



Lancing Prep Worthing

A Lancing College Preparatory School

Welcome

Explorers' Corner Nursery and Pre-School

Welcome..

to Explorers' Corner Nursery and Pre-School.

At Lancing Prep Worthing, our Early Years provision is outstanding. We have recently been awarded a certificate of achievement from the Pearson National Teaching Awards for 'Early Years Team of the Year' and last year were awarded 'Bronze' in the same category.

We provide children with a variety of opportunities to help prepare them for school life, so that when they move into their older years, school is something they are already familiar with. For example, our youngest children travel up to Lancing College for swimming lessons, they are taught music lessons by the Director of Music and they enjoy PE lessons with a qualified PE teacher. These enriching opportunities offer a unique chance to integrate our smallest pupils within the main school and help open their eyes to new experiences.

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Choosing the right start for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and at Explorers' Corner we offer something truly exceptional. With an award-winning team, outstanding opportunities and a deeply nurturing environment, we inspire confidence, curiosity and independence from the very beginning, ensuring every child is not only ready for school, but excited to thrive within it.



Francesca Milling
Head

Our Aims

At Explorers' Corner we are committed to play-based, active learning and ensure all areas of learning receive a balance of adult-supported and child-initiated activities. We recognise that children are individuals who bring their own needs, talents and histories to our learning environment.



As part of the main school community, we embrace and promote the same core aims and values:

Love Learning

Be Kind

Go Out into the World and Do Good

At Explorers' Corner, these values are woven into everyday experiences and interactions. We encourage children to develop a curiosity about the world around them and a lifelong love of learning through play, exploration and discovery. We ensure children learn the importance of kindness by fostering positive relationships, sharing, cooperation and respect for others.

Through nurturing confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility, we support children in understanding how their actions can have a positive impact on those around them. By laying these foundations in the early years, we help our children grow into caring, capable individuals who are ready to contribute positively to their school, their community and the wider world.



ISI

Our recent ISI inspection acknowledged the high standards of care and education provided within the Nursery and Pre-School and supporting children to make excellent progress in their learning and development.

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In the early years, leaders ensure that children develop in all the required areas of learning through well-planned activities. They use the information gathered to devise a curriculum which takes into account children's interests as well as their needs. Children explore, investigate, and develop communication and language skills as they play and learn in stimulating environments. ISI Inspection, 2025

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Pupils of all abilities, including those in the EYFS, make excellent progress. ISI Inspection, June 2022.



Learning Power Characters

At Explorers' Corner, Early Years staff provide a stimulating, nurturing environment where each child's needs are catered for through our activity-based curriculum.

The ways in which a child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and enable the child to become an effective and motivated learner.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and Teaching are communicated to the children through use of the LPW Learning Powers: **Relating Red Fox**, **Resilient Ruler**, **Reflective Robot** and **Resourceful Ranger**.

Each of these characters has powers related to the Characteristics of Learning and Teaching. Children are introduced to these characters through stories and images. The Learning Power characters are used as prompts to remind children of the skills they need to use to enhance their ability to learn.

Within the Nursery, we initially focus on 'Relating Red Fox', which is, in turn, linked to the Prime Areas of Learning, particularly Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED).



Exploration

As part of Explorers' Corner, our personal and bespoke Explore Curriculum has been designed specifically with our children and families in mind. This approach places curiosity, creativity and purposeful learning at its heart, providing rich, meaningful experiences that inspire children and nurture a lifelong love of learning from the very beginning of their educational journey.

Being young explorers and independently discovering the world is vital for young children because it fuels their curiosity, strengthens their confidence and lays the foundation for lifelong learning.

When children are encouraged to explore—whether through sensory play, outdoor discovery or imaginative activities—they develop essential skills such as problem solving, communication and emotional resilience. Exploration also supports brain development by allowing children to make connections between ideas, test their own theories and understand the world through hands-on experience. Most importantly, it nurtures a sense of independence and joy in learning, helping them grow into capable, inquisitive thinkers who feel empowered to engage with new challenges.

