



Tenterden Pre-School Prospectus

'Together, we learn, grow and flourish'



Tenterden Infant School
Recreation Ground Rd
Tenterden
Kent
TN30 6RA

01580 762086

We are delighted to welcome you to our Pre-School, where children embark on a journey of discovery, growth, and joy. Surrounded by nature and supported by a nurturing, caring team of staff, our school provides a safe and inspiring environment where every child can learn, grow, and flourish.

Our vision, “Learn, Grow, and Flourish,” is at the heart of everything we do. Through our inclusive approach and creative curriculum, we celebrate each child’s unique strengths and provide opportunities for them to actively participate in their learning.

Whether exploring the outdoors, engaging in imaginative play, or building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, our pupils develop the confidence, curiosity, and resilience to thrive.

Our Aims:

As a nurturing, community-based pre-school we will ensure that we;

- ❖ deliver all aspects of the statutory EYFS curriculum, including learning, development and welfare standards that promote children’s progress and well-being.
- ❖ deliver inclusive practice that meets the needs of all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), ensuring every child has equal opportunities to participate and thrive.
- ❖ work collaboratively with families to support learning and development.
- ❖ create a nurturing atmosphere where children feel safe, valued and confident to explore, play and learn. Staff should build warm, responsive relationships that support emotional and social development.
- ❖ provide early years provision that meets the needs of local families
- ❖ instil curiosity, resilience, creativity and a positive attitude towards learning that children will carry into later education and life.

Starting Pre-school

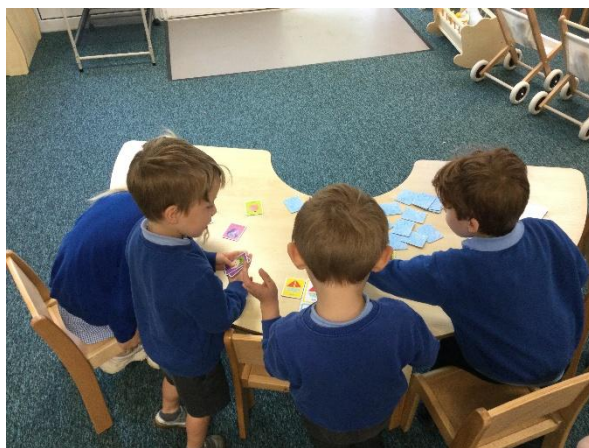
We are delighted you have chosen us for your child’s early education. Supporting children in their **early days at pre-school** means helping them feel safe, valued and confident as they begin this important new stage. At Tenterden Pre-School we welcome each child warmly, build trusting relationships through consistent, responsive interactions, and introduce them gently to familiar routines and spaces so they feel secure in their new environment.

At Tenterden Pre-School we use a key person system, where one adult takes particular responsibility for getting to know a child’s likes, needs and interests, helping your child feel emotionally supported and understood. The key worker will also be your first point of contact. However, please feel confident that as a small team, all children will be well known by all adults and information will be shared with all.

Before your child begins their journey with us, we will invite you and your child to visit the pre-school and explore the environment along with them.

The Curriculum

At Tenterden Pre-School we follow a structured and progressive curriculum, designed to meet the needs of our children and to ensure their all-round development. We believe in partnership between home and school. Children play and learn in our carefully-created, stimulating environment through a mixture of child-initiated and teacher led activities. In this way they are able to develop their skills, knowledge and vocabulary.



In our Pre-School we align to the Froebelian principles and consider these in all that we plan and do. These include;

- **The Central Importance of Play:** Play is not just entertainment; it is the primary way children integrate feelings, ideas, and experiences to make sense of the world.
- **Unity and Connectedness:** Learning should not be compartmentalized. Everything in the universe—and within the child's development—is fundamentally interrelated.
- **Autonomous Learners:** Each child is unique and capable. Education starts with what a child can do, allowing them to think for themselves and make autonomous choices with gentle guidance.
- **Engaging with Nature:** Direct, hands-on experience in the natural environment is essential for understanding the interrelationship of all living things.
- **Value of Childhood:** Childhood is a vital stage of life in its own right, not merely a preparatory phase for adulthood or formal schooling.
- **Creativity and Symbolism:** Children should be encouraged to express their inner thoughts and represent their ideas in their own unique ways through art, music, drama, and open-ended objects.
- **Knowledgeable, Nurturing Educators:** Teachers should act as empathetic observers and guides rather than dictators of knowledge, fostering a strong, supportive community and trusting relationships with both children and parents.

