



Pre-School FAQs

In addition to the core curriculum, are there any extra lessons the Pre-School will provide?

Yes – learning at Cranleigh goes far beyond the classroom. In Pre-School, children enjoy Forest School, PE, swimming and music, and they also take part in special events such as the Nativity and our end-of-year concert.

As they move into Reception, children begin weekly dance lessons while continuing with Forest School, PE, swimming and music. Both Pre-School and Reception pupils come together for our weekly Pre-Prep assemblies, helping them feel part of the wider Cranleigh community from the very start.

What is your ratio of children to staff?

Our class sizes are deliberately small to ensure every child receives the attention and care they deserve. In Pre-School, we welcome a maximum of 21 children each day, supported by a qualified teacher and a suitably qualified teaching assistant.

What does a typical day look like at your Pre-School?

Pre-School & Reception (draft)
7.45-8.30am Optional - Pre-School and Reception Early Morning Care
8.25-8.35am Drop Off
8.35am Registration
8.40-10.10am Session 1 (which can include Forest School, PE, swimming or music)
10.10am Morning snack
10.20-10.50am Break
10.50-11.35am Session 2 (which can include Forest School, PE, swimming or music)
11.40-12.40pm Lunch
12.40-1.30pm Session 3 (including registration, followed by Forest School, PE, swimming or music)
1.30-2.00pm Break
2.00-3.45pm Session 4 (which can include Forest School, PE, swimming or music)
3.45pm Afternoon snack and Dismissal
3.45-6.00pm Optional After School Club

When my child comes in for the ‘Getting to Know You’ session, what will you be assessing?

Assessments for 2026 Pre-School children involve spending time in the Pre-Prep setting, allowing Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) staff to conduct informal observations to ensure each child is ready to thrive and flourish in our environment.

Children must be:

- Able to listen and respond to instructions appropriately
- Able to speak in short sentences
- Able to enjoy playing and mixing with other children
- Able to eat independently, sitting at a table, using a knife and fork
- Able to hold a pencil or crayon and demonstrate an interest in ‘mark making’.
- Able to use the toilet (and out of nappies and pull-ups) and wash/dry their hands independently

How old does my child need to be to join your Pre-School?

Children can join the day after they turn 3 years old, subject to availability.

Do you have an early morning care provision?

Yes, our Pre-School and Reception Early Morning Care is available from 7.45am to 8.30am. Please note that breakfast is not provided. If you have two children at Cranleigh Prep, early morning care may be available for the younger sibling in Pre-School or Reception. Please contact Admissions for further details.

Do you have an After School Club?

Yes, our After School Club is run by our qualified staff, who make the most of their expertise and the school’s facilities to provide a stimulating, safe, and fun environment. A light tea, such as sandwiches, is provided around 5.15pm, giving children a chance to relax and refuel after their busy day.

Will lunch be provided?

Yes. Lunchtimes are fully supervised by our staff, who encourage children to develop independence by using a knife and fork. We take food allergies and intolerances very seriously: any child with dietary needs will wear a colour-coded lanyard, and meals are prepared accordingly to keep everyone safe and included.

What will my child learn?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), ensuring a balanced and enriching curriculum. Children develop in **prime years** such as:

1. Communication & Language
2. Physical Development
3. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

And in **specific areas** including:

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

Phonics is taught using the Read Write Inc. programme, consistent with the approach used across Pre-Prep. Children learn in stage-appropriate groups led by trained staff. Once their phonics knowledge is secure, they will receive daily reading books, along with guidance for parents on how to support reading at home.

Our Learning Support department works closely with Early Years to provide additional help where needed. If any concerns arise, the class teacher or Head of Learning Support will discuss practical ways to support your child and your family.

What outdoor provisions do you have?

Our Early Years outdoor spaces are designed for exploration and play, with a large play area that opens directly from the Pre-School and Reception classrooms. Children also enjoy **weekly Forest School sessions** led by fully qualified staff, encouraging curiosity, problem-solving, and a love of the natural world.

Will my child have swimming lessons?

Yes, both Pre-School and Reception children swim once a week in our on-site pool, enjoying fun, safe, and structured lessons that build water confidence and physical skills.

What is the minimum number of sessions my child has to attend during their time at the Pre-School?

Your child will need to attend a minimum of 6 sessions in Pre-School during Michaelmas and Lent terms, and during the summer term, before they start Reception, they will need to attend a minimum of 8 sessions to ensure they are school-ready.