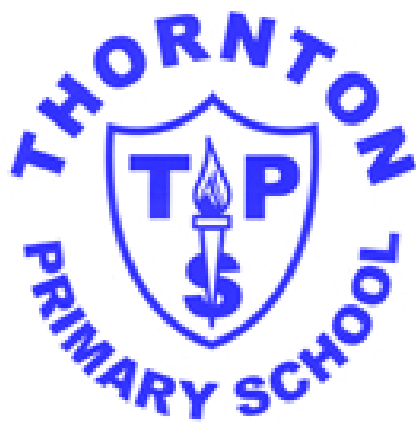


Thornton Primary School



Pre-School



www.thorntonprimary.lancs.sch.uk



THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tel/Fax: (01253) 821128
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Headteacher
Mr David Ashcroft

Deputy Headteacher
Miss Helen Brown

Dear Parent/Carer,

On behalf of our school governors, staff and pupils, may I offer a warm welcome to you and your child. Thornton Primary School and its Pre-School is a place that is at the heart of the local community and really epitomises that in everything that it does.

Having recently taken up the post of Headteacher in January 2018, I am very proud to have joined such a wonderful, inclusive school where every child and their learning really matters to all members of staff. The commitment from both the staff and governors to make this school the best possible place for our children to learn is clearly evident in everything that happens in school.

Children come to Thornton each day with enthusiasm to do well and a commitment to learn. It's our role in school to make learning fun and engaging and ensure that all children have the opportunities to do so in a safe and stimulating environment. We also believe in ensuring that the children are able to share their views and thoughts about how to improve our school further through our wonderful school council.

Please spend some time reading through the pre-school pack so that you can gain an insight into Thornton and so that you understand how the Pre-School element of Thornton works. May I also take this opportunity to invite you and your child to come for an informal look round school; I would be delighted to show you round and share with you our plans for the future.

Yours faithfully

Mr David Ashcroft

Headteacher

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Getting Ready for Pre-School

Starting pre-school is a new and exciting experience, however, both parents/carers and children can sometimes feel apprehensive about the changes ahead. At Thornton, we aim to make this transition as smooth as possible. Below are some of the things you can do to help your child feel ready for joining our pre-school:

Help your child to become as independent as is possible by encouraging and helping them to:

- Use the toilet and wash their hands
- Put on and take off their coat
- Use a tissue to wipe their nose
- Share toys and take turns
- Use a knife and fork
- Put their toys away

As parents/carers, you know your child best and we would encourage you to help your child settle on their first day.

Once children are settled, pre-school staff will welcome children at the start of each session. On arrival, children will hang up their coats, put away their bags and then choose which activity they would like to do.

Our Reception children will be in the same EYFS setting as the pre-school children. We will only ever have a maximum of 20 Reception children and 10 pre-school aged children. We ensure that ratios of staff to children mean that all children can explore and learn through play in a safe, stimulating and purposeful environment.

Payments, Funding of places and Bookings

As a universal funding offer towards childcare costs, the Government provides **15 hours of funding** towards childcare per week for all children **the term after they have turned 3 years old**. On enrolment, a parental agreement will need to be signed in order for us to claim this universal funding on your behalf. Many parents/carers may also be eligible for additional Government **funding of 30 hours** towards childcare costs. Details can be found at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/>

If your free childcare entitlement is 15 hours and you would like to 'top up' your child's hours, you can do so at the costs below. Payments for sessions must be made in cash or cheque with payments made at the school office.

All sessions must be booked a half-term in advance. If you require 'top up' hours then these must be paid for in full a half-term in advance. All children who attend the pre-school can do so the term after they turn 3 years old. If you would like a place for your child, we can offer a place, subject to availability the half-term after your enquiry.



Session Times

Morning sessions	08:45am-11:45am	£15
Afternoon sessions	12:15pm-3:15pm	£15

Lunch:

Children can also stay for their lunch if they are going to be at Thornton for a full day. Meals cost £2.50 and should be ordered in advance, please ask at the office if you would like a copy of the current menu. Children can also bring packed lunches if you would prefer. Lunch is between 11:45am-12:15pm.

Planet Club:

In addition to these sessions, we also offer a wraparound care provision called Planet Club. If you would like your child to attend these sessions, the school office will direct you to the manager of the club, Mrs Shaw, who will organise bookings and payments which must be made in advance of any sessions.

