

Family Pack



A handy guide to everything you will need to know throughout your child's pre-school year.

September 2022

Please note: If your child attends Brambles Pre-School you will still have to apply for a school place as part of the normal application round (November – January) prior to your child starting reception class the following September.

A warm welcome

Brambles staff and governors would like to thank you for choosing Brambles for your child's pre-school setting and welcome you and your child to an exciting year ahead. Over the coming academic year, Brambles' staff look forward to working in partnership with you – to share in your child's learning, celebrate his or her achievements and to join in with home and family customs and traditions. A bilingual and pictorial book is available for those who wish to request it.

The Hours and Daily Schedule

What are the opening hours?

9am-3pm, term time only

What sessions are available?

9am – 3pm All day session

9am – 12:30pm Morning session with lunch

11:30am-3pm Lunch and afternoon session

12:30pm – 3pm Afternoon session

How do I contact you?

School Reception: 01480 375063

Brambles: 01480 375063 option 2

Email: brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk

9am – 11:30am Morning session

Address: The Green, Brampton, Huntingdon,
Cambs. PE28 4RF

Ofsted Unique Reference No: 135131

FAQ's

When can I make changes to my child's hours?

At the end of each term when the new funding forms are available in preparation for the new term or during term time, however there may be charges until the end of that term.

How much are the non funded hours?

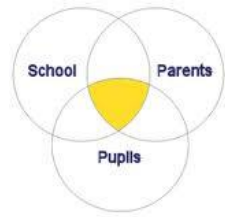
£4.20 per hour

What do I do if my child has prescribed medication?

Please bring the medication in the original container and the GP label containing all the information on dosage and times etc. You will be asked to fill in a medication form. Please inform staff if they require specific training to administer your child's medication.

Can my child attend with crutches or a sling?

If your child has crutches a risk assessment will be completed prior to your child returning to pre-school to ensure it is safe for them to do so. If your child has a sling or a cast, again a risk assessment will need to be completed. Any suspected fractures etc your child will need to remain at home until in a hard cast or the doctor agrees it's safe to do so. A risk assessment will again be filled in prior to your child returning.



Working in Partnership

Positive partnerships between parents and staff support your child's transition on to the foundation stage of their life-long learning journey

Children

Children are the very heart of Brambles pre-school and will always come first. The learning experiences your child will encounter at Brambles are planned with care and in accordance with The Early Years Foundation Stage framework and statutory requirements.

Parents

By working in partnership, parents and Brambles' staff demonstrate mutual respect and a shared commitment for the well-being of your child. By exchanging information that relates to your child parents can help Brambles' staff to ensure high quality care and enable key workers to develop a better understanding of your child's learning needs.

Staff

Staff recognise that each family brings something different to the setting. Culture and diversity is embraced and celebrated with children and families throughout the year at pre-school.

You are able to share your favourite music, food, language, artefacts and information from your home country at any point throughout the pre-school year.

Pre-school Governors

Brambles is run by a small group of governors which reports to the schools' full governing body. The pre-school governors' role is; to set the aims and values for the pre-school, monitor implementation of the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, and to plan for pre-school development. Ofsted usually inspects the pre-school school at the same time as the primary school. When Brambles is inspected a letter will be sent directly to you explaining the inspectors' judgements and outlining the strengths and areas for developments which they have identified.

The pre-school governors are: Nic Evans – Chair of pre-school governors, School governor and owner of Brampton Kids Club, Peter Allen – Head teacher, Aisha Eason – foundation stage leader, Dave Freeman – pre-school and school governor, Ann Marie Latham – pre-school and school governor and Sallie Cochrane – pre-school leader.



Brambles Staff

We believe that the provision of high quality learning experiences for children requires a high quality workforce. A well-qualified, skilled staff strongly increases the potential of any individual setting to deliver the best possible outcomes for children. Brambles' staff are all experienced, well-qualified Early Years' professionals and they are also all parents themselves. Brambles' staff strive to ensure good partnership working with families and outside agencies and excellent working relationships with the children.

Staff at Brambles all have designated roles alongside their keyworking responsibilities. Each designated role holds different responsibilities and staff have attended specific training for this.



