



Tiddly Tots @ Holy Souls



Starter Pack



"Love one another. As I have loved you"

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Tiddly Tots @ Holy Souls

We are so pleased you will be joining us to continue your child's learning journey and wish you a happy and successful time with us.

In this admission pack you will find all the practical information that you will need to ensure a smooth transition into pre-school for your child. Please take some time to read it and if you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact the school office.

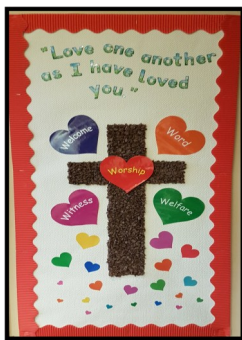
In pack two you will find all the forms that we need completing and returning to the office as soon as possible.

Our Governor led pre-school offers children the opportunity to be explorers, creative and curious. Children are supported by passionate Early Years practitioners at all times, who are dedicated to providing opportunities for awe and wonder.

The exclusive provision offers the option of whole class independence or integration with the rest of the school family, resulting in your child benefitting from our wonderful resources, experiences and settling.

We want to make sure your child has the best start.

We look forward to seeing you and your child very soon and beginning their journey with us.



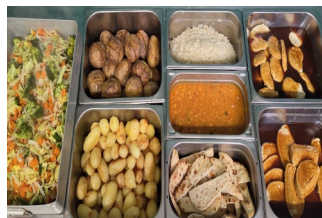
Your child's holistic development is at the core
of our vision

OUR SCHOOL DAY AND ROUTINES

Arrival and Departure

Please bring your child to the pre-school/foundation door, that is through the main school gates to the playground and to the left, where they will be met by the pre-school leader. Please meet your child at the same door for collection at the end of the day. For those children who will be leaving pre-school at 11.45am, please come to the main entrance to school to collect your child from a member of staff. If your child starts at 12.15pm for the afternoon session only, please bring your child to the main entrance to school and a member of staff will collect them to take them to pre-school, at 3.15pm collect from the pre-school/foundation door. If you arrange for someone different to collect your child from school, please let us know in advance.

Meals



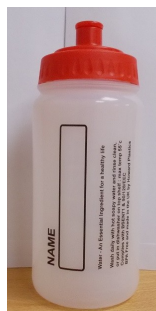
If your child stays for the full day they will sit at a table and eat together to develop their social skills and use cutlery to develop their motor skills. Each group of children is supported by a member of staff. Children



will join the whole of Keystage 1 in a 'family style' dining in the main hall.

Meals are prepared daily from fresh ingredients in the school kitchen by our school caterers. There is a three week menu cycle ensuring that all government dietary requirements for schools are met. Children with a range of allergies are catered for. If your child has allergies or other dietary needs parents will be offered the opportunity to meet with the school catering team to discuss these in detail. School lunches are £3.00 per day if staying for the full day.

Drinks



A water bottle can be brought to school. Please put your child's name clearly on the water bottle. This has to have water only in it. There are facilities to refill the bottles. School does sell water bottles. £2.00 each. Lids £1.00 each.

Snacks

A selection of fruit is available throughout the day as and when the children are hungry. Please be aware Holy Souls RC Primary is a NUT FREE school. Children do not need to bring any snacks to school.



Red School Bags

Red bags can be purchased from school for £5.00.

Session times

Pre-school operates during term time only

AM Sessions — 8.45am to 11.45am

PM Sessions — 12.15pm to 3.15pm

Full Day — 8.45am to 3.15pm

CURRICULUM

Our pre-school & Early Years staff work closely with families to encourage and develop the children's interests and skills. This enables each child to have the best start to their education by supporting them to reach their full potential and prepare for school.

Our pre-school education is led by a qualified HLTA with support from teaching staff in our early years setting. They have a broad and deep experience and knowledge of teaching primary age and early years children. Our Early Years Practitioners hold a range of qualifications from apprenticeships to post graduate degrees, specialising in early years.