Outdoor learning enables the children to learn, explore and thrive in our beautiful natural setting. Through regular outdoor sessions, children in Nursery, Pre-School,

Reception and Years 1 and 2 follow their natural curiosity as they build dens, discover wildlife, take managed risks and grow in confidence.

Our programme is thoughtfully designed to nurture our school's Learning Powers. Children develop resilience as they persevere through challenges, resourcefulness as they solve problems creatively using the natural environment, relating as they collaborate and communicate with others, and reflecting as they think carefully about their experiences and learning.

Our approach is committed to sustainability and care for our planet. By engaging closely with the natural world, children build a deep respect for the environment, learning how to protect and nurture it for the future. Our outdoor space becomes a living classroom where curiosity is encouraged, wellbeing is supported and meaningful connections with nature are formed.

This balanced and enriching approach develops independence, creativity and a lifelong love of the outdoors, empowering children to become confident learners and responsible global citizens.

Opening Times

The Nursery and Pre-School day runs from 8:30am to 3:30pm. There is the option of Wraparound care before and after school, from 8am until 6pm. Wraparound care is provided by the Nursery staff within the Nursery and Pre-School environment and Holiday Club (outside of school term time).

It is the Nursery and Pre-School ethos to give a warm welcome to each child, parent and carer on their arrival.

Nursery & Pre-School Sessions:

Morning Session (08:30 to 13:00)- inc. snacks and lunch

Full day Session (08:30 to 15:30)- inc. snacks and lunch

Lunch is provided by our in-house Chef, wherever possible from fresh ingredients that are locally sourced. Parents receive a menu for the week ahead so they can see what their child will be eating each day. Our catering team makes every effort to avoid using products that contain nuts or nut oils within their ingredients and vegan and vegetarian options are catered for.

A child transitions from Nursery to Pre-School from the term after their third birthday.





Staff

Lancing Prep Worthing have a fantastic group of hard-working and inspiring staff who are dedicated, highly trained and professional. There is something very special about our small, friendly school, that keeps these wonderful teachers staying year after year.

The Nursery and Pre-School team consists of:

Emma Street, Head of Nursery and Pre-School (BA Hons Early Childhood Studies, EYTS, DSL trained)

Hannah Jenkins, Deputy Nursery Manager (BA Hons Music, CACHE Cert Level 3)

Rebecca van Zanten, Early Years Practitioner (CACHE Cert Level 3)

We work closely with the Reception team and Head of Pre-Prep:

Emma Mashford, Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Pre-Prep (BSc Hons, PGCE MA Ed)

Victoria Warner, EYFS Co-ordinator and Reception Class Teacher (BA Hons, PGCE)

Jenny Townsend, Reception Teaching Assistant (BA Hons)

Within the first few weeks of starting Nursery and Pre-School, your child is allocated a Key Person; we allow time for the children to get to know us so we can make a better match based on interests and personalities.

Your child's Key Person will ensure a smooth introduction to our daily routines, lead on recording development, liaise with parents, and spend time with your child to record in-depth observations and help nurture emerging interests. They will set you up on our observation platform 'Tapestry'. **You can arrange a meeting with your child's Key Person at any time.**