Safeguarding

Receiving and acting upon any reported concerns. Ensuring all staff are familiar with, and adhere to the Child Protection Policy and have regard to the Government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'; acting as a first point of contact on issues of Child Protection, both internally, and for members of the public; securely storing records of any concerns.



SEN

Dealing with any additional needs a child may have. Liaising with parents/carers of registered SEN children; identification of children giving cause for concern; recording data on children and sharing with others as appropriate; liaison with outside agencies; advise and support other practitioners in the setting; ensure that appropriate Individual Child Plans (ICP) are in place.



ENCo

To develop an understanding of the statutory obligation to promote equality and value diversity and differences within pre-school. To work with parents and staff to promote good practice within the setting. To carry out an annual audit of resources and learning opportunities within the setting and to promote images of cultures, race and disability.



Volunteers

To support students from local secondary schools and colleges to fulfil their placement requirements and guide them during their placements ensuring they cover the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow all the day to day runnings of the pre-school. Volunteers are also supported to ensure that they are aware of all the policies and procedures and get the most out of their time helping at Brambles.

Payments



Notices of Brambles charges are raised by the School Business Manager since, although Brambles is financially independent, the pre-school is run and managed by the school governing body. **ALL invoices need to be settled for by the date requested.** Invoices are usually sent out during the middle of each month.

Payments

Brampton Village Primary School and the Brambles Pre-School operates a 'cashless' payment system, therefore no cash or cheques will be accepted. The school finance office will issue you with a unique code which will enable you to pay via a secure website. You will be able to settle all invoices and other items such as school trips.

Paypoint

However, if you would prefer not to pay online, you can request a card with a personalised barcode that you take to the nearest paypoint (Brampton Co-op or Post Office) to pay your child's fees and other items.

Childcare Vouchers

If you would like to use childcare vouchers, you will need to ensure that the school accepts your particular type of vouchers. Please go to the main school office and speak to the School Business Manager.

Late fees are also invoiced via the school office at a rate of £5 for each 5 minutes you are late.

The doors will be closed by 3.10pm at the latest.

Any children not collected will be taken to the main school office for collection.

Information Sharing

Brambles keep you informed about your child's progress at Brambles along with valuable information about your child and all aspects of pre-school activities and events that happen across the year. It is important that you read the information that is available to you as it will help to keep you up to date with what's going on in the classroom, special occasions, dates for your diary and more. Brambles does not use systems such as Tapestry, Family, See Saw etc that are used in nurseries and childminder settings as this takes a lot of time away from the children to complete up to 32 children and staff with heads in iPads rather than engaging with the children, instead Brambles offers:



Informal daily chats

Brambles have an 'open door' policy for parents to speak to any member of Brambles staff as and when the need arises at the start and end of every day. Please just speak to the person on the gate.



Daily Sharing

Activities and photos (no full faces or identifying children for safeguarding reasons) are posted to help share what we have been up to that day and how it links to learning through play and how these skills help your child progress through their pre-school year in preparation to school. You can use these as prompts to help you to talk to your child after the session; many children when asked, 'What did you do today?' will often reply 'Nothing!' – the photos and text may provide useful conversation starters. You do not need to have a Facebook account to access the Brambles Facebook page as it is an open group. If you type in *Facebook Brambles Pre-school* you will be able to see all daily posts. Please note that staff do not comment or reply via Facebook, it is used as a daily sharing tool.



Weekly and Half Termly Newsletters

Half Termly newsletters are sent electronically unless you specifically request a hard copy. Newsletters are sent out from the school at the start of each half term highlighting the main focus of learning for the half term.



Regular update emails from your child's key person

You will receive regular communication from your child's key person sharing valuable information about your child ensuring that your child is happy and cared for whilst at Brambles. You are welcome to share up to four photos along with information, achievements, celebrations etc that involve your pre-school child regularly with your child's key person.



Dates for your Diary

Brambles staff know how busy a parent's life can be, therefore to help, all the dates for assemblies, celebrations, trips etc are sent out via email, will be on newsletters and on Facebook. This way should you require to take leave from work or arrange alternative childcare, you have lots of notice to do so. This also includes all the school and pre-schools holiday dates and public bank holiday dates.

