

The Acorns Primary and Nursery School
Before and After-School Club
Parents' Handbook 2023-2024



ABOUT THE CLUB

The Acorns Primary and Nursery School Before and After-School Club opens from 7.30am and remains open until 6.00pm, during term time for children from Reception Class to Year 6. Please note that children cannot be signed in before 7.30am in a morning and must be collected by 6pm.

We are based in the Acorns Primary and Nursery School and have access to a designated room in the Studio Hall which parents access directly from the car park. The outside area, playground, school field and a classroom may also be used.

Aims

The club provides a safe, secure and relaxed environment for the children in our care. We endeavour to provide an atmosphere and activities similar to those found within the home.

What we offer

We offer a wide range of activities, incorporating craft, board games, reading, imaginary play, construction, sport and much more. During their time at the club children choose activities that suit them best.

Healthy breakfast is available each morning and a snack and drink are provided each afternoon; however, this snack is not intended as a substitute for the main evening meal that the child receives at home.

We promote independence by encouraging the children to prepare their own snacks and to clear away after themselves. We use fresh ingredients and follow statutory guidelines. Fresh drinking water and fruit is available at all times. Individual dietary requirements and parental preferences are met wherever possible. We recognise the importance of healthy nutrition for children delivered in a calm, friendly setting.

Staffing

Before and After-School Club is currently staffed by Miss Griffiths and Mr Walker. We also have staff available to cover absences, when regular staff are ill or attending courses. Our staff have significant experience of working with children, and comply with EYFS requirements for registered childcare. Staff are expected to undertake professional development training. All staff members are checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service. We maintain a staff/child ratio in-line with statutory requirements.

Staff who also have designated roles are:

Mrs K Bentley:	Special Education Needs Co-ordinator
Mrs H Broom:	Child Protection
Mrs P Leadley:	Administration/Accounts
Mrs E Leslie:	Early Years Foundation Stage Co-ordinator
Miss C Griffiths:	Out of School Supervisor

If you have a query or concern, please speak to the relevant member of staff.

Organisation

Before and After-School Club is run as part of the school.

Policies and procedures

The club operates under a number of school policies and procedures, copies of which are held at the club, and are available at your request.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Admission

It is our intention to make Before and After-School Club accessible to children and families from Reception to Year 6. Admission to the club is organised by the Supervisor and the School Operations Manager and a waiting list system may be implemented when the need arises. The waiting list will be operated on a first-come first-served basis, with the exception of siblings who will have priority for the same day(s) as a sibling already attending.

A completed registration pack is required for each child attending. This pack contains information concerning your child and is confidential. Please update us with any changes.

All bookings for Before and After-School sessions must be made in advance, via the School Spider App, which school will invite you to upload to your mobile device.

Only exceptional circumstances will children be accepted into Before and After-School Club at short notice if there is a space but this is for emergency use only and is limited to 3 occurrences per term unless agreed in advance with the Head of School. These sessions will be charged to you by invoice via the School Spider App and must be paid for immediately.

Payment of fees

The current fees for school children are £3 per hour.

The fee is payable from 3.15pm even if your child attends a separate after school club/activity provided by school, as we have the TA support from 3.15pm.

The price is per hour per child. This is payable for all sessions booked including when your child is sick, or on holiday.

Bookings are made via the School Spider App, our payment system, with payment being made by a Debit/Credit Card. School Spider also accepts Voucher payments. The price is per session, per child. Cancellations are only refunded where 24 hours' notice has been given. You should cancel your bookings via the School Spider App. In cases of illness or emergency when notice cannot be given, please phone the School Office as soon as you can.

If you are having difficulty paying fees, please speak in confidence to Mrs Leadley, School Operations Manager.

Temporary changes

Please remember that we need to know if your child (or children) will not be attending Before and After-School Club for any reason. Even if you have informed your child's teacher, you must cancel any sessions you no longer require via the School Spider App, otherwise you will be charged.

Induction

The child and parents/carers will be invited to come and see the club before the child's first day.

Early in each child's first attendance a short time will be set aside for an "induction" period. During this period a member of staff will outline the club's rules and routines (including meal times and collection).

