



St. Anne's School
ALDERNEY

Little Acorns Pre-School St Anne's School

Headteacher: Mrs Wendy Wilson

Little Acorns Manager: Samantha Gaudion



*"Play is the highest form of research."
- Albert Einstein*



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Introduction

Welcome to Little Acorns Pre-School at St Anne's School. Thank you for your interest in joining us.

We proudly opened our doors in September, 2019 and we have happily been working alongside Alderney families ever since!

Little Acorns pre-school is part of St. Anne's School and the wider Education Services provision provided by the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture.

Our ethos is to provide a happy, welcoming and enjoyable experience for your child to be able to develop and grow.

We aim to help your child to develop the skills needed to be able to progress as a friend and a learner. We value the importance of personal, social, independent, team and behaviour skills.

We will work alongside you to prepare your child for his/her future education.

*"A child can ask questions that a wise man cannot answer."
- Anonymous*

We look forward to working with your family.





Starting at Little Acorns

We are called 'Little Acorns', also known as 'pre-school' – the year before Reception.

We know that starting school can be a difficult time for you and your child. Joining St. Anne's at the age of 3 will certainly ease the transition. We will do everything possible to help make the settling in experience as relaxed and easy as possible.

During the first few days you are welcome to bring your child into school and stay for the first half hour if you wish. If however, you feel that you can leave your child, please feel free to do so. Seeing you react in a positive, confident and happy way will help your child to feel more relaxed.

We will introduce you and your child to their key worker. This will be the person who will be the main point of contact for you and your child. They will get to know your child very well, spend time with them and observe them, working to set next step targets and ensure that they are happy and progressing well.

All of our staff are there to share in your child's learning journey and will contribute to their learning and development.

We do know that some children may find it more difficult to separate from their parent or carer. We will do everything that we can to support them, and you, in this.

After this we would encourage you to stay with your child for the first 5 - 10 minutes of the session, whenever you can. This will allow you to help him/her with becoming independent in their routines of hanging up their coat and bag, adding their picture to the 'Who's here today?' register and beginning an activity. Please do not worry if you cannot stay with your child, staff will be on hand to take messages and look after your child.

We welcome you to drop off your child from 8.30am.

Pre-school sessions run from 9:00am (doors open from 8:30am)
until 12:00 midday (Monday-Friday)

OR

Should you wish for your child to stay for lunch, this can be arranged. Afternoon sessions run until 14:30 (Monday-Thursday), however pick up time is entirely up to you. Lunch and afternoon sessions run at an additional cost of £6.20 per hour.



Staffing

We have a team of experienced staff, working under the direction of the Headteacher, School Management Committee and Education Services.

- Pre-School Manager - Miss Samantha Gaudion
- EYFS Lead / EY Safeguarding L3 - Miss Charlotte Varley
- Reception Teacher - Miss Keely Mark
- Deputy Pre-School Manager / Reception LSA - Miss Hollie Phillips

Early Years Practitioners:

- Miss Samantha Gaudion
- Miss Abbie Chandler / Miss Ayelen Corral

Your child will have an allocated Key Worker who will spend time with your child, settling them into their new environment, getting to know them as a person and helping them to progress.

Ratios of one adult to eight children

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to ask us.



Clothing



'Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.'
- Fred Rogers

The daily activities in Little Acorns are play based. The children will be involved in messy, stimulating activities on a daily basis. We ask that the children are dressed in a T-shirt of your choice, a Trutex blue sweatshirt/cardigan (ones with the school logo are available from Claudia Gillingham at Sew Much Fun), sensible shoes and jogging bottoms or leggings. Other clothing, such as coats, may get dirty and so we ask you to be mindful of not sending your child in anything that you would not mind getting a little messy.

It is important that the children are comfortable and able to dress themselves as soon as they are able, in order to be able to develop independence in toileting and changing.

In the winter months, we do ask that each child has a pair of wellingtons that they can keep in class. They may use these daily.

Coats must be waterproof, warm and have a hood.

During the summer, all children will need to bring a hat to protect them from the sun.

Every child should have a change of clothes to be kept on their coat peg, in case of accidents.

All clothing and belongings that are sent into school must be named to ensure that they can be returned to the correct child.



Birthdays



Birthdays are special days!

When it is your child's birthday, they are invited to come to school dressed in their own clothes. If your child's birthday falls on a weekend, or during a holiday, they can pick a day when they can wear their own clothes. We will make a play dough cake and sing to the special person.

WOW

'Wow moments' from home with family and friends...



You are invited to share your 'WOW' moments with us here in school... simply fill in your 'wow moment' star and we will feature it on our 'wow moment' wall.

Every step is a precious moment and we are happy to celebrate with you.



Snack



Children will be provided with a free healthy snack during our morning sessions.

Our snack menu runs on a 6 week rotation and has been carefully selected in line with our 'healthy schools' policy. You will be provided with a copy of our snack menu for your reference.

Please inform your child's key worker of any dietary requirements or allergies.

Drinks



Fresh water will be available for the children throughout the day. We will provide your child with their own 'St Anne's School' bottle. They will also be offered a drink of milk at morning snack time.