Please make sure you also save some dates in July for the new reception Getting To Know You Sessions and Transition Day that you will need to take your child to.



Notice Board

The notice board is located opposite the main Brambles Pre-school door at the front of the school on the back of the menu board. On the board you will find: any updates, PTA news plus any other relevant messages. You are welcome to take a photo of it, if it helps at home.



Parent Consultations and End of Year Report

There are two parent consultations held in the Autumn and Spring terms. This time is for those families who wish to discuss their child's Learning and Development during parent evenings. In the summer term you will receive an end of year report.



Policies and Procedures

You are welcome to view Brambles policies and procedures at any time and if you would like an electronic copy, please email the pre-school leader. Policies and procedures are essential to help provide good quality provision that is compliant with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)*. They do this by explaining to staff and parents about the type of childcare offered and what actions to take in practice to achieve this. Policies and Procedures are reviewed annually unless changes are made in between time for individual policies and procedures and these will be amended as required. Policies include:

- *Current Child protection and Safeguarding including Mobile Phone Use and the Prevent Duty*
- *Staffing, Induction, Qualifications, Training and Support*
- *Equal opportunities, Valuing Diversity and British Values*
- *Health*
- *Information and Records*
- *Managing Behaviour*



Snack Time

Brambles provides snacks mid morning and mid afternoon; Morning snack consists of a piece of fruit or vegetable plus milk or water to drink and the afternoons it is a carbohydrate such as oat cakes, rice cakes, bread sticks et. On occasions, Brambles serves 'treats' when celebrating birthdays, different cultures and special themes. Staff have attended healthy eating courses and are aware of portion control and ensuring a balanced diet when planning for snacks. Dietary requirements are catered for and snacks are made inclusive; i.e no child has a different snack from anyone else. Staff also use snack time to talk about all areas of healthy practices such as exercise, brushing teeth and sleep.



Roasted Fox &
Scrambled Snake



Percy Park Keeper
Trail Mix



Fish & Chips
crackers and peas



Traffic Light
Snack



Baklava for
Israel



Cloakroom

The children's cloakroom is designed to store all your children's belongings. Your child has their own peg on which to hang their coat; a green bag to leave spare clothes and a basket underneath to store hats, gloves, etc plus a plastic box under that to store their wellies.



Green Brambles Drawstring Bags

Brambles Pre-school provides each child with their own drawstring bag for the duration the year. Parents will need to provide a photograph for the front of the bag and a named bag that can be placed inside the drawstring bag with a change of clothing and underwear. These bags must remain at Brambles and are the property of the pre-school. **Please do not bring any other bags to Brambles**



Wellington Boots and a suitable coat for the weather

Your child **MUST** have at all times: a pair of **wellington boots** (named) that can remain at Brambles for the whole year. Children really do go outside every day of the year and by ensuring your child has wellies and a suitable coat for the season at pre-school they can access all areas of the Brambles garden and school grounds all year round. **In winter months if your child arrives in wellies, please ensure you bring a pair of shoes to change into.**



Waterproofs

Brambles supplies each child with a pair of waterproof trousers and jacket for when it is pouring with rain on the weekly walks or when on the school playgrounds to prevent home coats and jackets from becoming too wet. Please always ensure your child has a coat/jacket with them regardless of the weather as the weather is very unpredictable and we do play out all year round.



Legionnaire Hats

Brambles supplies each child with their own sun safe hat when they play outside for the duration of their pre-school year. The hats are provided to ensure that your child's neck and ears are protected from the sun. All the hats are identical and Brambles staff ensure that they are washed regularly.

Please do not bring any other hats to Brambles



Suncream

Brambles supplies and uses Nivea Sun, Kids factor 50+ suncream for children who attend all day. If you wish your child to use a different brand, please bring in your own suncream clearly labelled with your child's name that will remain at Brambles. **Please apply Suncream prior to dropping your child off for their session**

It is vitally important that you name EVERYTHING that comes in to Brambles. There are 40 children who attend Brambles and many have the same if not similar items of shoes, clothing and lunchboxes. By naming your child's items you will ensure that they are returned to you and your child.