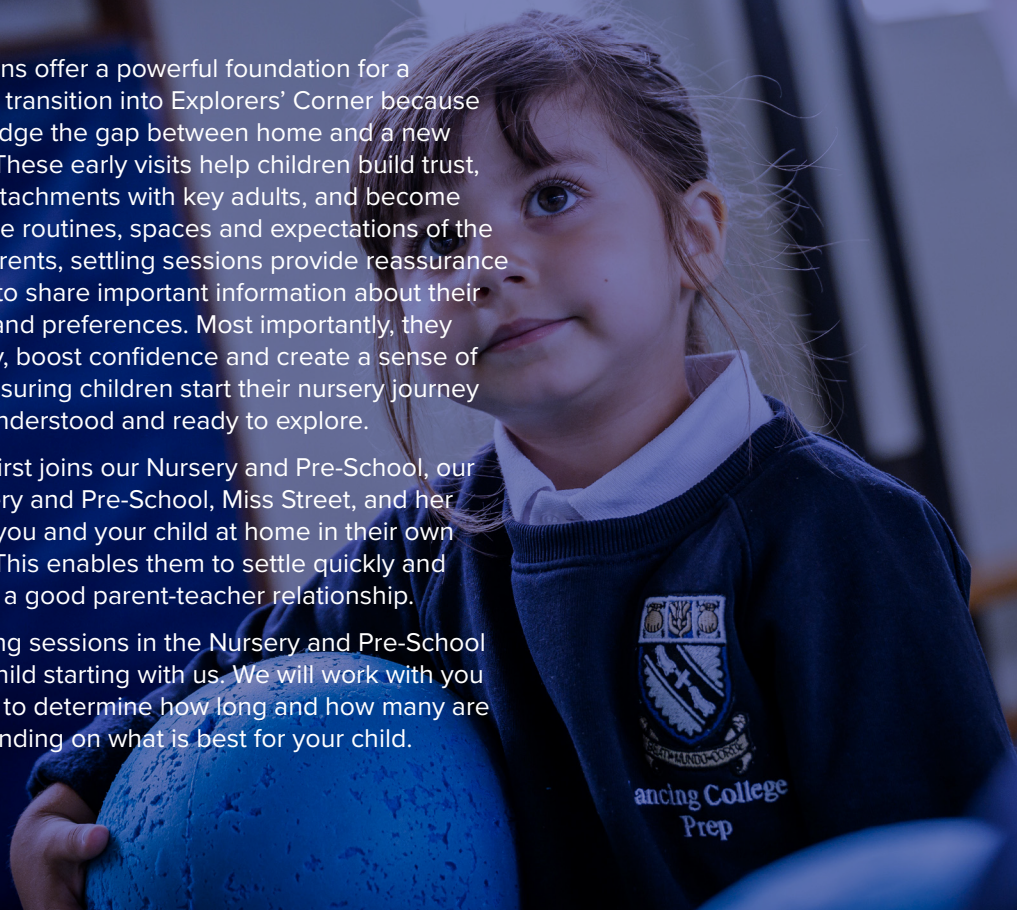
Left to Right: Ms Emma Mashford, Deputy Head (Academic) and Head of Pre-Prep, **Miss Victoria Warner**, EYFS Co-ordinator and Reception Class Teacher and **Miss Emma Street**, Head of Nursery and Pre-School

Settling-In Sessions

Settling sessions offer a powerful foundation for a child's smooth transition into Explorers' Corner because they gently bridge the gap between home and a new environment. These early visits help children build trust, form secure attachments with key adults, and become familiar with the routines, spaces and expectations of the setting. For parents, settling sessions provide reassurance and a chance to share important information about their child's needs and preferences. Most importantly, they reduce anxiety, boost confidence and create a sense of belonging - ensuring children start their nursery journey feeling safe, understood and ready to explore.

When a child first joins our Nursery and Pre-School, our Head of Nursery and Pre-School, Miss Street, and her team will visit you and your child at home in their own environment. This enables them to settle quickly and helps develop a good parent-teacher relationship.

We offer settling sessions in the Nursery and Pre-School prior to your child starting with us. We will work with you and your child to determine how long and how many are required depending on what is best for your child.



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Explorers' Corner Nursery and Pre-School offers a stimulating and enriching environment for all children, providing them with the best learning opportunities and experience to help each child reach their full potential.

