



Parklands

Educate Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff and Governors I would like to welcome you to the Preschool at Parklands Educate Together. Our academy prides itself on the opportunities it offers children, providing a rich and broad curriculum.

We have state of the art premises within the new development at Locking Parklands, with beautiful grounds and a forest area the children will be able to use once established. The children in the preschool use the whole grounds, and not only their own enclosed area they have as part of their everyday provision.

This prospectus contains a range of information about the whole school and not only the nursery, but if you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of staff.

Regards,


Jeremy

OUR INFORMATION

Parklands Educate Together,

1 Russell Road,

Locking

BS24 7NH

Telephone: 01934 404555

Email: info@parklandset.org.uk

ACADEMY GOVERNORS

The Governors work to support the academy in its' aims and priorities. They serve for a period of four years and can be parents, teachers, staff, local Council representatives, business people or members of the local community. It is vital to the success of the school that it has an effective Governing Body, helping to ensure that the interests of the children are always at the heart of what we do and setting the strategic vision for the future.

Please contact the office if you would like to know more about becoming a Governor or to see if we have spaces available.

ACCESS

Disabled access to the nursery class is available, with all facilities being at ground level.

Two parking bays are available in the staff car park, but please contact the office if you would like to use one. We restrict vehicle movement on site for children's safety at the beginning and end of each day.

ADMISSIONS

Children are admitted to the preschool the term after their 3rd birthday, with entry points in September, January and April after the Easter break. Admission is made through application to the school office, with offers being made a half term before the designated start date, when we will also provide your child with visit days to join the class for a session.

Once your child reaches mandatory school age, you should apply for our academy through North Somerset as they continue to allocate the spaces on our behalf, even if your child attends the preschool class here. The deadline for this is usually mid-January of the calendar year they are due to start school.

ASSESSMENTS

The children follow the early years framework. When they begin with us there are a number of baseline assessments carried out. During the year they are assessed on a regular but informal basis, with information being available to parents & carers online using a digital platform called 'Tapestry'. More information will be provided when you join us.

CARS, BIKES & SCOOTERS

Parents are asked to take extreme care when driving near the school at the beginning and end of the school day, with parking available on the neighbouring roads. Parents or carers with disabilities may write to the Governing Body to allow access to the staff car park, but must not assume automatic entry.

We have covered facilities for bikes and scooters to be stored in the main playground.

CATERING

We run our own team of catering staff in-house. We therefore have a lot of flexibility over the menu, and source products as locally as possible. We offer a hot meal for children in the nursery at £2.20 per day, or they can bring in their own packed lunch. If your child brings a packed lunch please ensure they use a labelled, rigid container and that only plastic bottles are used. Children having a packed lunch need to provide their own drink (non fizzy), and we request that food is nut free due to a number of children in school with allergies.

COMMUNICATION

Website

We have a very good website that is updated frequently. It contains details of all aspects of school life, with news on the home page being updated regularly.

www.parklandset.org.uk

Parents and carers find the 'dates' section extremely useful, as it is always up to date and will include events several months in advance to allow you to plan effectively. The preschool class follows the same term dates as the rest of the school.

Newsletters

These are sent out every fortnight via email. They contain essential information regarding the school including important dates, invitations to events and general information about what is happening in school. Copies of the Newsletter are also available in the main school reception area.

Helpers

We are very grateful to those who are able to offer assistance during the school day. If you feel you are able to help with any activities at school then please let the teacher know.

All helpers in school are referenced with DBS checks, so there can sometimes be a slight delay before you are able to start while we wait for checks to be completed.

The offer of having volunteers in school will depend on and national restrictions

CURRICULUM

The Foundation Stage curriculum is based on three prime and four specific areas of learning. The outdoor space is a key part of this, and children work outside throughout the year. Coats and wellies are important!

Technology is very much part of the curriculum, and different robots, computers and iPads are frequently used by children in Early Years.

DOGS

With the exception of Guide Dogs, dogs are not allowed on site. We occasionally have 'pet days' in school as part of the children's learning. On these occasions we of course allow a plethora of animals into school, but there will be specific rules around this therefore please check with your child's teacher.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Academy's Governing Body is responsible for carrying out regular checks. If you have any concerns about an issue relating to the safety of children, staff or visitors to our site you should report these to the school office without delay.

There are trained staff on site in relation to first aid, fire safety, medication and food hygiene in addition to a wide variety of H&S qualifications related to site and building management.

HOME LEARNING

You can do a lot at home to promote the learning skills needed throughout life. This is not an exhaustive list, but activities can include:

- Lots of talk- literally talk about everything you are doing, asking questions and encouraging discussion.
- Encourage your child to talk about their day in school, explaining what has been happening.
- Encourage an interest in books, having a variety of books accessible in your home and reading poems and stories.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together, even making up your own songs for everyday tasks such as brushing your teeth and tidying up.
- Teach them to put on and take off their coat or simple clothing.
- Please try to make your child as independent as possible in toileting and hand washing, although of course we appreciate accidents will happen on occasions.
- Encourage them to look after their toys and belongings, with routines for tidying up and putting things away.

INDUCTION

The children will all be invited in the term before they start to see the class and spend with their new friends. They will get to know the staff and basic routines.

LOST PROPERTY

Unfortunately lost property is a fact of school life. Many items have no name in them making it impossible for us to return them to the owner, and so we would encourage you to label absolutely everything!

PLACES ALLOCATION

We offer places on a 'first come, first served' basis currently for each block of admissions, with each family being offered at least 15 hours of free education where space allows. Many families are also entitled to 30 free hours, and information can be found on the website or through HMRC. Each year we also have a small amount of hours that parents can 'top up' for a small fee of £18 per half day on a first come, first served basis.

You can indicate whether additional hours would be required on the initial application form, or please contact the main office during the school year for information on available places. **We allocate the 15 or 30 hours of free childcare in half-weekly blocks, either Monday- Wednesday lunchtime, or Wednesday afternoon until Friday.**

POLICIES

The majority of our Policies can be found on our website, along with information specific to the Academy such as our accounts and funding agreements.

SAFETY & SECURITY

We take every care with the safety and welfare of the children in school. This can cause some inconvenience to adults visiting our site, however their welfare is our priority.

The access to the nursery class is through the door to the right of the main reception. All other doors are governed by an access system, with playground access locked during the school day. We have comprehensive CCTV throughout the preschool and building in order to enhance security.

SMOKING

We have a No Smoking policy, including e-cigarettes. Staff, parents, carers and visitors are requested not to smoke inside the buildings or within the grounds.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The school Nurse or a Health Visitor will monitor children with specific health needs. They can also be involved in special needs reviews or cases with Social Care.

Social Care can be helpful in supporting families with complex needs or if going through times of crisis. The Headteacher would usually make Social Care referrals from school, but would liaise with families in the first instance. However, referrals can be made by anyone with concerns over the welfare of a child- in North Somerset the agency to contact is on 01275 888 808.

UNIFORM

We are a non-uniform academy and allow children to wear their everyday clothes to school. We would suggest that they wear hard wearing but practical (named) clothing, as it will inevitably get a little messy!

VISITORS

All visitors to the school should report to the main office on arrival unless they have a specific appointment at the preschool. Should you need to collect your child during the day, please go directly to the office where they will be happy to help.