<http://www.orchardschoolwear.co.uk/schools/BramptonVillagePE28/>

Brambles do have a uniform for those who wish to wear it. It is not compulsory but does save your home clothes! Sweatshirts and polo shirts, with embroidered badges are available to purchase online from Orchard Clothing via the primary school link above. If the order is delivered to school, there will be no delivery charge and the order will be sent home with your child. There is a delivery charge if the uniform is to be delivered to a home/work address. Footwear should be sensible, flat shoes and ones your child can do by themselves or with limited help.

Lunch Arrangements



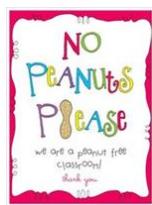
Lunch time is 11:30am – 12:30pm. If your child is arriving at lunchtime, please ensure they arrive promptly. Once children have finished their lunches, there is quiet play until 12:30pm. In the third term Brambles go out with Reception and Key Stage One children after lunch every day.

Packed Lunches

If your child is at Brambles for lunch you will need to provide a packed lunch. Your child has 30-45mins to eat lunch so please consider this when packing their lunch box and not pack too much. We suggest that you include the following:

- Lunch bag (Named on the outside)
- Drinks bottle in the lunch bag or attached to the side (Named on the outside and no fizzy drinks please)
- Spoon (for yoghurt/pudding/custard/jelly etc)
- Small plastic bag (for empty yoghurt/jelly pots and left-overs)
- A sandwich or other carbohydrate
- Cheese, yogurt or other calcium
- A piece of fruit or vegetable

Please DO NOT send your child with nuts or nut products and please no fizzy drinks



What do you teach my child?



Brambles pre-school uses the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework which is a statutory document for early years' settings outlining the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and sets out a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. (EYFS 2011, Pg. 2) *The EYFS helps staff to understand and support each individual child's development pathway. Playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically underpin learning and development across all seven areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner. (EYFS 2011, Pg.4)*

Overarching principles

Four guiding principles shape practice at Brambles Pre-School. These are:

- Every child is a unique individual, 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 are shaped by their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between keyworkers and parents and/or carers;
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years' provisions, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Prime and Specific Areas of Learning

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the educational programme at Brambles. All areas of learning and development are important and are inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

Communication and language

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment where they develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and learn to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive so that they develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children are also helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, social and emotional development

Personal, social and emotional development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others: enabling them to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; fostering the development of social skills and appropriate behaviour in groups; teaching them how to manage their feelings and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

Literacy

Literacy development involves linking sounds and letters (early reading) and mark making (writing). Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to: develop and improve their counting skills; understand and use numbers by calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

Understanding the world

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Expressive arts and design

Expressive arts and design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. It also involves providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, roleplay, and design and technology

Active Learning Through Play

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an ongoing judgement to be made by keyworkers about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults. Keyworkers respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. As children grow older, and as their

development allows, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Reception.

It is expected that the balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. But throughout the early years, if a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, keyworkers will discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child. Keyworkers must consider whether a child may have a special educational need or disability which requires specialist support. The Brambles' SENCo will link with, and help families to access, relevant services from other agencies as appropriate.

For children whose home language is not English, Brambles takes reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, supporting their language development at home. Brambles ensures that children have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language during their time in pre-school and EYFS, ensuring children are ready to benefit from the opportunities available to them when they begin Reception.

When planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and strive to incorporate these in their practice. Three characteristics of effective 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.

Safety Matters

In the first term, children will be learning that safety matters. They will learn who are the people on their hand of safety, how to cross the road safely, how to stay safe in the home, how to stay safe when out and about and what to do if they get lost. They will also look at how to keep their bodies safe. When talking to the children about personal safety, staff will not be making it scary and they will not be talking about sex or sexual abuse. Staff will be empowering the children through simple conversations, through play and activities to teach the children how to keep themselves safe.