As children learn best from first-hand experience and by exploring through play, we have skillfully collaborated learning experiences to increase readiness for school. The well-resourced pre-school will help support holistic development and ensure happy and confident children move into Foundation Stage (Reception), whether at Holy Souls RC Primary or another school.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The pre-school day is structured, with a strong emphasis on play, but also includes opportunities for children to develop their skills in Maths and English. Throughout their pre-school year, we provide the children with diverse range of experiences and activities which will challenge and inspire them and prepare them for the transition to school.

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Together good parenting and high quality early learning provides the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.



There are four guiding principles in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Upon which the curriculum is based:-

These are:

- ✚ Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- ✚ Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- ✚ 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 and parents/carers.
- ✚ Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

There are seven areas of learning and development that are inter-connected.

The Prime areas are:

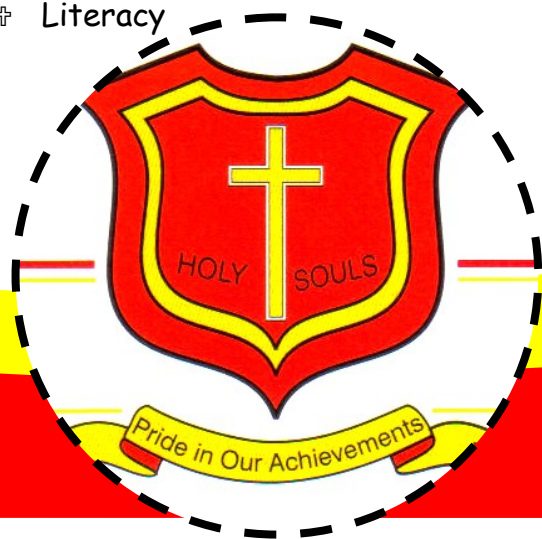
- ✚ Communication and Language
- ✚ Physical development
- ✚ Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These are particularly crucial for igniting your child's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

We also support your child in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas are:

- ✚ Literacy



- ✚ Mathematics
- ✚ Understanding the World
- ✚ Expressive Arts and Design

In the EYFS we reflect on the different ways that your child learns.

The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

PLAYING AND EXPLORING:

Children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.

ACTIVE LEARNING:

Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.

CREATING AND THINKING CRITICALLY:

Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Learning within the pre-school will be a mix of whole groups sessions, independent learning and adult led tasks. We provide a diverse range of activities and experiences which are based on children's current interests and will support and encourage their development in all 7 areas of curriculum.

Reading and Phonics

Most pre-school children are fascinated by books, sounds and letters and we are keen to support and encourage this. Children will begin their phonics journey in pre-school by reading lots of books, listening to all kind of sounds, making sounds and talking about sounds. Phase 1 is all about developing these pre-phonics skills that we will add into our everyday play and small group learning tasks.

"My hope is that we can change the way we think about early childhood and transform lives for generations to come because I truly believe big change starts small"

Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales

Read, Write Inc in pre-school

"Our mission is to teach every child to read and write, and to keep them reading. No exceptions."

Our core mission is to galvanise headteachers and teachers to:

1. Put the teaching of reading at the heart of their schools and ensure teachers have the knowledge and determination to teach every child, regardless of age, background or need.
2. Choose the best books to read aloud so children might read them for themselves.
3. Place literature as a central pillar in establishing children's identity, their place in the world and their understanding of their responsibilities and rights in relation to others."

Ruth Miskin, Read, Write Inc Phonics

Introducing Read Write Inc Phonics in school

We start teaching the programme in our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and then continue until they have worked their way through the whole reading scheme, usually this is during Year One or Two.

In EYFS all children will learn how to 'read' and 'write' all of the sounds in Set 1 and Set 2 then taught how to blend these into words. Fred the frog helps the children to blend the sounds together which is then used to help children read. The teachers will often use the phrase 'Fred talk' to sound out words. If you would like more information please visit our school website.



LISTENING EARS: This is where we encourage the children to cup their hands around their ears and listen to sounds all around them. We talk about what sounds we can hear in pre-school, on our outdoor explores and beyond the pre-school environment.

We discuss if the sounds are loud or quiet? Are they short or long? Can the children make a similar sound with their voice?

