

Sherard Primary School



Pre-School Induction Booklet
2026-2027

A proud member of the



*“Learning Through
Play”*

Welcome to Sherard Pre-School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted that your child is joining our pre-school at Sherard School.

This booklet is designed to help you support your child in the early stages of school life. It is not designed to replace the personal contact you will develop with staff in the years to come. Our pre-school has been in operation since 1986 and became part of Sherard Primary School in 2016.

Our pre-school is guided by our belief in the importance of learning through play. Like any successful group, Sherard Pre-school is run as a partnership between staff, children and parents. We want you and your child to be happy here and make new friends – which could last a lifetime!

We hope you find the information in this booklet useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the pre-school directly.

*Thank you for choosing Sherard Pre-school.
We look forward to meeting all our
new families.*



Welcome to Sherard Pre-School

As a pre-school, we aim to:

Create a safe
and secure
environment

Work in
partnership with
families and
professionals

Provide high
quality care and
attention

Stimulate
curiosity and
enquiry-based
learning

Create a safe
and secure
environment

Encourage a
child-centred
approach to
learning

Promote equality
and diversity



Induction of Children into our Pre-school

Starting at our Setting

The First Days

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide how to help your child to settle into the setting.

Our Induction Process

We are proud of our induction process. We want to help settle your child into the setting with as much ease as possible. When inducting a child into our pre-school, we offer the following:

Short sessions tailored to your child's needs

Flexible and child-led inductions.

Parents are welcome to stay for the first few Sessions

Information regarding fees is available on our website

What Our Day Looks Like



Free-Flow Play and Group Time

*The children have free choice of lots of activities within the room and outside
An adult will work with small groups of children, singing, turn-taking and communicating*



Carpet Time

Short, adult-led sessions for teaching and learning



The Snack Bar

Accessible snack morning and afternoon



Lunch Club

*Bring a home packed lunch or select a freshly prepared hot dinner
(£2.56 per day)*

Communication with Parents

Keeping you informed

We will keep in contact with you via:

- Tapestry
- Class dojo
- Facebook
- The pre-school notice board/gate

How parents take part in the setting

Our setting recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children.

There are many ways in which parents can take part, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- regularly viewing their child's on-line learning journal and adding learning experiences from home.
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the setting;
- joining in community activities in which the setting takes part; and
- building friendships with other parents in the setting.

Tapestry

Please communicate with us using **Tapestry** (more information on the next page). We like to encourage parents/carers to upload regular observations to show us what your child has been doing at home.



Tapestry Online Journal



Welcome to Tapestry Online Journal!

As a setting, we use Tapestry, an online learning journal. By giving consent, the setting will use Tapestry to keep a record of your child's achievements through daily observations.



Staff will add regular observations to the journal and parents are notified of this via email. Staff and parents will work together to create a timeline of your child's achievements. We use Tapestry as our main form of communication.

We encourage everyone to check Tapestry regularly.

Tapestry is also one of our main tools for sharing with parents/carers about what their child has been doing within the pre-school. We also use it to share ideas how parents/carers can support their child's learning at home.

Observations will be used to inform future assessments, including the Progress Check at 2. We will provide a short written summary of your child's development across all aspects of the EYFS in the summer term.

Tapestry is an excellent tool to share your child's progress, achievements, and work. We encourage all parents to sign up!

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Within our setting and through parent partnership, we will encourage your child to be involved in a variety of learning experiences during the day. Some of these will be whole class, some will be individual and sometimes your child will be working in a small group.

The provision for children's development and learning is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework For Group and School-Based Providers (Department for Education, 2026).

Our provision reflects the four guiding themes and principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage:

A Unique Child

- Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and carers.

Learning and Development

- Children develop and learn in different ways, the framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provisions including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (continued)

How we provide for development and learning

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Communication and Language

Our programme supports children to:

- experience a language rich environment
- develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and understanding
- speak and listen in a range of situations

Personal, social and emotional development

Our programme supports children to develop:

- a positive sense of themselves and respect for others
- social skills
- manage their feelings
- understand appropriate behaviour
- confidence in their own abilities
- the ability to manage their own personal hygiene
- an understanding of the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing such as exercise, health eating and oral health.



