

Peters Patch Pre-School



Parents Handbook

Staff members

Miss Shannon Peake (Pre-School Leader)

Mrs Vicki Doherty (Pre-School assistant on Monday and Friday)

Mrs Heather Gault (Pre-School assistant Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Opening times

9.30am- 12.00pm term time

These will be highlighted in the monthly newsletter.

Any changes will be highlighted on the notice board in the Pre-School hall and due to current restrictions via my nursery plan and the newsletter.

Newsletter

You will receive a monthly newsletter with information on any upcoming events or closure dates.

Library and book bags

In term 2 and 3 (after Christmas) your child will get to take a book bag home containing 7 books which are known as the Big Bedtime Read packs. These will go out on a Monday and be returned the following Monday and due to the current restrictions will be every other week to allow for quarantine.

Uniform

Please ensure all items of uniform are clearly named. Uniform is available to buy from McCalls Lisburn.

Change of clothes bag

Your child will need to have a change of clothes bag, which will be hung on their peg. Please send in a full set of clothes including shoes. Please check this bag regularly and replenish as needed.

Snack

We provide snack for the children each day. This will consist of a variety of fruit, breads, milk, and water. Please let us know if there are any special dietary requirements.

Snack is included in the Pre-School fund of £30 per term.

Money

Please send any money in a named and sealed envelope. We ask that £30 a term (£30 x 3) is handed in at the start of each term. This contribution goes towards snack, resources for the preschool, visitors throughout the year and end of term parties. You will receive a receipt of payment.

Parental involvement

We operate an open door policy at Peters Patch and welcome all family members into the Pre-School unit. If you need to speak privately to your child's teacher she is available after the Pre-School session and available to contact by phone every afternoon. Due to current covid restrictions parents are not allowed into the building at present, this process will be reviewed as guidelines changed.

Reports and interviews

You will be asked to attend an initial interview in October when your child has settled into Pre-School life.

Another interview will be held in February and a final transition report will be given to you in our final meeting in June. This transition report will be passed on to your child's Primary 1 teacher with your permission.

Due to the current restriction's interviews will be held over the phone and this will be reviewed as the guidelines are changed.

Fundraising

At Peters Patch we enjoy planning fundraising events and hope to do a lot more throughout the year with the children. We welcome everyone's suggestions and look forward to hearing them.

Trips and visitors

Most months we either take the children on a trip or we have a special visitor come to the Pre-School. These are usually planned around our topic for the month. Current restrictions have prevented this, but we will review when guidelines have been changed.

Forest School

In Peter's Patch we strive to give children opportunities to learn and grow with a sense of freedom and exploration by connecting with nature, allowing them to build resilience, confidence, independence and self-motivation. Statistics show that now more than ever, children know less and less about the natural world. As educators we have a responsibility to make a positive change and what better way than to take our learning to Hillsborough forest once a week.

What we are planning on doing

With encouragement, role modelling, suggestions and props, we can take their fun and exciting play from the classroom and provide them with high quality learning opportunities in our local forest. We will continue to plan for each day in accordance with The Northern Ireland Curriculum and carry out observations to ensure that your child is reaching his/her full development potential. The children will have the opportunity to explore the world around us using their senses, developing a love and respect for nature. They will be able to move freely, developing strength in their gross motor muscles and precision and manipulation in small fine motor movements. The forest will further allow them

to solve problems together with their peers as they grow in their relationships with each other. As normal, each child will be provided with a healthy snack including bread, fruit and water, spending this time together as a class to share thoughts, stories and songs.

Where and when

We plan to take our preschool session to the forest each Thursday. Please bring your child dressed for forest school to the Main building at 9:30am as we will travel down in the Peters patch buses to the afterschool building and be brought back up for pick-up at 12pm. If your child attends day care on a Thursday please ensure to send their forest school clothing with them.

Clothing

You are able to purchase a set of brightly coloured Didrikson's waterproof dungarees and a jacket from Peter's Patch for £50 or alternatively bring in your own waterproof overalls. Please send in wellie boots for your child.

Safety

These brightly coloured overalls mean that the children are highly visible at all times. Children are always within line of sight of two or more adults making it easy for regular headcounts to take place. In the unlikely event of a severe storm, we will return to, or remain in our indoor facility as it is our priority to ensure the safety of the children at all times. However we aim to be outside in rain, wind or shine when it is safe to do so, always protected by our Didriksons.

Our high adult to child ratio means that if a situation arises, our staff are always on hand and prepared to deal with it.

Safety Rules

- No picking or licking as eating something from the wild will make you sick.
- We talk about our boundary and the importance of staying in it
 - We never run off
 - Kind hands to our friends and the world around us
 - Discuss stranger danger

- Respect living insects and plants
- If a dog approaches, stand still and don't get excited.

Daily routine

On arrival - outdoor story and discuss what we will do that day.

10am - Explore

10:45am - Snack

11am - planned activity

11:25am - 11:45am - Wind down/ reflect on our forest treasures and discuss what we have achieved today.

11:45 - Return back to the Peter's Patch afterschool building.

12pm - Home time

Our preschool team are really looking forward to taking on this adventure with your children! If you have any queries or would like more information, please do not hesitate to speak to one of our preschool team.

There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes!

*The best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky
(Margaret McMillan 1952).*

Shannon Peake