Breakfast Club	07:30-08:45am	£4
After School Club	3:15-5:45pm	£6.50



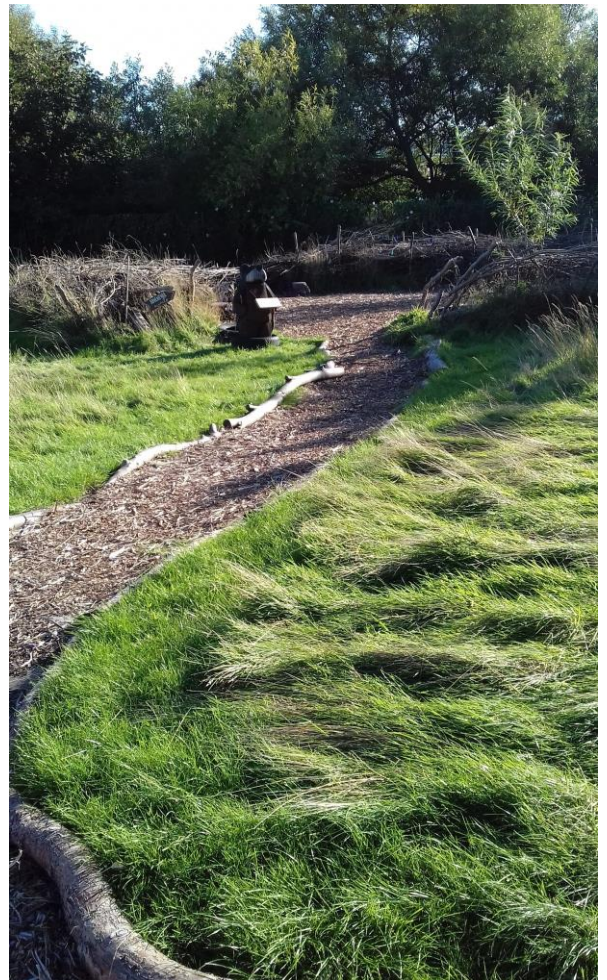
Drop off and collection

All children attending morning and afternoon sessions should be dropped off at the school office where they will be met by a member of the EYFS team.

Children who are being collected after a morning session should be collected from the school office. Children who are staying for the afternoon should be collected from the playground door at 3:15pm. If your child is booked into Planet Club, they will be escorted to and from there and should be collected from the Planet Club door.

Drinks and Snacks

Pre-school children are entitled to free school milk and school provide a healthy snack. Please see the enclosed form for additional details.



Clothing

All children who attend sessions are able to come into school in their own clothes, but must wear the school sweatshirt. These can be purchased from www.myclothing.com or Bispham Clothing on All Hallows Road. It is very important that you provide your child with a coat to wear each day as much of their learning will take place in the outdoor area.

Every Wednesday afternoon, your child will take part in Forest School sessions in our Forest School area. On these days, we ask that your child comes in clothes that are suitable for outdoor use and that you don't mind getting muddy. Wellies or very sturdy trainers should also be worn. In the afternoon, all children will get changed back into their uniform/spare clothes. Please ensure you pack your child with these and their school sweatshirt on Forest School day.



Learning and the Curriculum

Pre-school children and those in Reception follow the statutory Foundation Stage curriculum. This is organised around the following seven areas of learning.

The prime areas are:

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

The specific areas are

- Literacy
- Maths
- Expressive arts and design
- Understanding the World

Sessions are carefully planned to give children the opportunity to take part in a range of play based activities which encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in all seven areas of learning.

The Pre-school/Reception classroom has its own outside play area where children take part in activities to develop their physical skills and coordination. In addition, pre-school also has use of our school's Forest School.

As well as having access to a wide selection of picture and story books, the children will also use the school library each week to choose books and may begin to bring books home to read.

Forest School

Our Forest School plays a very big role in the learning and development of all children who attend our school and pre-school. We have a wide range of exciting areas in our school grounds that the children learn through play and exploring. These include two outdoor classrooms, bug hotels, fire pit area, greenhouse, composting and growing beds, den building areas, a pond and wonderful grounds to explore and enjoy.



Finding out about your child's progress

We operate an 'open door' policy so parents/carers are able to talk to staff when they drop off and pick up their children. If you need to talk with staff for a longer period or in private, please arrange a meeting with the appropriate member of staff. We encourage parents/carers to share any concerns with us as early as possible so that we can work to resolve matters and offer support. Staff make regular observations of children in pre-school and keep a record of their progress and development by completing the Foundation Stage Profile, which is linked to the seven areas for learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Parents/carers have an opportunity to meet with pre-school staff to discuss their child's progress on a regular basis through parent/teacher conferences. In the final term, you will receive a written report.

Special Educational Needs

The school's Special Educational Needs Policy is available to parents on request. At Thornton we have regard for all the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and pupils will be assessed and their progress monitored in line with the staged model. At Thornton we recognise the full spectrum of special educational needs, which includes catering for both more able and less able pupils. We meet the needs of S.E.N. pupils through curriculum and classroom management strategies and through close liaison with outside agencies including the Lancashire Education Inclusion Service and the Educational Psychology Service. We endeavour to keep you informed of all the provision made for your child either informally via the class teacher or by consultation with the S.E.N.C.O. (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator), Mrs Young.

Sickness and Absences

If your child is unwell, please telephone school. Please inform school as early as possible on the day of your child's absence with the expected date of return. If your child has a medical appointment, please inform the office. Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should remain off pre-school for 48 hours from the last symptom.

Medicines in School

Prescribed medicines may be administered in school, providing that the Medicine in School Policy is followed. Please see the school website for a copy of our policy. Medicine forms can be collected from the school office.

Special Dietary Requirements/Allergies

If your child has any special dietary requirements or allergies to food and drink, please let our office staff know. In specific circumstances, care plans are created for children in order to manage individual needs.

School is a 'Nut Free Zone'. Please ensure that no items are brought into school that contain nuts.