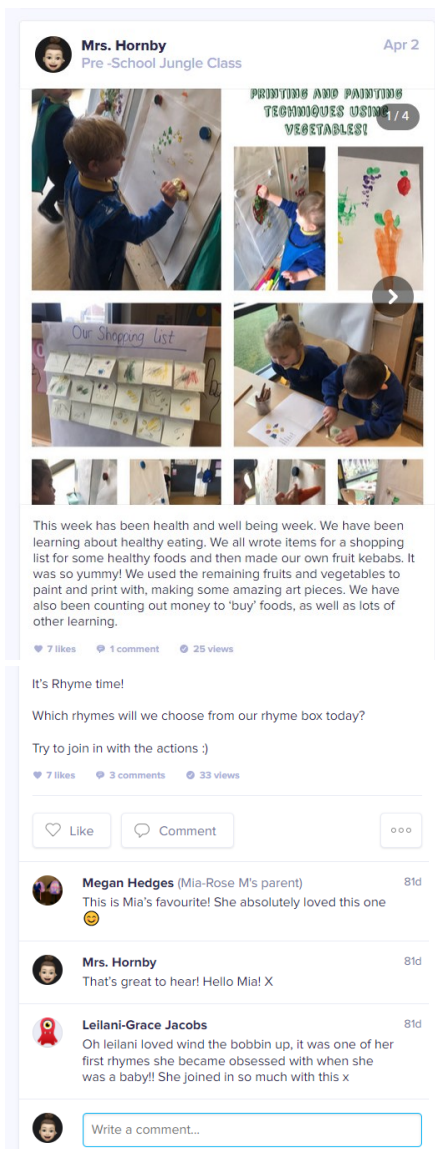
Blue cardigan or jumper

(During the summer, girls may wear a light blue gingham dress)

Black shoes (**no laces**)



Our community



ClassDojo

We have a fantastic relationship with all of our parents and carers.

We believe that the key to our successful pre-school community is good communication. Our staff are always available to talk to at the beginning and end of every session along with being available through the Class Dojo network.

Class Dojo is a school communication platform that teachers, students, and families use every day to build close-knit communities by sharing what's being learned in the classroom home through photos, videos, and messages.

Please download this app from the app store and you will be invited via text to join our pre-school class.

Events

We hold regular school events to celebrate holidays, special days, pupil achievements and more. Please check out our whole school dojo page in addition to our pre-school page to keep up to date with any events. Additionally you can look on the school facebook page or the Devonshire Buzz weekly news letter.



Meet Our Team

LEARN ABOUT OUR STAFF



I am pre-school manager, class teacher, school governor and Eco lead at Devonshire. I have enjoyed 9 wonderful years so far as a teacher at Devonshire. I love playing the ukulele for the children, singing songs and telling stories.
I work Monday – Friday.



I have worked at Devonshire for 11 years. I enjoy running the forest school here. I have two boys of my own and a hamster called Kinder Bueno. I love listening to music and attending concerts.
I work Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



I started working at Devonshire two years ago but have worked with children for over 5 years. I love attending concerts and going camping with family. I am a school governor for support staff and also a Devonshire parent myself with a girl of my own.
I work Monday - Friday.



I have worked at Devonshire for over 20 years. I have 2 grown up girls of my own, a cat called Poppy and a dog called Rosie. I am a big football supporter and follow Everton.
I work every Wednesday.

At Devonshire Preschool our staff create a safe and engaging classroom environment that promotes learning and exploration. The strong team here at Devonshire naturally connect with children and build strong, genuine relationships with all of them. Our staff members are patient, kind, and empathetic, going out of their way to make sure that every child in our classroom feels valued and respected.

Our Preschool Values



Hello I am Chucky the Chimp!

Chucky is a big part of our preschool team and he helps to teach us our classroom rules which we call "Champion Choices".

Our champion choices are to have;

Listening Bodies

Helping Hands

Caring Hearts

When children make Champion choices they are rewarded with a special sticker from the 'Chucky's Champion' sticker box.

Every half term Chucky chooses someone to have their name on his 'Wall of Champions'. They are our Star of the Half Term.



Settling in

At Devonshire Pre-school we want your child to feel safe and happy in your absence. We would love your children to be able to recognise our staff as a source of help and friendship and to share their pre-school experience with you at home.

We understand that there may be some children who take longer than others to settle in and, where necessary, we will encourage you to leave your child for brief periods, gradually building up to longer absences.

We sometimes find that children will often settle better and quicker if the parental guardian is not there. However, this is not true for all children and nobody knows your child better than you!



If you leave your child and they have shown no signs of settling, we will ring you. We would never allow a child to be upset for a long period of time. We can then discuss with you what the options are. You will always be kept in the loop – even if your child has settled, we'll still let you know. We will try various methods to calm your child. From lots of hugs to distraction techniques, we'll always put your child first and try to accommodate them. If you are at all concerned, please give us a ring at any point.