Communication and language development is a key aspect of pre-school life. Our staff are skilled at identifying and working with children's individual needs and through quality interactions with children at the appropriate moment, are able to extend and move their learning on.

Children are taught through the seven areas of learning which are outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. These continue as your child enters Reception. Three of these are of particular importance to young children and are called the 'prime areas'. These are Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development.

The four specific areas of learning are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Children need to be secure and confident within the prime areas in order to learn and progress in the specific areas.

Our curriculum also focuses on the ways in which young children engage with other people by playing and exploring. This is through your child engaging in active learning and by creating and thinking critically. These skills underpin learning and development across all areas and support children to become effective, engaged, inquisitive and motivated learners.

Progress of every child is monitored daily through adult interactions and observations and is assessed at key points in the year against our curriculum milestones.

Areas of experience and learning

Personal, Social & Emotional Development – Children are taught in a structured, disciplined environment that encourages sharing, politeness, good manners, an understanding of right and wrong, an awareness of other cultures and religions, the need for hygiene, how to work and play with others, independence, good communication skills and the ability to use their initiative.



Communication and Language – Children learn to listen attentively, enjoy and share stories, talk and listen to adults and each other; develop and understand new vocabulary; recall songs and rhymes in a stimulating language rich environment.

Physical Development – Children develop both gross and fine motor skills, body awareness, self-confidence and an understanding of how to play safely. They develop awareness of good personal hygiene routines and are introduced to the importance of exercise and a healthy diet.

Literacy – Children develop early reading and writing skills through an interest in stories, books and rhymes and begin to represent spoken language in written form by mark making and writing their name etc. Phonics is taught in a very structured and progressive way (through Little Wandle Phase One) in order to ensure children have the necessary skills when they move into Reception.

Mathematics – Children are introduced to early mathematical concepts such as weight, number, colour, sorting, shape, quantity, money, etc.... all in interesting and practical play situations. It is crucial that children understand number from an early age and our structured maths sessions support this.



Understanding the World – Children develop a basic understanding of features and aspects of the world in which they live and are encouraged to develop an enquiring mind and a thirst for knowledge. They are taught about seasons and their changes, the natural environment around them, how to take care of living things and are supported to talk about the past.

Expressive Arts and Design – Children are encouraged to express themselves both visually, through paint and crayons etc. and through their imagination during role play, drama activities, singing and dancing.



As a pre-school school, all of our teaching is directed at enabling your child to develop and progress on an individual basis. On leaving pre-school all children will be working towards achieving the Early Learning goals, outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework. Our careful planning is directed to helping your child to develop independence and self-confidence in their own ability, be interested in the world around them, be eager to learn and able to communicate their feelings and ideas. They

will have gained so much from the wide experiences and learning opportunities offered to them. Your encouragement, comments and interaction concerning any aspects of the education we provide, are welcomed and valued.

We view our outdoor play area as a classroom, one without walls and a roof! The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework recognises the importance of outdoor activities and play in children's learning – for some children, being outside is their preferred learning environment and where they will learn the most. Playing outdoors supports physical health and wellbeing.

Our position allows your child to have access to the school facilities including the hall, playgrounds, fields, woodland area, computers, library and have shared time with the Reception class. This makes moving into Reception a natural and smooth transition.



Activities available include;

Creative & Expressive Activities

- Painting, drawing and colouring stations to explore colour and expression.
- Arts and crafts using varied materials (paper, recycled items, fabrics).
- Music and movement sessions with songs, instruments and dance.
- Puppet shows and storytelling corners to encourage imagination and language.

Communication & Language

- Story reading, poems and group discussion times.
- Role-play areas (shops, homes, cafés) to practise speaking and social interaction.
- Rhymes, action songs and listening games.

