

CATERPILLAR PRE-SCHOOL
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Availability

Please be aware that we are beginning to fill spaces for January 2027. If you would like to increase your child's sessions later on in the academic year and have not done so already, please speak to Georgia ASAP who can advise of availability.

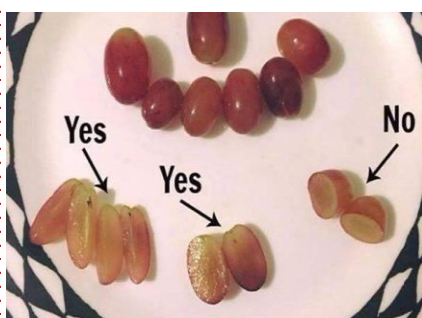
School Applications

Please note that if your child is due to start school in September 2027, the deadline for applications is 15th January 2027. If you do not apply by this time, it may affect your school offering.

School Readiness

Morning

On Tuesday 24th November at 9:10am Georgia will be hosting a School Readiness Morning for the parents of children starting school in September 2027. She will talk about the things that we will be working on with our school leavers over this academic year and will also share strategies of how you can support them at home. If you will be attending the morning please can you confirm by Tuesday 17th November.



Newsletter: October 2026

What's Happening This Term...

What a wonderful start to the term we have had! We have recently visited the Cherry Garden, Library and the Fire Station; facilitated cooking activities including pumpkin and apple oat cookies; planted cress and radishes; and some of our older children have started their Woodwork journey.

We are so proud of all the children that have settled in so far with us this term. Our existing children have been very welcoming of the new faces, and they have enjoyed playing together. As we head into October we will be thinking about Autumn and Harvest. We will also be celebrating Black History Month and the anniversary of the Battle of Hastings 1066.

All children will soon receive a brown paper bag with ideas of different Autumn treasures to collect to bring in to pre-school and share with their friends. We find that this promotes the children's self-confidence and communication and language skills alongside gaining an understanding of seasonal changes.

Dates for Your Diary:



Wednesday 14th October - CLOSED

A reminder that Pre-School will be closed on Wednesday 14th October to allow all practitioners to attend a training course.

Tuesday 20th October - Autumn Stay & Play 9am-10am

We are hosting a Stay & Play session on Tuesday 20th October from 9am until 10am. If your child usually attends on a Tuesday morning, you are invited to stay and play for an hour. If your child does not usually attend on a Tuesday morning, you are welcome to bring them along for the hour to join in with the activities available, including an opportunity to see our woodwork bench in action for 3 years +.

Friday 23rd October - End of Term

Monday 2nd November - Term 2 Begins

Friday 13th November - Children In Need

Children can wear their pyjamas to pre-school if they would like to.

Monday 16th November - Parents Evening 3:45-5:15pm

A booking sheet will be available nearer the time.

Children's Observations

All children have an ongoing termly observation that we contribute to throughout the term. This will be added to your child's Tapestry journal for you to see **on the last week of each term**. This gives us the time to review and assess the information we have gathered to make an accurate judgement on their development levels - (more information on this overleaf). You may **occasionally receive spontaneous observations/photos** throughout the term too, but these will not be prioritised. We try to limit iPad use wherever possible to ensure we are having good quality interactions with all children throughout the day.

Snack and Meal Times

At the moment we are supporting the children to sit down on a chair at the table whilst eating during snack and lunch times. We have noticed that some children are finding this a challenge and are attempting to leave the table whilst eating. With this in mind, can we please remind you that **grapes, cherry tomatoes, cocktail sausages and other circular foods (such as cheese strings) should be cut lengthways** - please see image to the left. If your child will not eat these food items cut, then we ask that you do not send them in to pre-school to further illuminate the risk of choking. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Reminders

- Please ensure you are bringing a **contribution of fruit for the snack bowl each week**, for example, a small bunch of bananas, a cucumber, a bag of apples or an exotic fruit. Anything you have spare at home will be gratefully received. Thank you in advance.
- Please do remember that **your child's key person can be available at any time** to discuss your child's progress, or any concerns that you may have.
 - If you have any of **our spare clothing** at home, please can you ensure it is returned.
- Please can you ensure that **all belongings are clearly named**, including lunch boxes, bags and clothing items (especially Caterpillar/red uniform items). Thank you in advance.
- As we approach the wetter months, you may wish to **send your children in with wellies**. We do still use the outside area on rainy days, and love heading out and about in the local community for walks.

Curly the Caterpillar

Curly is our Pre-School Caterpillar that loves going home with different families each week. You can either write about his time with your child in his scrapbook, or you can upload a write-up and photos to your child's Tapestry account for us to print off and share.



Hello, I'm
Curly!

Termly Poem

Each term we will be introducing a new poem to the children to support their Literacy and Expressive Arts development. This term the poem is called Leaves Are Falling. You can find it attached to this Newsletter, on the white board outside the front door and in video form on Tapestry (thank you, Emily!). This poem also gives us the opportunity to teach the children the Makaton signs for yellow, orange and red.



Tapestry - Your Child's Online Journal

It is essential that you are accessing your child's online account so that you are keeping up to date with their progress and development. Please like and comment on your children's observations, and let us know what you think

- it is so important that we know whether or not you have read the observations. Each key person will share your child's current developmental targets, and ideas for activities to try at home that will support their learning. At the end of each half term you will sent an overview of your child's development, which will show each Area of

Learning. The Seven Areas of Learning are:

- Communication and Language (CL)
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)
- Physical Development (PD)
- Literacy (L)
- Maths (M)
- Understanding the World (UTW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

You will notice that the level of development will either be listed as: **No Concerns**, **Review** or **Concerns** (Please note, this is not our choice of language, but we are unable to edit this on Tapestry as it is an external system).

No Concerns: You will see this when your child is meeting the expected developmental milestones, when they are demonstrating progression in their learning which is consistent and when they are able to apply their knowledge in different contexts.

Review: You will see this when your child is generally demonstrating progression in their learning, but it may be inconsistent and they may be unable to apply their learning in different contexts. Equally, if their learning has plateaued or halted, this will be under review. You will also see this if your child's key-person does not feel they have enough information to make a solid judgement, and will therefore monitor progress/support their development closely in order to make an accurate judgement.

Concerns: You will see this if your child is receiving a more intense level of targeted support in an area of learning to help them meet their developmental milestones.

All recorded information relating to each assessment is accessible via Tapestry, however, we primarily use our knowledge of the children i.e. what we know about their temperament, behaviours and learning dispositions.