



Play, learn and grow together with Christ

Contact Details

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for requesting information for Little Saplings Preschool at St Clare's Primary School. As a family you entrust us with the care and education of your child and we hope, that in partnership, we can ensure that your child is happy, secure and excited by the learning opportunities we provide.

Kindest regards

Mrs A Charnley,
Headteacher

Mission Statement

St Clare's is a Christ-centred family where everyone is valued and respected. We learn and grow, whilst strengthening our relationship with God and one another. Together in His love, we can achieve our full potential.

Our aim is to provide a safe, happy and caring Christian environment in which your child can grow in confidence and social skills and learn through play planned in accordance with the Early Years curriculum and nationally approved learning outcomes.

We believe that you, as parents, are the most important educators of your child and our aim is to support you in this, consulting and involving you at all stages of your child's stay with us.

Our Vision

Our School vision is of a community working together in openness, trust and respect. Where all members of the community are:

- Challenged to develop their strengths and acknowledge their weaknesses.
- Given continuous opportunities to develop their relationship with God as they grow in his image.
- Valued and respected for who they are and encouraged to be the best that they can be



Saint Clare's Catholic Primary School, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH



What is it like to attend Little Saplings?

Little Saplings has a highly stimulating environment within our school. There is a wide range of resources and equipment which children choose freely. Our children move with confidence around the indoor and outdoor environment. The children learn and play together freely and join in with different activities with an adult in small groups. Our children's differing needs are supported giving careful consideration to the organisation of environments, activities and routines. Throughout the day we learn to use mathematical skills in everyday situations from recording numbers of lunch choices to weighing and measuring objects found in the outdoor forest school area. Children develop a love of books through a daily voting system for a preferred story and our quiet reading garden indoors provides a range of different genres of texts. Our children take part in meaningful activities which help them understand the world around them, our wider world and how to be healthy. Through the activities and organisation of the classroom, our children will be active participants in their learning selecting resources and materials, planning from their interests and current knowledge.

Through talking with our children, we seek to accomplish the goals of our curriculum and give your child a successful start in their learning journey.



'Goals for preschool'

The most important goals of our preschool curriculum are for children to get along well with others and become enthusiastic learners. We want children to become independent, self-confident, curious learners who can work well with others. We're teaching them how to learn, not just in preschool, but all through their lives. We do this by creating purposeful and productive play experiences that help children grow in all areas.

Our curriculum identifies goal in for areas of development:

Social/Emotional: to help children develop independence, self-confidence and self-control, follow routines, make friends, learn what it means to be part of a group and how we can help and support our communities and world around us.

Physical: to increase children's large muscle skills – balancing, running, jumping, throwing, and catching – and use the small muscles in their hands to do tasks like buttoning, stringing beads, cutting, drawing and writing.

Cognitive: to acquire thinking skills such as the ability to solve problems, to ask questions, and to think logically – sorting, classifying, comparing, counting, making patterns, using materials and their imagination to show what they have learned.

Language: to use words to communicate with others, listen to and participate in conversations with others, beginning to understand the purpose of print and begin mark making for a purpose.



Term times

Little Saplings are a term time only preschool with different sessions available throughout the week.

Term and Holiday Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021

School re-opens Thursday 2nd September 2021

Half Term Monday 25th Oct 2021 to Friday 29th Oct 2021

Inset Day Monday 1st November 2021

Close for Christmas Friday 17th December 2021



Summer Term 2022

School Re-opens Tuesday 19th April 2022

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022

Half Term Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Inset Day Monday 6th June

Close for Summer Friday 15th July 2022

Spring Term 2022

School Re-opens Tuesday 4th January 2022

Half Term Monday 14th Feb 2022 to Friday 18th Feb 2022

Inset Day Monday 21st February 2022

Close for Easter Wednesday 6th April 2022



Fees and funding

Little Saplings accept government funding 3 and 4 year olds, parents have the option to privately fund any further required sessions