Experimenting with musical instruments

SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT We make simple shakers by filling plastic bottles or tubs with rice, pasta, pebbles. We then encourage the children to play with them and talk about the sounds that they make. Are the sounds soft, sharp, smooth, jiggly, scratchy?

TAP IT OUT: We use the shakers above or use drums (pots, pans and wooden spoons are perfect) to play along with songs, rhymes and the radio. We support the children in trying to make the loudest sounds that they can make and then the quietest sounds. The children are encouraged to tap out simple rhymes and repeat rhythms.

INTERESTING INSTRUMENTS: We talk about the sounds that instruments make, that we see or hear in real life or online. Which instruments do you like the sound of best? Can you tell me why? Can you imitate the sound with your voice?

Making sounds with our bodies

During our singing sessions we sing songs and rhymes. We encourage the children to use their bodies to make sounds to go along with their singing, stamping, clapping, patting knees etc.



The more that you read,
the more things you will know,
the more that you learn,
the more places you'll go. Dr Seuss

Mark Making in the Early Years

The skill of writing begins with mark making. It is easy to dismiss the different lines and circles children create on paper as mere 'scribbles', but actually, children are mark making, the first step towards writing. As well as enabling a child to learn to write, making marks can benefit a child physically, and also help to develop their imagination and creative skills. In pre-school we use mark making as a way of sharing children's thoughts and feelings and enabling them to tell stories as they draw; offering an insight into what it represents. Holding a writing tool and controlling it with precision takes a lot of skill and involves hand-eye co-ordination and muscle control in our hands and fingers. Making marks enables children to develop their hand-eye co-ordination and fine motor skills through practicing to hold a pencil, deciding what grip suits them best and which hand feels most natural when making small controlled movements using a writing tool.

EXPERIENCES

Developing the whole child through play and using the wide range of resources we have as a school family is most certainly the step in the right direction. The staff pride themselves on offering children in their care more, a lot more. This philosophy extends into our pre-school and can be seen in the extra curricular experiences and enhancements we have on offer.



**"Children need the freedom and time to play.
Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity"**

Kay Redfield Jamison

OUTDOOR LEARNING FORST SCHOOL FRIDAYS



Outdoors, children have lots of space to run, climb, balance, build and explore in the early years 'outdoor classroom'. The Early Years foundation stage framework continues to be delivered through a variety of focused activities in the outdoor areas.

Children also have access to the school's forest school within the school premises, to extend their opportunities for exploration and learning.

At forest school the children learn from first hand experiences and develop skills like perseverance, independence and responsibility. These are all skills that will help them to achieve more when they are back in the classroom.

Why is forest school good for my child?

It will help your child develop skills like:

Communication

Perseverance

Resilience

Responsibility

Independence

Inquisitiveness

Social skills



Not all classrooms have walls!



UNIFORM

At Tiddly Tots @ Holy Souls our children are proud to be members of our school and wear our uniform. The uniform has been designed to be practical for our pre-school children while reflecting the high standards expected at school. Our logo for pre-school has been designed by our Foundation Stage children.

Pre-School Uniform

- ✚ Red hoodie with our pre-school logo design
- ✚ Yellow polo shirt with our pre-school logo design
- ✚ Plain grey skirt (can be purchased from alternative retailers)
- ✚ Plain grey shorts or plain grey trousers (can be purchased from alternative retailers)
- ✚ Comfortable black shoes, preferably black. For safety **NO** open-toed sandals/shoes, high heels, platforms, roller shoes or crocs should be worn.
- ✚ Red Holy Souls book bag. These are available to purchase from school for £5.00. Please do not bring large rucksack type bags as there is no room for them in cloakrooms.
- ✚ PE t-shirt with school logo, black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms and black trainers



Optional items

Wellington boots maybe worn to school during snow or very wet weather, please bring a change of footwear to wear in school.

Outdoors whilst in school

Please could you bring wellies and a wetsuit—these will stay in school so children can access them when needed.