Another child will usually be allocated to act as the new child's mentor for the first few sessions.

Arrival and departure

For Breakfast club all children must be signed into club by a named adult. Breakfast is available from 7.30am. Children will be taken onto the playground to join their class ready for entry into school.

For After School club, children are collected from the classroom by a member of school staff and are escorted to the venue. A register is taken at each session and a signing-out sheet is used. Each child must be signed out by a named adult and the time recorded.

Children will not be released if the name differs. In exceptional circumstances when it is not possible for your child to be collected by a named person, normal safeguarding procedures will be followed.

The club finishes at 6pm, if you are delayed for whatever reason please telephone the club to let us know. A late payment fee of £5 per 15 minutes will be charged if children are collected after 6pm.

Child Protection

We create an environment in which children are safe from abuse and in which any suspicion of abuse is promptly and appropriately responded to.

We comply with local and national child protection procedures and ensure that all staff are appropriately trained.

Equal Opportunities

Before and After-School Club is committed to equal opportunities as stated in its equal opportunities policy. Strategies used to realise this goal include:

- Premises used by the club provide a high level of accessibility to the community at large.
- Menus include sufficient variability to provide for the cultural mix of the club's children.

Special Needs

Before and After-School Club will make every effort to accommodate and welcome any child with additional special needs. We will work in liaison with parents/carers and relevant professionals to meet the child's specific needs.

Our staff training programme includes specific elements relating to children with additional special needs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Behaviour

Children and staff have created rules for behaviour whilst at the club. These are displayed for children to see.

Children are expected to respect each other, staff and visitors.

Staff will encourage an atmosphere of care and consideration between all members of the club including children, staff and visitors.

Before and After-School Club encourages appropriate behaviour through: praise for good behaviour; emphasis on co-operative play and sharing; talking to children with the courtesy that we expect from them and engaging children in activities

Before and After-School Club will not tolerate from any member: bullying; aggressive, confrontational or threatening behaviour; or behaviour intended to result in conflict.

The club has procedures for dealing with unacceptable behaviour. In the case of violence or behaviour that poses an immediate danger a child is required to be collected directly; as an ultimate sanction, the child may be excluded from the club.

Before and After-School Club recognises that poor behaviour can occur from time to time for reasons that are not always evident, or as a result of special needs. We will strive to be flexible in order to accommodate such cases.

Illness

We are unable to care for children who are unwell.

Please inform the supervisor of any infectious illness your child contracts. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, please do not send him/her to the club for 48 hours after the illness has ceased and ensure you cancel any sessions you have booked via School Spider.

Accidents and First Aid

Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of the children at all times and the club is fully insured. Several of our staff are trained in first aid and a first-aid kit is kept on the premises. We operate an accident procedure and fire drills are carried out regularly.

Medication

Please let the supervisor know if your child is taking prescribed medicine. Please speak to the supervisor if medication needs to be administered during club time.

Complaints Procedure

Before and After-School Club is run for the users. We value your opinions. If you have any queries, comments or need to discuss any matters concerning your child, please feel free to speak to the supervisor, School Operations Manager or Headteacher.

All complaints will be dealt with by the Headteacher following the school policy

A full copy of our complaints procedure and policy is available on request.

PLEDGE TO PARENTS/CARERS

We value our relationship with parents/carers and are committed to working in partnership with you to provide top quality play and care for your children. We will:

- Welcome you at all times to discuss our work, have a chat or take part in our activities.
- Keep you informed of opening times, fees and charges, programmes of activities, menu and procedures.
- Be consistent and reliable to enable you to plan with confidence and peace of mind.
- Share and discuss your child's achievements, experiences, progress, and friendships.
- Ask your permission for outings and special events.
- Listen to your views and concerns to ensure that we continue to meet your needs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Before and After-School Club
The Acorns Primary and Nursery School
Pooltown Road
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire
CH65 7ED

Tel: Direct Line 0151 541 6128 available from 7.30–8.45am and 3.10-6.00pm

School Tel: 0151 355 1546
Email: admin@theacornsprimary.co.uk
Ofsted Number: 134866