We recognise that children develop at different rates and learn in different ways, and it is therefore vitally important for us to provide individualised care and learning opportunities to all children, especially in these formative years. Staff prepare structured and stimulating days, using the learning through play approach. Taking into consideration children's age, abilities and interests, we organise engaging activities presenting opportunities to learn and develop.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which sets the standards for children's development from birth to 5 years old. There are seven areas of learning and development within the EYFS.

Whilst all are important and interconnected, the framework splits learning into three 'Prime Areas' and four 'Specific Areas'. The Prime Areas are fundamental to igniting a child's curiosity and building their capacity to learn, whilst the Specific Areas strengthen and apply

the Prime Areas. Together, these seven areas form the foundation for learning in later life.

The Prime Areas of Learning are:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

The Specific Areas of Learning are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children learn through a wide and varied range of play activities. We firmly believe that learning should be absorbing, challenging and plenty of fun.

Children have specialist teaching and extra-curricular sessions such as PE, Music, Science, Art, Italian and Swimming. As part of our EYFS curriculum, we may take children on planned outings. We ensure all outings are beneficial to the children, enhancing their learning experiences whilst keeping in mind their safety and wellbeing. To enhance children's understanding of the world around them, we welcome visitors from the local community, such as firefighters, dental hygienists and doctors. Children also enjoy trips to the local library, local shops for baking ingredients and visits to Lancing College Farm. We also encourage parents or other relatives to come to read stories or to tell the children about their religious festivals.

Many of the activities we cover are based around themes generated by the children. These may include themes such as Ourselves, Our School, Festivals and Celebrations, Space, Pirates, Animals, Traditional Stories or Journeys. These themes are not exclusive and will change according to the children's interest.

PE

Weekly PE sessions with our PE staff give young children the chance to build confidence, coordination and a love of movement through fun, play-based physical activities. Our PE sessions take place in the school gym or on the school field, which provides children with plenty of open space to move freely, practise new skills and enjoy being active in a stimulating environment. These sessions help develop

essential gross motor skills such as balancing, jumping, running and spatial awareness, all while encouraging teamwork and turn taking.

Music

Children in Nursery and Pre-School have weekly music lessons with our Director of Music. They use percussion instruments, learn songs and clap rhythms. They prepare songs for performances at the Harvest Festival, Christmas sing-along and assemblies to which parents are invited. They also learn many songs within the classroom, including well-known nursery rhymes.

The lessons aim to:

- Develop musical memory and accurate pitching through listening and singing. Explore the singing voice and different kinds of voice production
- Sing in a class, in a group and as an individual
- Develop a sense of pulse. Learn simple musical terms including tempo, sound, silence and rhythm
- Develop listening skills. Explore and experience concepts of musical opposites: loud, soft, high, low, fast, slow, sound, silence
- Develop confidence and self-esteem. Children will also explore the musical topics related to their cross-curricular topics.

Science

Children have regular STEM sessions with our Head of Science. STEM sessions in Nursery and Pre-School give children the chance to explore early Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through hands-on, playful activities that spark curiosity and problem solving. These sessions encourage children to experiment, ask questions, build, test ideas and work together—developing early critical thinking skills in a way that feels natural and fun. By exploring concepts like cause and effect, patterns, construction and simple investigations, children gain confidence, creativity and a strong foundation for future learning.

Art

Although children have access to creative sessions as part of their Nursery and Pre-School day, focused Art sessions with our Head of Art and DT give children the freedom to explore colour, texture and creativity in ways that build confidence and self-expression. Through painting, drawing, printing and experimenting with different materials, children develop fine motor skills and early mark-making abilities. Art and Design offers children a calm, joyful space to create and communicate in their own unique way.

