

# Welcome to Little Crickets Pre-School



Thank you for your interest in a place at Little Crickets Pre-School for your child.

We are a welcoming, inclusive and nurturing early years setting, dedicated to giving children the strongest possible foundation for lifelong learning. As a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation, our focus is always on quality, care and community. At Little Crickets, we believe the early years are the most important years. We provide a home from home environment where children feel valued, secure and confident to explore their naturally curious minds.

We are registered with Ofsted and operate in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework.

## Our Operating Model – A Hybrid Approach

Little Crickets operates as a **hybrid pre-school**, offering flexible attendance options to meet the needs of all our local families, open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm.

- **Term Time Only (TTO) places:** 39 weeks per year (September – July)
- **All Year Round (AYR) places:** 50 weeks per year (closed for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period)
- **Mix and Match places:** parents/carers can mix and match session types (TTO/AYR) across the week to create a schedule that best suits their family's needs.

All places are subject to availability.

## Funding Information

Government early years funding covers **38 weeks per year (term time only)**.

This equates to:

- **1,140 hours annually** (30 Hours Working Family Funding) or
- **570 hours annually** (Universal 15 Hours for 3-year-olds / Families Receiving Additional Support (FRAS) for eligible 2-year-olds)

Funding begins the **term after your child's eligible birthday:**

Birthday Falls Between	Funding Begins
1 Jan – 31 Mar	Summer Term (April)
1 Apr – 31 Aug	Autumn Term (September)
1 Sept – 31 Dec	Spring Term (January)

All information regarding eligibility can be found via the government's Best Start in Life website.

## Funding for All Year Round (AYR) Places

If your child attends on an **All Year Round place**, funding will be **stretched across 50 weeks**. The Pre-School will be closed for the duration of the two-week Christmas Holiday in line with local schools' term dates.

This means the annual entitlement (570 or 1,140 hours) is divided across 50 weeks, resulting in fewer funded hours per week than in a 38-week model. The remaining hours will be charged for at our usual session rate of £7.10 per hour.

## Funding for Term Time Only (TTO) Places

If your child attends on a **Term Time Only place**, funding will cover your annual entitlement (570 or 1,140 hours) across 38 weeks. However, we operate on a 39-week schedule for convenience, to ensure overlap with local schools' term dates. As government funding only covers 38 weeks, this extra week per academic year is not funded and is charged at the usual hourly rate. For the 39<sup>th</sup> week, sessions will be charged at the usual hourly rate (£7.10) and the payment of this can be spread out across your monthly invoices. Tax-Free Childcare can be used to offset some of this cost.

## Important Funding Conditions

- Funded hours are allocated in line with your signed Parental Agreement and cannot be adjusted retrospectively.
- We can only claim funding for the agreed attendance pattern.
- Any hours attended above your funded entitlement will be charged at our usual hourly rate.
- Funding cannot be backdated or carried forward into a future term.
- Funding can only be applied once a valid eligibility code has been provided and verified.
- Changes to funded hours must be requested in writing before the start of a new term and are subject to availability.
- Session changes or swaps are subject to availability and our notice period policy.

## Fees 2026 – 2027

Fees are charged at the session rate as set out below and are reviewed on a termly basis.

- A non-refundable registration fee of £35 will be payable on completion and signing of the Registration Pack for all children. This includes a branded Little Crickets t-shirt, book and oral health pack.
- A refundable deposit of £50 is payable on acceptance of your child's place. The deposit will guarantee the place on our register and will be either refunded by bank transfer or taken off the invoice (if it is a fee-paying place) after the child has started. If you choose to not take up the place after acceptance, the deposit will be retained.

Please see page 4 for information about additional consumable fees.

Invoices will be sent at the start of the academic year, or when your child takes up their place. All the year's costs will be calculated by our administrator and spread throughout equal, monthly instalments over your contract, whether this is 39 or 50 weeks. If there are any mid-year changes, costs will be recalculated for the remainder of the year and monthly instalments adjusted accordingly. The notice period for changing the sessions your child attends or leaving is at least 12 weeks notice.

**Session Rates**

<b>Term Time Only Core Day: 9am – 4pm</b> <b>39 weeks per year</b> <b>September – July</b> <b>Places subject to availability</b>	<b>Hours (Session Length)</b>	<b>Unfunded Cost (£7.10 per hour)</b> <b>*Consumable fees are not included</b>	<b>Funded Place</b>
AM (9am – 1pm)	4 hours	£28.40	Funding can be used towards these hours; consumables fees are not included - see charges below.
PM (1pm – 4pm)	3 hours	£21.30	
Full Day (9am – 4pm)	7 hours	£49.70	