Buying Uniform

Grays Schoolwear —Blackburn

Whittakers Schoolwear —Blackburn

Drawstring Bag

It is very useful to have a full change of clothes in a named drawstring bag in case of any toilet accidents.

NAME ITEMS

All items of clothing and footwear **MUST** be named and children should be encouraged to take care of their own property at home and school. We do not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to an individual's personal property.

Make-up and Jewellery

NO make-up or nail polish is allowed or jewellery.

Hair

Please could long hair be fastened back in school.

Uniform rail

In the main entrance to school we do have a clothes rail with nearly new uniform that you are very welcome to help yourself to. They are all donated by families who no longer require the uniform.



WORKING TOGETHER WITH YOU

Learning Journey with Tapestry

We use an online system to record your child's learning whilst in pre-school and EYFS. Tapestry is a website which can be accessed on all device. Using Tapestry means we are able to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children. You are emailed alerts when something new has been added to your child's Learning Journal and can log on and view what your child has been up to. You can also add your own comments and entries. Further information and a consent form for completion can be found in your forms pack.

Tapestry will be used to support children's transition into Foundation Stage. We will upload school readiness tasks periodically. These tasks are a great opportunity for us to get to know the children, their family their interests and will also enable us to begin to build positive relationships between the children and adults in the provision - supporting your child in the best way possible during their transition to school in September.

Please view our Pre-school page on the website for details of our learning experiences each week:
www.holysouls.co.uk

Parent/Carer Communication

We are aiming to reduce the amount of letters that we send home. Newsletters are posted on our website and emailed out. Any letters are always emailed and paper copies are available on request. If any letters are sent home they will be in your child's school bag. Please always check your child's school bag each day.

Parent/Carer Evenings

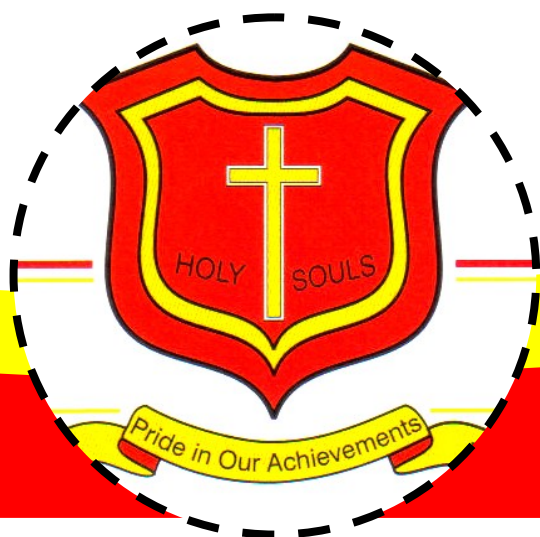
Our evenings are held twice throughout the year, but if you have any concerns in the interim please arrange to see your child's teacher at a mutually agreed time.

Money

All payments can be made via our online system, such as school lunches, trips etc.

Cash can be brought to the school office. Please make sure it is in an envelope with your child's name on and amount that is enclosed.

All meals are pre-ordered by parents via the Arbor parent app and should be paid for a week in advance. Meals are free to infant children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 & Year 2 under Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme (UIFSM) irrespective of income. From Year 3, school meals are paid for unless you are entitled to free school meals (FSM).



"The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child's own natural desire to learn" Maria Montessori

FEES

Tiddly Tots @ Holy Souls is a competitively priced fee paying provision with access to all eligible Government funding to offset some of the costs. We have three sessions during the day and each is charged separately to ensure families are able to choose the exact sessions they require.

AM sessions 8.45am to 11.45am

PM sessions 11.45am to 3.15pm

All day 8.45am to 3.15pm

Please note that there will be a minor fee increase at the beginning of each academic year.

PAYMENT FOR MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Fees are payable monthly in advance (from August to June) and within 14 days of invoices being issued and before the 27th day of the month. Government funding to cover most or some of the costs of these sessions is available including:

- ✚ Universal 15 hours government funded childcare
- ✚ Additional 30 hours government funded childcare
- ✚ Childcare Vouchers
- ✚ Tax-Free Childcare

IMPORTANT

There is specific eligibility criteria for all the above except for the 15 hours Universal funding which is available for all children in the term following their 3rd birthday.