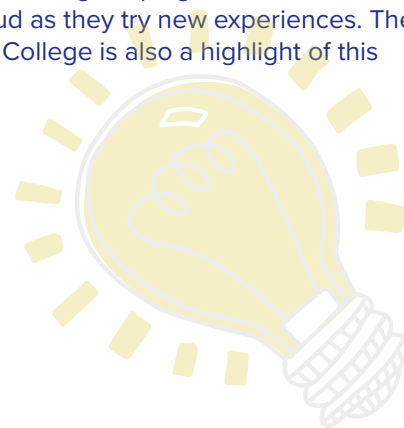
Italian

Children in Nursery and Pre-School have weekly Italian sessions with our Head, Mrs Milling. These Italian sessions

introduce children to a new language in a playful, engaging way, helping them develop early communication skills and an awareness of different cultures. Through songs, simple phrases and games, children build listening skills and memory while having fun. Exposure to another language at a young age also supports cognitive development, strengthens curiosity about the wider world, and gives children a positive attitude towards language learning as they grow.

Swimming

We take Pre-School children swimming to Lancing College. Swimming sessions give children a wonderful opportunity to build confidence, coordination and water safety awareness. Through playful activities like splashing, kicking and moving through the water, children strengthen their gross motor skills, develop balance and learn to follow simple instructions. Swimming also supports emotional wellbeing, helping children feel brave, independent and proud as they try new experiences. The bus journey up to the College is also a highlight of this session too!



Outdoor Learning

Our outdoor learning curriculum is a child-centred inspirational learning process. It supports play, exploration and risktaking and develops confidence and self-esteem through learner-inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting. Children enjoy focused outdoor learning sessions whatever the weather: learning about fire safety, building shelters and dens, going on mini-beast hunts and building mini-beast hotels, constructing with sticks and logs, and creative activities such as bark rubbing and working with clay.

Explore Theme Days

Our Explorers' curriculum comes to life with termly themed days, giving children the chance to immerse themselves into exciting, imaginative experiences, whether they're hunting for treasure, building rockets or discovering animals and their habitats, the Explorer days are endless. These special Explorer days spark curiosity, boost confidence and encourage creative play as children dress up, explore themed activities and learn through hands-on experiences. Explorer days encourage children to try new activities, work together, and make meaningful connections between play and the wider world. These days also create joyful shared memories for children, staff and families alike.



Communication with Parents

In our Nursery and Pre-School, we assess children by actively participating in their activities. The adults' role is to encourage the children's learning, ask questions, demonstrate skills, spark their interests and promote a 'can do' attitude. We observe the children as they play and engage in their daily routines. Our observations help us to tailor our teaching methods and provide your child with learning opportunities that cater to their unique interests, strengths and developmental needs. Tapestry is the online journal we use to record each child's learning. We will regularly add photos, videos and observation notes that reflect the steps your child takes in their learning, weaving a picture of your child's learning and development through their early years. Families are provided with termly reports which share a child's progress, highlighting key achievements and next steps to support strong communication between home and Nursery or Pre-School.

As part of our partnership with parents, we would like to encourage you to upload your own photos, videos and observations of your child's activities at home. This will help maintain a continuity of learning across Nursery and Pre-School and home life as we celebrate their achievements and milestones together.

We acknowledge that children have different starting points for their learning, and to give every child the best possible start, we recognise the importance of working closely in partnership with you to ensure that we create continuity between Nursery and Pre-School and home life. We place a high value on making time for you to be able to talk to staff to discuss the development of your child, while helping us to understand their individual traits and needs. In addition to daily opportunities to talk with staff, you will be invited to various events; these include Termly Parent Consultations, Two-Year Integrated Review Meetings, Parent Music Sessions, Christmas Celebrations, Harvest/Spring/Summer Assemblies and Sports Day.

We use Tapestry's Care Diary function which gives families an update on their child's daily care routines, helping them feel connected to Nursery and Pre-School life. Through the Care Diary, families can view key information such as meals, naps, toileting and any additional care notes. This sits alongside each child's Learning Journal, allowing parents to see both their child's developmental progress and their day-to-day wellbeing in one place.