Cognitive & Problem-Solving Activities

- Sorting, matching and simple counting games (by colour, shape or size).
- Construction and design stations with blocks and recycled materials.
- Fun puzzles and pattern activities.



Outdoor & Physical Play

- Nature walks, scavenger hunts and outdoor exploration.
- Ball games, balancing exercises and gross motor play to strengthen bodies
- Gardening and planting activities.

Sensory & Motor Skill Activities

- Sensory play with sand, water or textured materials.
- Playdough, clay or tactile modelling activities.
- Fine motor tasks like threading beads, cutting with safety scissors or manipulating small objects.



Social & Emotional Play



- Group games promoting co-operation, listening and turn-taking.
- Role-play scenarios supporting empathy and understanding emotions.

These activities not only make learning enjoyable but also support children's development across the curriculum.

Pre-School Timings

The Pre-School will be open Monday to Friday during school term time. Morning sessions will run from 8:50am to 11:50am, afternoon sessions will run from 12:00pm-3:00pm. A whole day session will be 8:50am- 3:00pm.

Fees

Universal Free Early Education is available for all children in the terms following their third birthday to a maximum of 15 hours per week, 38 weeks per year. Parents/carers will be invoiced for the extra hours not covered by the free hours. If you are a working parent you may be entitled up to 30 hours per week.

The Early Years Pupil Premium is also available to 3 and 4 year olds who meet the criteria.

Entitlement to a Free Early Years Education place does not offer a guarantee of a place at any one provider or a particular pattern of delivery.

If you wish to withdraw your child from pre-school, payment is still required in full for that term. Payment is also required for a child's absence due to sickness or holidays. Action to reclaim non-payment of fees will be pursued when necessary. Notice periods are not applicable to free early education.

To check what funding your child is eligible for, please have a look at [https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/help-with-childcare-costs#:~:text=Do%20you%20have%20a%20child,4%20year%20olds%20\(30%20hours\)](https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/childcare-and-pre-school/help-with-childcare-costs#:~:text=Do%20you%20have%20a%20child,4%20year%20olds%20(30%20hours))

Space permitting, there may be an option to pay for additional sessions for your child outside of your funding entitlement. These sessions would be charged at a rate of £26 per 3 hour session. Part sessions are not permitted.

The funding we receive covers the basic cost of educating your child. It does not include;

- meals
- consumables such as nappies, pull-ups, wipes or suncream
- additional hours
- additional activities, such as trips

With this in mind and knowing the impact of charges on families, we clearly outline any additional charges and what alternatives are available, such as supplying your own items, or waiving or reducing the cost of these items. Please see our Fees and Funding Structure. This also includes information about late collection and late payment of invoices. This is in line with the DfE 2025.

Drinks, Lunch and Snacks

All children will be provided with fresh water throughout the day. They can either bring a named water bottle to fill at school or they can be provided with a cup.

Children will be provided with a light snack, morning and afternoon, consisting of fruit, breadsticks or crackers. £5 per term a term is kindly requested per child to cover these costs or you can provide your own daily.

Children who are with us for a full day or attending afternoon sessions will either need to bring a packed lunch or you can order a paid school meal at the cost of £2.60 per day. If your child is with us all day and you qualify for FSM then a meal will be provided without a charge.

Lunchtime is seen as a sociable time to engage in conversation, often recapping what we have done during the morning, chatting about families, promoting healthy eating and acceptable table manners. Children are supervised during all snack and meals inline with the EYFS Safer Eating guidance (2025).

Behaviour- Golden Rules

In the Pre-School we follow our Golden Rules:

GOLDEN RULES

WE ARE GENTLE
We don't hurt others



WE ARE KIND AND HELPFUL
We won't hurt anybody's feelings



WE LISTEN
We don't interrupt



WE ARE HONEST
We don't cover up the truth



WE WORK HARD
We don't waste our own or others' time



WE LOOK AFTER PROPERTY
We don't waste or damage things





Staffing

Our pre-school is overseen and managed by, Rachel Peachey (Deputy Head) who is a qualified teacher with significant experience in Early Years. The pre-school is staffed by qualified teachers who are supported by a Level 5 and a Level 2 practitioner. All staff on induction are given a copy of the group policies, these are revisited frequently at staff meetings to ensure all staff become involved in changes due to legislation and the group's reflective practice. All staff are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS). Paediatric first aid certificate and further staff training is undertaken as part of Tenterden Infant School CPD Calendar.

