

Lucton Nursery





Welcome to Lucton Nursery

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

5 Months - 15 Months (Babies)

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.

Ladybirds & Bumblebees

15 Months - 2 Years (Woddlers) & 2 Years - 3 Years (Toddlers)

Children join the Ladybirds group during their second year and Bumblebees in their third. This is a crucial stage when a great deal of development takes place. To encourage this natural desire to explore and investigate, we have divided our room into a variety of unique and exciting areas.

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.

Pre-School

3 Years - 4 Years

Pre-School provides a more structured routine, which is teacher-lead. The focus is 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, along with Forest activities and swimming.

Children are encouraged to play in the role play area and dressing up. They have access to age relevant toys, engage in lots of activities, do daily arts and crafts and even baking delicious recipes to take home and share.

For Pre-School 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.





“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.”

Specialist Teaching

Swimming

Pre-School 3 Years - 4 Years

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. They will continue to build on these skills in Reception, receiving twice weekly swimming sessions and working

towards national swimming awards.

Swimming lessons are provided by qualified swimming teachers, from Typhoon Leisure. Typhoon have developed a gentle and holistic step-by-step system that teaches toddlers how to keep themselves safe in the water, how rescue themselves and learn to swim programme. Lessons encourage enjoyment as well as achieving effective results over time, and offer a great introduction to the National Swimming Awards children start in Reception.

Parents of Lucton children, including nursery, are welcome to use the swimming pool on a Friday after assembly.

PE

Physical Education is delivered by specialist sports teachers. Children are encouraged to be as active as possible, with 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.

Music

Music is delivered by a specialist music teacher. Every child in Pre-school is given the opportunity to discover, explore and enjoy music as part of their curriculum. The class has one 30 minute music lesson each week, which includes singing, movement and playing instruments.

Dance

Pre-school children can opt in for ballet lessons (additional charges apply). Ballet classes are taught by a professional ballet and dance teacher, once a week for 30 minutes.

Once a term, the dancers put on a ballet assembly for Prep school and their parents.

Forest Activities

Forest activities are delivered by a specialist teacher. It offers 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.



“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.”

Outdoor Play

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 Pre-School class can, with supervision, use the adventure playground, where they can have fun whilst improving their gross motor skills and co-ordination. 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.

Healthy Eating

A wholesome, balanced diet is essential to the development of healthy bodies and minds. At Lucton, we understand the 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, all freshly prepared on-site.

We offer children lunch and a mid-session snack as well as water and milk to drink. 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 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.

Everything we provide gives children the essential vitamins and minerals needed to learn and be active, and we ensure that all four of the food groups for children are covered in our menu. This gets updated regularly, so children can try a variety of foods.

Our attention to detail ensures your child is encouraged to make healthy choices, and that they begin to understand the importance of a positive attitude towards food at this vital time in their development. We will also teach your child about eating etiquette, such as table manners.

We can cater for those who have any specific dietary requirements and/or allergies - please just speak to the N



“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

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.

From the age of three, 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.

Once a week, starting in the Spring Term, Pre-school children join the Reception class for a Maths lesson. They also get a Lucton book bag to take home each day.

On Friday mornings the Pre-school 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.

Uniform

In Pre-School, children wear uniform, with boys wearing black trousers, white shirt and red Lucton sweatshirt, and girls wearing a black pinafore, along with white shirt, red Lucton cardigan

From September 2023, Pre-school children will start to wear a House tie, in addition to the Lucton blazer. A school uniform will also be introduced for the Ladybirds and Bumblebees, where children will wear a red Lucton sweatshirt and a red polo shirt.

General Nursery Info

Observation and Assessments

For all children, we provide an online 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

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

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Pre-school 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 Pre-school class children.
- ✓ The home/school Communication Diaries are sent via our class Tapestry 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 at 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.
- ✓ 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 welcome to use the swimming pool for an hour after the Friday Prep School assembly.
- ✓ Parent Notice Board - Displayed outside the nursery, the notice board includes information from OFSTED, funding options, the Concerns Book and all nursery policies. There is also a notice board with similar information outside the Reception classroom.
- ✓ Lucton Bulletin - 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

Fees & Funding

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, as per the notice period.
- Fees remain payable during periods of absence, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.
- 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.

Notice Period

- Half a term's notice to the Nursery is required for any change of sessions or when leaving Lucton.

Billing & Payments

- Parents pay a non-refundable £75 registration fee.
- If the child is not entitled to Nursery Education Funding (NEF), an invoice will be issued monthly.
- If the child is entitled to funding, the invoice will be issued termly, unless a monthly payment is discussed and agreed by the school.
- Payment must be made within 7 working days of receiving the invoice. A late payment charge of £50 will be applied to late or outstanding invoices.

Tax-Free Childcare

- Parents can use the Tax-Free Childcare account, benefitting from 20% contribution from the Government. More information on eligibility and how to apply can be found on www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare.

Funding

- We accept Local Authority funding for three and four year olds, who are able to access 15 hours of Government funded childcare

- Funding starts the term after your child's third birthday, and continues until the term in which they turn five.
- Eligible working parents are able to access an additional 15 hours of funded care from the age of four, making 30 hours in total.

Sessions and Fees

Sessions	Timings	Under 2's	Over 2's
		Min 2 full days	Min 5 sessions
Early Start	08.00-08.30	£5	£5
Full Day	08.30-17.00	£55	£50
Morning Session	08.30-12.00	-	£20
Morning with Lunch	08.30-13.30	£35	£30
Afternoon Session	13.30-17.00	£25	£20
Late Session	17.00-18.00	£10	£10

Non-Funded Children

- Parents are required to commit to at least two full days per week.
- Early and/or late care is also available, subject to availability.

Funded Sessions

- Parents are required to commit to at least five sessions per week, in order to access the Government funded hours.
- Funding is only applicable for 38 weeks of the year (14 weeks in Autumn, 12 weeks in Spring, 12 weeks in Summer). Funding cannot be used during half-terms.
- Morning sessions run 08.30-12.00, with funded hours 08.30-11.30. Parents are required to pay the additional 30 minutes, charged at £5 per half hour.
- Afternoon sessions run 13.30-17.00, with funded hours 13.30-16.30. Parents are required to pay the additional 30 minutes, charged at £5 per half hour.
- Lunch sessions run 12.00-13.30, and funding cannot be used for this session. Parents are required to pay the additional 90 minutes, charged at £10. This fee includes a two-course lunch.

Early Years Curriculum

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.

Term Dates

The nursery remains open for 50 weeks of the year, between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

The nursery is closed for two weeks at Christmas, all Bank Holidays, plus staff training days which are typically held on the day prior to the first day of each academic term.

www.luctonschool.org/about-us/term-dates/

General Information for Nursery Parents

- All children are offered two free taster sessions; 9am-12pm for the first session, and 8.30am-1.30pm for the second.
- 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), and lunch should be provided from home during half-terms and holidays, but please note that these 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.
- Parents will be given a Tapestry account, where they can see photos of their child, read daily observations and reflections, and communicate with their child's Key Person.

Contact

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

admissions@luctonschool.org
01568 782000



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