We keep parents closely connected to their child's learning by providing weekly round-up observations on Tapestry, giving families a clear picture of the activities and learning throughout the week. Alongside this, we share half-termly newsletters that outline the topic for the term ahead, key learning focuses and any important dates or events families need to know. These updates ensure parents feel informed, involved and confident in the journey their child is taking with us.

Transition to Reception

At Explorers' Corner, Pre-School children work closely with Reception. Together we ensure every child feels happy, confident and ready for the next stage of their learning journey. Throughout the year, we provide a range of opportunities for children and families to become familiar with Reception staff, routines and learning environments.

Our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic is a special event for children who will be starting Reception in the following academic year. Families are invited to join us for a relaxed and enjoyable morning, giving children the opportunity to meet Reception teaching staff, make new friends and begin to feel excited about their next step in school.

We also offer settling stay and play sessions, where children visit the Reception classroom and take part in a variety of activities. These sessions help children become familiar with the environment, routines and expectations of Reception.

Families are invited to attend our New Starters Information Evening, providing an opportunity to explore the classroom, meet members of the Reception team and learn more about the Reception curriculum and daily routines.

Throughout the year, Pre-School children spend time with Reception staff and children, in a 'big buddy' system taking part in shared activities and visits. These experiences help to build positive relationships, develop confidence and ensure that children feel secure and prepared for their transition into Reception.

By working together and providing a gradual, supportive transition process, we help every child approach their move to Reception with confidence, enthusiasm and a sense of belonging.



Our Spaces

Nursery and Pre-School

Nursery and Pre-School children have large rooms to freely explore and access resources within the environment independently. Children aged 2-4 years play together, which creates a rich, mixed-age learning environment where each child gains something unique. Younger children benefit from watching and imitating older peers, which boosts their language, social skills and confidence. Older children strengthen their sense of responsibility, empathy and leadership as they model behaviours and help younger friends. Mixed-age play also encourages cooperation, problem solving and flexible thinking because children must negotiate different abilities and perspectives. Most importantly, it mirrors real world social groups, helping children develop patience, communication and emotional understanding in a natural, joyful way.



Dining Hall

Children are provided with a cooked lunch prepared by our in-house Chef, which they eat in the school dining hall with the Pre-Prep children. This is a happy, social occasion where staff sit with children, modelling good table manners and healthy eating habits. Staff will encourage children to try new foods rather than dismiss them upon sight. Children are encouraged to feed themselves to develop their fine motor skills and promote independence (assistance will be given if required).

We provide a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack in the Nursery and Pre-School which consists of fresh fruit/vegetables and other healthy foods, with milk or water to drink. Drinking water is always available for children to access throughout the day.



Garden

Our Nursery and Pre-School garden is a large, inviting outdoor space designed to give children the freedom to explore, move and learn in a natural environment. It offers opportunities for physical development through climbing, running and balancing, as well as rich sensory experiences with plants, and seasonal changes. The garden also supports imaginative play, social interaction and early scientific thinking as children investigate nature, observe wildlife and engage in hands-on discovery. Children have access to a mud kitchen which gives them a wonderfully messy, imaginative space to explore nature and creativity. It encourages role play, teamwork and sensory discovery as children mix, pour, scoop and experiment with natural materials like mud, water and leaves.

The Nursery and Pre-School garden is an extension of our indoor learning environment, helping children build confidence, curiosity and a deep connection with the world around them.

We also have use of the main school field and dedicated outdoor learning areas. The field gives children space to run, explore and build physical confidence alongside their peers within the Reception and Pre-Prep.

The Explore Curriculum offers rich opportunities for hands-on discovery, nature exploration and imaginative play.



Our Nursery and Pre-School children love accessing the school gym, as it gives them a safe, spacious environment to build strength, balance and coordination through active play. The gym allows us to set up climbing equipment, obstacle courses and movement games that support physical development while boosting confidence and teamwork. Having regular access to this large indoor space also means children can stay active and engaged whatever the weather, helping them develop healthy habits and a positive relationship with movement.



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FIND OUT MORE

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