Little Saplings government funding availability is for 3 & 4 year olds using Universal 15 hours and for some the extended 15 hours (commonly known as 30hour funding)

Sessions are available Monday to Friday & 36 weeks of the year

- Before school 7.45 – 8.45am £4
- Morning session 8.45 -11.45am £14
- Lunch session 11.45 – 12.15pm (children can either bring a packed lunch from home or purchase a school lunch)
- Afternoon session 12.15 – 3.15pm £14
- After school 3.15 – 4pm £3.50



For further information and applying for funding please look at the government Childcare choices website for information on financial options available to you

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Example options to use government funding include:

(15hrs) 5 mornings or afternoon sessions

(15hrs) 2 before school and school day sessions 7.45am – 3.15pm

(30hrs) 5 days from 8.45am – 3.15pm

(30hrs) 4 before school and school day session 7.45am – 3.15pm



Fees are charged until the start of the term after the child reaches his or her third birthday.

Children become eligible for Universal Government funding in the term following their third birthday:

- Children born in the period 1st January to 31st March: the start of term beginning on or following 1st April after the child's third birthday;
- Children born in the period 1st April to 31st August: the start of term beginning on or following 1st September after the child's third birthday;
- Children born in the period 1st September to 31st December: the start of term beginning on or following 1st January after the child's third birthday.

Thereafter all 3 and 4 year old children qualify for universal funding (15 hours per week). The setting has set session times when this funding is offered. If the child attends a second setting where government funding is claimed, full fees may be payable for some or all of the sessions at Little Saplings.



Three and four-year-olds of working parents (extended entitlement): A child may be entitled to the additional free hours from the term after both of the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) the child has attained the age of three;

(2) the child's parent has a current positive determination of eligibility from HMRC i.e., a valid 30 hour free childcare eligibility code.

All fees are payable half termly in advance and may be paid online or by cash/cheque/childcare vouchers. Refunds are not paid for holidays taken during term time, for short periods of illness, or if your child leaves the pre-school midterm.



The day at pre-school

Little Saplings like routine and our sessions take a similar shape every day.

7.45am Arrival of children for before school session

8.45am Arrivals/Registration chatter time

9.00am Free play/Teaching letters & sounds, dough disco funky fingers

10.30am Snack time

10.50am Free play/Teaching maths

11.30am Music and story time

11.45am Home time (for am sessions only) Lunch time

12.15pm group games and puzzle time

12.45pm Free play/Teaching

2.15pm Snack time

2.40pm Mindfulness and story time

3.15pm Home Time (for pm sessions only)

4pm Home time for after school session



Our day starts with Registration, prayers and group chatter time. Free play activities are set up indoor and outdoor areas. Every day there are areas for malleable activity (such as playdough), mark making and other fine motor skills, construction, art, sand, water, sensory (such as shaving foam, cornflour gloop, wood shavings or soil), small world (such as train sets, dinosaurs, farm or dolls houses), problem solving and craft. We have a seasonal book corner and a home corner for role play (such as a shop, beach, café or workshop). On a Tuesday we enjoy an extra physical session in the school hall and spend time in the Forest school area and other outdoor areas within the grounds. We are very lucky to have visits from our buddies from year 5 to join us in our areas.

Uniform

Little Saplings uniform is bright and attractive and consists of a polo shirt with a hoody like our school buddies wear for cooler weather.



Parents' evenings and information

Parents' evenings are normally held in the autumn and summer terms. These provide a more formal opportunity for you to meet those working with your child to discuss progress and any concerns. Parents are provided with written documentation regarding their child's progress.

Weekly newsletters and blog posts are posted weekly on the school website, our Twitter feed and Instagram. You can find these at;

www.st-clares.lancs.sch.uk

Twitter @ClarePrimary

Instagram @ClarePrimary



Applications

You would be very welcome to look around the pre-school before making an application. Please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

To make an application for your child, you must complete and return the application form to our school (this can be downloaded from the website). You are asked at this point also to submit a copy of your child's birth certificate for funding purposes.

