

# Lucton Nursery





# Irona Powell

## Nursery Manager

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Nestled in the heart of Lucton Prep School, and set within 55 acres of Herefordshire countryside, we are particularly fortunate to have such a tranquil setting for children to grow, away from the hustle and bustle of larger towns and cities.

The nursery has a real family-feel, and our highly experienced staff, many of which have placed their own children here, provide a caring and stimulating environment where curiosity is keenly encouraged. Every child is unique and special and should be treated as such, and we pride ourselves on being able to nurture their individuality and build confidence.

Whether exploring our meadows and woodland, clambering over our adventure playground and pirate ship, or learning to swim in our indoor pool, Lucton is the perfect environment to grow their imagination in addition to supporting the social and gross-motor skills needed to thrive, and we also place a particular emphasis on using sensory and messy play to encourage creativity and further develop the whole child.

Above all else, we recognise and value the enormous trust that you, as parents, place in us, and we work hard to ensure that we provide them with the very best start in life.

# Baby Room

## **3 Months - 2 Years**

The Baby Room provides a safe, warm and nurturing environment for the littlest at Lucton, and we work together with parents to provide them with the very best start in life. Their day usually begins by exploring the meadows and school grounds, playing on sit-on toys, rolling balls, blowing bubbles and a variety of sensory and messy play.

Free play encourages their physical, emotional and social development and we also sign songs and finger rhymes, and play games to develop their language skills and encourage them to thrive.

# Little Ladybirds

## **2-3 Years**

Children join the Little Ladybirds groups during their second and third years. This is a crucial stage when a great deal of development takes place and therefore to enhance this natural desire to explore and investigate, we have divided our rooms into a variety of unique and exciting areas.

We also find that children learn a great deal from the production of food; they enjoy watching plants grow and harvesting their own produce and they are also involved in making biscuits and shaping and rolling pastry for apple pies!

We use both indoor and outdoor space as a learning environment for our young children; we never miss an opportunity to play and have fun. We do our utmost to ensure that the children entrusted to us are happy, stimulated and demonstrate care and respect towards each other.





# Transition Class

## **3-4 Years**

The Transition class provides a slightly more structured routine; however, the main focus is still on learning through play with a balance between staff-led and child-initiated learning.

Opportunities for outdoor fun and learning are built into the daily routine with staff joining in with the children's play. Through this interaction they are able to show that they value their ideas and interests and are able to extend the children's curiosity, imagination, language development and thinking skills.

Weekly music and PE sessions are delivered by specialist teachers, and the children also enjoy dressing up and playing in the role play area, building with construction sets, engaging in arts and crafts and even baking delicious recipes to take home and share.

However, despite the many activities that are available, each day is structured so that children also have time for rest and for quieter pursuits.

For Transition class children, lunch is held alongside the Prep School in the main dining hall, giving them the chance to become familiar with the environment they will soon be joining when they make the leap from nursery to school.

# Outdoor Play

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One of our greatest assets is our idyllic, rural location, and nursery children benefit from the sheer variety of exciting outdoor areas there are to explore. Our meadows, playing fields and orchard are wide open spaces where they are able to run safely and gain a sense of freedom. The school grounds are wonderful all year round and in the summer, the fields are the perfect location for picnics and stories under one of the large trees.

In addition to the Prep School playground, where they can access ride-on toys and games, the Transition class can, with supervision, use the adventure playground, where they can have fun whilst improving their gross motor skills and coordination. Children also have the opportunity to use the Sports Hall, which allows them to run and experience ball games in a secure, covered area away from the elements.

# Swimming

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At Lucton we are fortunate to have a fantastic heated indoor swimming pool in which children can build confidence in the water and learn to swim effectively. We provide all necessary equipment including arm bands, toggles, rubber rings and arm floats but request that parents provide swimming kit, towels and swimming nappies (if required).

To ensure that children get the most from their time in the pool and develop their abilities effectively, we follow the National Plan for Teaching Swimming and hope that by the time they start school, they will feel confident to swim without armbands. Those that progress to our Reception class will continue to build on these skills, receiving twice weekly swimming sessions and working towards national swimming awards.