The Role of Parents

We recognise that parents know their child best and are the first most important educators of their young children. We welcome parents to regular events and meetings to discuss their child's progress to ensure they can develop their full potential. We value the parent/carer input in their child's 'Early Years Journey' and we will support parents to work with outside agencies when needed.

Attendance

For children to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly. Every child should be at school, on time, every day the school is open unless they have an unavoidable reason to be absent. Children that attend regularly usually develop strong attachments with adults and peers which helps them feel safe and secure, and usually make the greatest progress in all areas of learning.

If your child is unable to attend pre-school, please contact the school office on 01580 762086 before 9am on the day of absence.

If you need to speak to a member of staff, then please feel free to do so either before or after the pre-school session. Or if you prefer, telephone or send a message via dojo.

Health

On enrolment at Tenterden Pre-School you will be asked to complete a Health Care Plan advising staff of any health problems affecting your child, all information will be held in confidence.

You must also let us know of any infectious illnesses, which may affect other children and staff.

In the event of diarrhoea and/or sickness please allow **48 clear hours** before your child returns to pre-school as advised by the local health authority.

Uniform

Tenterden Pre-School encourages pupils to wear our pre-school logo uniform of a t-shirt and sweatshirt/cardigan when attending along with their own practical clothing e.g. leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

Aims and objectives

Our policy for school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform:

- fosters a sense of community and belonging amongst our pupils
- has been selected for comfort and suitability during various school day activities
- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- prepares children for transition to primary school
- creates peer equality in terms of appearance
- is designed with health and safety in mind

Our Uniform is:

- A sweatshirt with the Tenterden Pre-School logo (optional)
- A Tenterden Pre-School polo shirt (optional)
- Own tracksuit bottoms, leggings, shorts, skirt or dress
- Trainers or school shoes.
- A pair of slippers/ soft shoes for indoors.
- A pair of wellies to be kept in school
- A set of outdoor clothing e.g. a puddle suit



Our logoed items can be ordered online through our uniform provider myclothing.com. Please collect a leaflet from the school office.

We are always grateful for any donations of good-quality second-hand uniform that families have finished with – please hand in to your child's teacher or take them to the school office.

Jewellery On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exception to this rule is one set of ear-ring studs in pierced ears.

Spare Clothing and Consumables:

Each child will need a named bag that can be kept in school containing a complete spare change of clothes, toilet wipes and spare underwear and pull-ups if needed. We will encourage children to be as independent as they are able when changing but adults are there to support when needed.

All children in pre-school will be expected to wear pull-ups or underwear so that they can be changed standing up. If this is not possible for your child, please do speak to us in advance of them starting.

When required, sun cream should be applied at home before your child attends. If this has not been done and sun cream is required then we will apply this. Where this is the case a charge of £10 will be added to your account and a bottle will be kept in school with your child's name for future use.

Outdoor clothing Our weather cannot be relied upon even in the summer, please make sure your child has a jumper and a warm coat with them.

We ask that all children have a wet weather suit and a pair of named wellies that they can keep in school.

Indoor Shoes To keep our indoor learning environment as clean and free from mud as possible, we ask that all children have a pair of indoor shoes e.g. slippers with a rubber sole that can be kept in school.

Labelling Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps us to locate any missing clothing quickly.

Management

Tenterden Pre-School is managed by Tenterden Infant School which is federated with Tenterden Church of England Junior School. The pre-school is inspected by the registering body, Ofsted, as part of the Infant School inspection.

Our Executive Headteacher is Mrs. T McIntosh.

If you have any questions or concerns then please do get in touch. Our school website, <https://www.tenterdenprimaryfederation.kent.sch.uk/> contains a range of useful information including all school and Trust policies.

If you need any further information or would like your child to attend Tenterden Pre-school please do get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you.