<b>Term Time Only Wrap Around: 8am – 6pm</b> <b>39 weeks per year</b> <b>September – July</b> <b>Places subject to availability</b>	<b>Hours (Session Length)</b>	<b>Unfunded Cost (£7.10 per hour)</b> <b>*Consumable fees are not included</b>	<b>Funded Place</b>
AM (8am – 1pm)	5 hours	£35.50	Funding can be used towards these hours; consumables fees are not included - see charges below.
PM (1pm – 6pm)	5 hours	£35.50	
Full Day (8am – 6pm)	10 hours	£71.00	

<b>All Year Round (AYR) 8am – 6pm</b> <b>50 weeks per year</b> <b>(Closed for two weeks at Christmas/New Year)</b> <b>Places subject to availability</b>	<b>Hours (Session Length)</b>	<b>Unfunded Cost (£7.10 per hour)</b> <b>*Consumable fees are not included</b>	<b>Funded Place</b>
AM (8am – 1pm)	5 hours	£35.50	Stretched funding can be used for an AYR place; consumables fees are not included - see charges below.
PM (1pm – 6pm)	5 hours	£35.50	
Full Day (8am – 6pm)	10 hours	£71.00	

Please note that fees are reviewed on a termly basis. Any fee changes will be communicated in advance of the new term.

### Additional Consumables & Enrichment

The following consumables and enrichment activities are optional – you are in control of what your fees may be. Access to funded hours is not conditional on purchasing meals, consumables or enrichment activities. Once a place has been confirmed for your child, you will receive a welcome pack which includes a parental agreement to opt in or out for these items. An invoice will then include your choices.

<b>Meals &amp; Snacks</b> You only need to pay for the food available during the session you book; you can choose to opt out and provide healthy alternatives for your child during their sessions. For example, lunch is only applicable if your child attends a morning session; tea is only available if your child will be staying after 4pm.	
<b>Breakfast</b> (8 – 8.30am)	£1.50
<b>Morning Snack</b> (10am)	£1.00
<b>Lunch</b> (12noon)	£3.50
<b>Afternoon Snack</b> (2.30pm)	£1.00
<b>Teatime Snack</b> (4pm – only if not having the main tea meal)	£1.00
<b>Tea</b> (4.30pm)	£3.50

<b>Sundries</b> these rates are per session, for example, one morning session would be 25p sun cream, or a full day (2 sessions) would be 50p. You can choose to opt out and provide your own nappies/wipes/sun cream.	
<b>Nappies/Wipes</b> *Please provide your child’s own cream if necessary	£0.40 per session; max 2 sessions per day
<b>Sun Cream</b> *Only charged for 5 months between Easter – Autumn	£0.25 per session; max 2 sessions per day

<b>Enrichment Activities</b> All rates are once per week if your child attends during the session in which these activities are timetabled; you can choose to opt out of these activities. Drama, Languages and Forest School only run during Term Time; the Holiday Activities replace these during school holidays for children who attend All Year Round. Holiday activities include specialists coming to the pre-school to run sports events, discos or workshops, or staff taking children on school trips to places like Harlow Carr Gardens, Mercer Gallery or Ripley Castle.	
<b>Drama</b> (Monday mornings – available to all)	£2.95 per Monday am session
<b>Languages</b> (Tuesday mornings; 3 – 4 year olds only)	£2.95 per Tuesday am session
<b>Forest School</b> (one session per week for children aged 2 – 4 years)	£4.95 per week
<b>Holiday Club Activities</b> (for All Year Round children)	£4.95 per week

## APPLICATION FORM: Little Crickets Pre-School

Child's Full Name: _____	
DOB: _____	
Year Due to Start Primary School: _____	
Home Address: _____	
Parent/Carer 1 Name: _____  Relationship to Child: _____  Contact Number: _____  Email Address: _____  Home Address (if different): _____  _____	Parent/Carer 2 Name: _____  Relationship to Child: _____  Contact Number: _____  Email Address: _____  Home Address (if different): _____  _____

### Place Preference

Please highlight or circle on the grid below which sessions you would like your child to attend. Choose from any column on the grid and 'mix and match' your sessions to suit you. The minimum number of sessions is 2 half days or 1 full day. We will endeavour to accommodate your requests but this is dependent on session availability. We will attempt to offer you alternatives should your options not be available.

Preferred Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day	Term Time Only Place 39 weeks per year September – July (Core Day 9am – 4pm)		Term Time Only Place 39 weeks per year September – July (Wrap Around 8am – 6pm)		All Year Round Place 50 weeks per year Closed Christmas Holidays (8am – 6pm)	
<b>Monday</b>	9am – 1pm	1pm – 4pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	9am – 1pm	1pm – 4pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9am – 1pm	1pm – 4pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm
<b>Thursday</b>	9am – 1pm	1pm – 4pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm
<b>Friday</b>	9am – 1pm	1pm – 4pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm	8am – 1pm	1pm – 6pm

Additional Information:	
Parent/Carer Signature: _____	Date: _____