One of the activities will be naming the body parts and at this age it is important to use anatomically correct names including penis and vagina. These words are age appropriate according to the guidance from the Cambridgeshire Adversary Training Team. Lots of families use made up names for these particular body parts, however these made up names are not always obvious to the person the

child is talking to; for example when telling a member of staff, “*Quick! Petey is stuck!*” or, “*I don’t want to share my noo noo.*”

Staff will be use the NSPCC website and materials to teach the children the ‘Underwear Rule’, and talking PANTS. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/> Please do visit the website as it is very informative and by working together to ensure children hear the same message that they can say no and always tell an adult of they are worried or upset about anything.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please email or telephone Brambles.

Planning, Preparing and Assessment

All staff help your child to become familiar with the setting; reliable staff offer a settled relationship for your child and help to build a relationship with you, the parent. Staff consider the individual needs, interests, and stages of development of each child in the class, and use this information to plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for all children across all seven areas of learning and development. Keyworkers carry out regular assessments to recognise children’s progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. They use their observations to shape and adapt learning experiences for each child. Parents and carers are encouraged to share observations and information with all Brambles staff to help them to know and understand each child better. At the end of each term keyworkers complete individual Learning and Development Summaries for each of their key children.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Brambles provide an environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs (SEN), are supported to reach their full potential. Staff have a wealth of experience with children with additional needs both on a personal level with their own children and also within the classroom setting. Staff attend regular training to ensure they have the most up to date knowledge and understanding of how best to support specific needs and all staff have a good understanding of using Picture Exchange Cards (PECs), Visual Timetables and use some British Sign Language.

Other Settings

If your child also attends another setting, a copy of your child's termly Learning and Development Summary will be forwarded onto the other setting after you have received your copy. Brambles pre-school encourage shared settings to come and visit your child at Brambles as well as request to visit your child at their other setting, to ensure that between the two settings your child is enjoying and achieving between all seven areas of learning.

Outside Agencies

Brambles work with the local Early Years Support Team, such as sector support workers where children have particular needs. Procedures for contacting the local authority on child protection issues to enable Brambles and social care to work well together are clearly set out in the settings policies and procedures. Anything they may effect the wellbeing of a child is brought to the attention and shared with Ofsted.

Latest Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted came to visit Brambles to carry out a full inspection on Wednesday 24th January 2017. On the day of inspection, the Ofsted inspector, Cindy Impey found "Brambles pre-school has integrated well since it joined your school. Your leader in the early years works closely with the pre-school to ensure that the team have a good understanding of the needs of individual children before they start their fulltime education. Older pupils also 'buddy' with the younger children. 'Year 4 friends' accompanied children in the pre-school on an autumn walk last term. Children 2 regularly visit the main school to sing songs and share learning. This ensures that transition is not too daunting when the time comes for children to move into Reception. Consequently, children settle quickly and happily, and make good progress."

In September 2015 Ofsted required Brambles to have the same Unique Reference Number as Brampton Village Primary School and past Ofsted inspections for Brambles can no longer be found. All future Ofsted inspections for Brambles will be carried out with the primary school under the Early Years Foundation Stage. Brambles is run by Brampton Village Primary School, however it is financially independent.

For Your Information

Safeguarding

If a suspicion of abuse is recorded, you will be informed at the same time that the report is made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board does not allow this. This will usually be the case where the child is to go home to the abuser and the investigating officers will inform the parents.

Observations

Observations of your child are taken daily to aid with assessing their learning and development. Observations are kept confidentially within your child's learning and development file. Should staff need to make observations for the college assignments permission will be sought specifically for them at the time. Please ask staff if you would like to access your child's Learning and Development file.

Play

During your child's day, they will access activities both inside and outside during their free play by playing between both places. Outside offers the seven areas of learning as it does inside but on a larger scale. There are more chances of risk taking outside by using the climbing equipment or the hill. There are two members of staff in each area to aid learning through play. Brambles children also access the school to use their hall for PE, the music room for music, the wooded area for campfire cookouts, the environmental area for investigation and the playground and equipment for play.

Experiences

During the year children will experience recycling, cooking, gardening and other things that they may do at home. We often have visits from the wider community. We have been very lucky to have parents, a music group, a story teller, the police service, lollipop man and many more over the years. The children will also have visits with their school buddies (reception through to Year 6), go to some of the school assemblies and in the Summer term, Brambles children go to the school playground after lunch and play with children from reception, Year 1 and Year 2 where they start to learn the rules of the playground, who the Midday Supervisors are and make new school friends in preparation for starting reception in September.