**“Since arriving at Lucton my children have thrived, both socially and academically. I have nothing but praise and admiration for the dedication of all the staff.”**







**“Lucton is a special place where the love and care of the staff have helped our son develop into an independent, confident child with a lovely circle of friends.”**

## PE

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Physical Education takes place throughout the nursery and all children are encouraged to be as active as possible. Obstacle courses, ball skills and other fun games are used to improve balance and coordination and staff ensure that children feel secure and confident enough to join in, learn new things and to be adventurous.

Movement to music is also introduced during PE which further aids coordination and allows them to express themselves and, for an additional cost, children aged 3 and over can take part in ballet classes which are taught by a professional ballet and dance teacher.

## Healthy Eating

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At Lucton, we understand the huge impact that healthy eating can have on a child's development and, as such, we provide meals and drinks that are wholesome, balanced and nutritious.

The weekly lunch menu is displayed both on the school website and outside the nursery door. During term time children receive a two-course meal, freshly prepared by our talented catering team, with much of the menu produced on site including homemade bread, soups and puddings. Before starting, we ask parents for information about any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies in order to ensure that appropriate food choices are offered.

## Forest School

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Forest Schools are unique in that they provide opportunities for learning to take place outside of the traditional classroom. Children explore the natural environment including Lucton's woodland and meadows; they make dens, learn about wildlife, trees and plants, and build self-confidence and independence as they begin to recognise boundaries and assess risks.

# Friday Parents Assembly

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On Friday mornings the Transition class join the Prep School for assembly. Each week is hosted by a different year group and although children do not have to take part if they do not want to, we encourage all to participate as it is an excellent way for them to build self-esteem and gain experience speaking in front of others.

Each assembly is influenced by topics that the children have been learning about in nursery and it is also an opportunity to recognise their achievements, both in and out of school, by awarding certificates and badges.

Parents, guardians and extended families are all welcome to attend the assemblies and with refreshments provided, it offers an excellent opportunity to socialise with other parents and meet staff members. Parents are also more than welcome to use the swimming pool for an hour after the assembly.

**“We are completely happy with the staff; they are resourceful, inspiring, clever and very caring people and I am so glad I found them tucked away in such beautiful countryside!”**





# Progression into Prep School

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In the Transition class there is a real focus on ensuring that children are school-ready and prepared for the next step, with the majority joining Lucton's Reception class. Having become accustomed to both the quality of education on offer at Lucton and being familiar with the school environment, many parents feel that they would like this consistency to continue and children find that they make the transition to Reception with ease.

School uniform is introduced in the Transition class. For boys this includes a red sweatshirt, white polo shirt, black trousers and a red coat and for girls a red cardigan, white polo shirt, black pinafore and a red coat. All of the items mentioned are Lucton branded and can be purchased from the school shop, or alternatively, ordered by a member of the nursery staff on behalf of parents.

# General Nursery Info

## Observation and Assessments

For all children we provide a Learning Journey record which contains pieces of work, observations, assessments and development records collated by their Key Person, giving an understanding of the individual's strengths and progression.

After your child turns two, the nursery will provide you with a written summary of how they are progressing against the three prime areas of learning.

The summary will highlight areas where your child is progressing well in addition to areas where extra help or support may be required, and suggestions of how parents and other family members can work with the Key Person to achieve these goals. You might find it useful to share the information from the progress report with other professionals such as your Health Visitor, who can use it as part of their health and development review.

## Partnership with Parents

Within the Early Years Department, information is made accessible for parents through the following methods:

- ✓ Parent Notice Board - Displayed outside the nursery, the notice board includes information from OFSTED, funding options, Lucton School Shop opening times, the Concerns Book and all nursery policies. There is also a notice board with similar information outside the Reception classroom.
- ✓ Lucton News - Every Friday a newsletter is distributed to all parents containing weekly highlights as well as information about upcoming events that may be of interest.