Physical development

Our programme supports children to:

- develop gross motor skills which provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being
- develop co-ordination, control and movement
- develop fine motor control and precision which helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is linked to early literacy

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (continued)

Literacy

Our programme supports children to:

- develop the essential pre-reading and writing skills to enable them to read and write themselves
- access a wide range of reading materials

Mathematics

Our programme supports children to:

- develop and improve their counting skills
- understand and use numbers
- calculate simple addition and subtraction problems
- describe shapes and spaces
- measure

Understanding the world

Our programme supports children to:

- make sense of their physical world and community through exploration
- observe and find out about people in particular their family and friends
- observe and find out about places and the environment
- learn about technology

Expressive arts and design

Our programme helps children to:

- explore and play with a wide range of media and materials
- have the opportunities and encouragement to share thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, design and technology



What you can do at home to help

Talk, Talk, Talk

Children need to use language in many forms before they learn to read so please:

TALK – about yesterday, plan tomorrow

TALK – encourage questions, discuss ideas

TALK – share information, discuss a television programme

TALK - enjoy rhymes, stories and songs

TALK – provide exciting opportunities for play, encourage them to play creatively with other children

Personal Hygiene

Encourage your child to become independent in dressing and undressing (including coats/gloves/hats), using the toilet, washing their hands and blowing their noses.

Mark Making

Encourage your child to draw, colour, paint, cut out, glue and stick.

Encourage your child to make marks to represent writing. Try asking them what their marks mean?

Encourage your child to form the letters correctly.

Once they are writing, practice writing their name using lower-case letters, except for the first letter.

Sorting and Counting

Encourage your child to sort/count a wide variety of objects.

Encourage them to talk about colours, shapes, size and textures by using everyday objects.

Encourage your child to recognise numbers around them.

Tapestry

Upload regular observations on Tapestry. Let us know what you and your child have been doing at home.

This will help us to get to know you and your child.



Key Information for Parents

- Please arrive on time for the session you are attending.
- Please make sure that coats can be easily hung up and where possible gloves are attached to the coat sleeves using elastic.
- Please clearly name all clothing and belongings such as bags and water bottles. If there is a name it usually finds its way home.
- We provide protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities but they can and will still get dirty. We recommend wearing old clothes.
- Please send a change of clothing for your child.
- Please let your child bring in any certificates they have been awarded for an out of school activity. We will celebrate these with the other children. We value all of our children's achievements.
- Please telephone or text the pre-school number or email us to report all absences including holidays and illness. We do not provide care for children who are unwell. Please leave 48 hours after sickness before returning to the setting.
- In the event of severe weather, please check the school website or Facebook page, Tapestry or your messages on the Dojo app to see if the school is closed.
- During the summer months, parents are responsible for applying sun cream prior to their child attending each session. For children attending full days, parents must ensure their child is sent to the session wearing an all day sun cream or provide some for staff to help support them to reapply after lunch..



Final Important Notes

Continuing to learn at home

Find out about what your child has done at pre-school by:-

- Talk
- Time
- Praise
- Asking questions
- Encouragement



If you need to speak to someone about your child

If you need to discuss any issues it may be possible to have **brief** conversations with your child's key adult before or after the session. We are always willing to help in any way possible but we are sure you will appreciate that it is very difficult to talk to you once the session has started. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call the pre-school number.

Your child's progress:

During your child's time in pre-school, we will offer the following to inform you of their progress:

Autumn Term – Parents Meeting
Spring Term – Parents Meeting
Summer Term – Paper Report

Transition into Reception Class:

Many of the children attending the pre-school transfer to Sherard Primary School. However, we work closely with all schools to enable smooth transitions.

If you would like more information regarding the reception class at Sherard Primary School, please check the website.

Information regarding fees will be available on our website

Contacting Us

Address	Sherard Pre-School Playgroup Community Centre Grange Drive Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE13 1HA
Mobile	07925 035 799 (direct)
Telephone	01664494218 (direct line)
Email	preschool@sherardschool.org

Mrs Mandy Whitelocks
Pre-School Manager



Mrs Emma Sharpe
Pre-School Deputy



Every Child Should:

Laugh Often;



Dream Big;



Reach for the Stars!



MOWBRAY
Education Trust