School Bags



Your child will also be provided with a school bag for carrying things back and forth to home and school. E.g. school letters, paintings, drawings etc.



Illness and Holidays

Illness

If your child is ill, please contact the school office before 8.45am. If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please leave a message and we will contact you as soon as possible. If we have not received a telephone call, we will attempt to contact you by telephone. This is in line with school policy.

Tel: [01481 822173](tel:01481822173)

Holidays

Although it is not a legal requirement to attend pre-school, we do know that consistency is important to children and we ask that, wherever possible, holidays are taken during school.

Holidays.

Please notify us if your child is going to be absent from school for any reason.

Pick up.

If somebody different is going to pick your child up, please inform us beforehand in writing or by telephone.



The EYFS Curriculum



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework published in 2017 by the Department for Education that sets the standards for the development, learning and care of children from birth to five.

It is made up of the three prime areas of learning:

- ★ Communication and language
- ★ Physical development
- ★ Personal, social and emotional development

And four specific areas of learning:

- ★ Literacy
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Understanding the world
- ★ Expressive arts and design

The curriculum also looks at how the children learn with the Characteristics of Learning:

- ★ Playing and exploring
- ★ Active learning
- ★ Creating and thinking critically

These areas are broken down into small steps in the document 'Development Matters', which provides us with guidance as to the milestones that we can help your child to achieve. It forms the basis for our planning, the learning activities we create and the assessments we make.

The activities we undertake will vary from session to session. The children will be able to work and play inside and outside in nearly all weathers. All of the learning which takes place will do so in the form of play experiences.

The classroom will be organised into different areas so that your child can access equipment and activities when they want to. They will be challenged through the use of questioning, investigative activities and varying learning experiences.



Letters and Numbers



We feel strongly in the importance of understanding before doing. This is why we ask that you do not teach your children to write letters and numerals until they are ready.

In school, we will work alongside you to teach the children about sounds using the early phonics 'Super sounds' programme. We will learn about numbers, through everyday routines, songs and games. When your child is ready, we will talk to you about the letter and numeral formations that we use. This will prepare them for their future learning.



Learning Journeys



Throughout your child's time with us we will keep a record of how their learning progresses.

This will be recorded using a secure, web-based package. It will be a collection of photographs, observations by staff, comments from you and statements made by your child.

There will also be a folder of work produced by your child which will be kept in school and displays showing our pictures and interests.

This information will all be used to track how well your child is doing and is strictly confidential and must not be shared with others.





Parental Involvement

Online Learning Journey

Please enjoy looking at your child's learning journey as this will help to inform you of your child's experiences and progress.

Reading

The most important thing that you can do with your child is to read to them and talk to them. We have the opportunity to visit the school library each week to choose books for you to share at home. Please use them, as well as the books you have at home, to spend time talking to your child about colours, animals, behaviour, family, seasons and anything else that may arise. This will help to build their love of reading and learning as well as their vocabulary and understanding.

Current Interests

This provides parents, children and staff an opportunity to share in the future planning of learning. Feel free to add to this so that we can try to incorporate them.

Parent's Meetings

You will be invited to a 1:1 meeting with your child's key worker at the start of the Autumn term to discuss your child's needs and interests. A meeting can also be held at the end of the school year to discuss your child's transition report before they move into Reception.

Any other discussions will usually be held informally at drop off or pick up.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team at any other point, please make an appointment to meet at the end of a session.

Appointments can be made with us directly or via the school office.

Parent's Events

We will carry out a variety of interactive parent events throughout the school year where you will be invited to join us in school to see what we get up to and learn about during our time here.



Health, Behaviour and Learning Needs

Your child and their needs are as important to us as they are to you. It is important for us to be aware of anything which could impact on your child.

If you notice anything that concerns you about your child, please share it with us.

We may be able to help you to resolve or explain it. If we have any concerns, we will talk to you as soon as we can.

In some cases, we may suggest that you visit your GP, we may contact the health visitor, or we may ask for help from someone else, via our Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator, Ms Smith.

Please be advised that we are an Operation Encompass setting, see the school website for more information.

Sun Screen

In line with Education Services policy we ask that you apply factor 50+, long lasting, sunscreen before your child attends a session or we can apply school's sunscreen on a potentially warm day. A letter will be sent to read and sign at the appropriate time.

Medication

If your child needs medication during the day, please take it into the school office, you will be asked to complete a medication form.

Allergies

Please ensure that we are made aware of any allergies your child may have.



Transition Opportunities

Your child is in a unique position where they can be involved in the school right from the start of their education, taking part in school events and experiences.

Your child will have lots of opportunities to spend time exploring the main school and working in the Reception areas. We will regularly spend time using the library, outdoor areas, the Reception classroom & outdoor area as well as "The Paddock" and "The Secret Garden".

Using these areas will allow your child to become familiar with the school building and its learning environments before they begin their full-time school experience.

Your child will also have the opportunity to spend time with the Reception staff and children, taking part in fun and engaging activities.

Your child will gain an invaluable insight into the life of the school, which will help them to prepare for beginning their school journey.

Thank you for reading. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have to a member of our team. We hope to work with you and your child soon.