Previous editions can also be viewed on our website [www.luctonschool.org](http://www.luctonschool.org)

- ✓ The Early Years Foundation Stage Board - An information board relating to the EYFS explaining why the nursery uses the curriculum, how it is used and what topics the children are learning, can be found in the nursery hallway.
- ✓ Emails are sent at the beginning of every term which include relevant information on events and trips that are planned and details of any changes or improvements that have been made within the nursery.
- ✓ Transition class reports and Parents' Evening - Progress reports are sent during the autumn and summer terms and there is a formal Parents' Evening in the Autumn and spring term for the Transition class children.
- ✓ The home/school Communication Diaries are sent via our class Dojo app, these are written logs of what each child has done that day, what they have eaten and any changes in behaviour and development.
- ✓ Open Days - These occur each term and are the perfect opportunity for parents to tour the school and to meet staff and students. If, however, you would prefer to visit the school at a different time, visits can be organised by contacting the Admissions Department [admissions@luctonschool.org](mailto:admissions@luctonschool.org)
- ✓ Liaising with other child care providers - In line with the EYFS framework, where a child attends more than one childcare provider, we will communicate with that provider to ensure that the child is receiving consistency in their nursery experience and developing accordingly.



## **Attendance, Funding, Vouchers and Payment**

### **Attendance Procedure**

- Once a child's sessions are booked they will remain in place until such time when the parents wish to change them. Any changes to a normal pattern of attendance, including increasing or decreasing hours, need to be discussed with the nursery management.
- If planning holidays during term time, the Nursery must be informed so that this can be recorded.
- If a child is sick or cannot attend for any reason, the Nursery must be informed before 9.00am.
- Fees remain payable during periods of absence unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

### **Funding and Vouchers**

- We accept Local Authority funding for three and four year olds. This currently provides for up to thirty hours per week. For more information on funding and vouchers please speak to any member of staff or the Finance Department for more details.

### **Payment**

- Parents will be billed for each individual child. If the child is not entitled to Nursery Education Funding (NEF) this will be monthly or termly, however, if the child is entitled to NEF the payment will be termly unless a monthly payment is discussed and agreed by the school.
- Payment must be made within 7 working days of receiving the bill either by cheque (made payable to Lucton School), cash or by paying online.

## **Trips**

Trips are normally planned a term in advance and dates can be found in the Lucton School calendar which each parent receives at the beginning of term. A letter will also be sent detailing any costs and special requirements and a permission form must be returned to attend. If a parent does not wish their child to attend a trip, they are more than welcome to stay at nursery in a different class.

## **Key Person System**

Each child is assigned a Key Person who is responsible for ensuring that their individual needs are met. To help understand an individual child's needs it is vital for the Key Person to form an appropriate relationship with the parents. At Lucton we are always available for informal conversations to discuss your child's learning and development.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage**

Every child deserves the best possible start in life in order to fulfil their full potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and the of age five have a significant impact on their growth and development. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and good parenting and high-quality early learning provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn, develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school and to give them the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS Framework supports children's development across seven key areas. Initially, they will concentrate on developing the three "prime" areas; communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development, before developing skills in literacy, mathematics, expressive arts, design, and understanding the world. These seven areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities and are designed to be flexible so that staff can adapt them to your child's unique needs.

\*Information taken from Early Years Foundation Stage.

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## General Information for Nursery Parents

- All children are offered two free taster sessions; 8.30am-2pm or 9am-12pm. Additional one-off sessions may be booked provided there is a space available and it does not compromise the adult-to-child ratios within the Nursery.
- A healthy snack (fruit or vegetables), provided from home is required for morning and/or afternoon breaks but please note that these snacks must not contain nuts.
- Baby milk, either in powdered form or as a made-up bottle should be provided by parents if required. Water and fresh milk will be provided by the Nursery.
- A 'Wow Board' is located in each classroom where parents can contribute their own notes about their child's current interests or recent achievements. These give us the opportunity to tune into children's interests and reinforce praise.
- At times children may need to be given medicines, such as Sudocrem for nappy rash, creams for eczema, and antibiotics. Our nursery policy is that practitioners are only able to administer medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. A consent form must be signed by parents and returned to the nursery before the child joins.
- We are more than willing to support children during potty training. We have our own potties and, although we do ask parents to provide spare clothes, we can supply these if needed. We ask parents to provide nappies and wipes, and we are happy to provide advice on potty training and/or reward schemes if required.
- For those parents who are interested in their child continuing on into the school, there is a 10% loyalty discount to all pupils who progress from the Nursery into the Reception class. For further details please contact the Finance Department.

## Contact

For more information or to book a visit, please contact:

**[admissions@luctonschool.org](mailto:admissions@luctonschool.org)**  
**01568 782000**



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