PAYMENTS FOR EXTENDED SESSIONS

Extended sessions are those that are extra to the 15 hours Universal funding if you do not qualify for the 30 hours Government funding.

Extra sessions are charged at £15.00 per 3hrs. For example, if you take your 15 funded hours each morning for the whole week but would like afternoon sessions that is when the fee will be added to your invoice, along with the school lunch charge of £3.00 if you want your child to have a school lunch and not a packed lunch. The same goes for the opposite if you take the 15 funded hours in an afternoon all week, then morning sessions will be charge and a lunch charge if not on packed lunches. Please note extra session are full time only we currently do not do part weeks.

PAYMENTS FOR LATE COLLECTION

Late collection will incur an additional fee of £15.00 for the first 15 minutes, then an additional £5.00 per each five minutes thereafter. These costs will be added to your pre-school invoice.



HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE

We place GREAT emphasis on good attendance at pre-school as days missed are learning opportunities lost.

If your child is going to absent from pre-school please ring the school by 9.30am and leave a message on the absence line. Any absence not verified by a parent/carer has to be entered in our register as an unauthorised absence. We will contact you through text if your child is not in school by 9.30am and we have not heard from you. However, it is your responsibility to contact the school to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

SICKNESS ABSENCE

We rely on your discretion in deciding if your child is too ill to attend. If your child has been sick we advise that they remain at home for 48 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.

If your child has an infectious disease, such as chickenpox, you must keep your child home. Your own doctor will advise you on the safe time for your child to return to school.

Head lice are, unfortunately, a recurring problem amongst young children and we ask that you check your child's hair regularly and treat if necessary.

The most common mistake for a reoccurrence is that parents only apply the initial treatment; the guidance says that the treatment should be re-applied after 7 days.

It is necessary for us to have current contact numbers in case your child is taken ill at school and needs to go home early. Should this change then please let us know immediately. If your child has to go out of school for an appointment or leave school early due to sickness, then please SIGN YOUR CHILD OUT at the school office on the Inventory system, also sign your child in if they are returning from an appointment.

HEALTH CONDITION

If your child has an ongoing health issue that requires regular medication to be taken during the school day, please speak to the school office. You will be asked to complete a separate medical form. Please let us know of any other health professionals/agencies that are involved with your child.

Asthma: if your child has been diagnosed with Asthma please ensure we have an inhaler and spacer in school, your doctor will be happy to prescribe one for school use.

Medication: there are occasions where your child may be prescribed medication for a health issue, such as antibiotics. We are happy to administer medicine however, a separate medical form must be completed at the school office for consent and detailing dose and times etc.





Unavoidable school closure

We always do our very best to keep school open providing we have enough staff to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our pupils.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, please:

- ✦ Check the school website (we endeavour to make a decision by 7.30am, although this is not always possible)
- ✦ Check your phone for a text from school

If you feel at all concerned about worsening weather conditions

during the school day, please follow this procedure:

- ✦ Consider if it is sensible decision to collect your child early in adverse weather conditions; sometimes waiting to see if the weather improves is a safer option.
- ✦ Decide if it is the sensible and safe option to be collecting
- ✦ Check your phone as school will send texts



Personal hygiene and dressing

In preparation for school please encourage your child to manage toilet visits and hand washing independently. Of course, little "accidents" sometimes happen and it would be helpful to pop a change of underclothes and socks in a drawstring bag, just in case! It is excellent for your child's confidence if they can dress and undress independently, so please support us by practising with your child prior to starting pre-school.

Holy Souls RC Primary School

Wilworth Crescent, Blackburn
Lancashire BB1 8QN

Headteacher: Mrs D Ellison

For all initial queries, please contact
the school office

01254 249892

Email: office@holysouls.blackburn.sch.uk

www.holysouls.co.uk



Forms to be completed
and returned to school



Tiddly Tots @ Holy Souls Pre-school



Contract, Terms and Conditions



"Love one another. As I have loved you"