Illness

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they **MUST remain at home for at least 48hours** and until the last episode of sickness or stools have become hard.

Data Protection

Brambles Pre-School complies with the General data Protection Regulations and the Human Rights Act by having systems in place that meet these legal requirements for storing and sharing information.

Please see Brampton Village Primary School website for our Privacy Notice (how we use pupil information).

Confidentiality

All the forms you fill in are treated with a degree of sensitivity and value. Brambles respect the privacy of the children and families, while ensuring access high quality early years care and education in the setting. Confidential information is not normally shared in the public domain or readily available from another source. The information you choose to share in confidence will only be used to enhance the welfare of your child.

Consent

Your consent will be sought for specific activities such as weekly community visits, end of year trip etc, and prior to the activity.

Access to records

You are welcome to view your child's Learning and Development record by writing a letter to your child's keyworker. You are welcome to view your child's best book at any time by asking your child's keyworker. Both your child's Learning and Development record and best book can be shared with you during any parent consultation, again, please speak to your child's keyworker to arrange a mutually convenient day and time.

Staff Continual Professional Development

The basket in the family cloakroom also contains a yellow folder with copies of staff certificates and a training log; including paediatric first aid, food safety and fire safety (which all staff hold).

Mutual respect

Staff treat families with professionalism and respect, including privacy at all times. Families must also treat staff in the same manner. Physical, verbal or electronic abuse will not be tolerated and could result in legal action.



Outings and Trips

During their time at Brambles your child will have the opportunity to go out in to the local community to meet people and to look at the area in which they live. Trips include the train station, Co op, dentist, hairdressers, vets, Post Office and more! The biggest of all the outings is the end of year leaver's trip.



Best Books

During the pre-school year, some of your child's work will be kept for their 'best book' which will also contain photographs of, and anecdotes from, your child. The best books are updated each term by your child's keyworker and will be handed to you at the end of the year at the leaver's celebration.



Celebrations

Brambles enjoys celebrating anything; from swimming badges and football trophies, to new babies and weddings. Brambles also encourages all parents to share their job roles, cultures and family traditions; staff use this information to teach the children (and themselves) about the world in which we live. Over the years past Brambles' children have learnt about America, Greece, Russia, Poland, Britain, Philippines, Australia, France etc. Children enjoy learning about food, housing, weather, music, landmarks and language. Parents and visitors have come in to speak to the children and to share artefacts from each country; they have talked and played music in their native language and brought in both homemade and shop-bought food from the country too. Staff have found that the children enjoy this immensely and benefit from learning about other cultures.



British Values

Brambles has a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Brambles Winter Assembly



This is a time for families to get together to listen to their children perform in their first assembly. It is also an opportunity for parents / carers to get to know each other and to talk to staff over a 'bring and share' lunch. This celebration usually lasts about an hour and a half and is held in the school hall.

Brambles Sports Day



This is a time for families to get together once again and cheer on the children taking part in the annual duathlon; run and bike or scoot. Sports Day usually lasts about an hour and a half and is held outside (weather permitting) followed by a family picnic in the school hall.

End of year celebrations



At the end of your child's pre-school year, there will be a leaver's assembly as well as the last week of celebrations to ensure that all children can take part. It is a wonderful time and everyone joins in and your child will receive an end of year report, their best book plus a personalised gift. There is also a photographer who takes leavers photos marking the occasion a few weeks before.

Photos



During your child's time at Brambles; photographs will be taken for displays inside the classroom and school and for your child's best book. On your registration form you will have signed for specific photo permissions such as the brambles facebook page etc.

Parent Helpers

Brambles really welcomes parents who wish to help in any capacity. Parents can help:

In the classroom: playing, reading, helping with activities

With weekly activities: cooking, music, PE, dance

Outside the classroom: playing, gardening, craft making etc.

On one off activities: walking into the village, local trips

At home: Cutting out, naming items to be sent home, donating items

At fundraising events: Helping on a stall at the school Christmas fete, the school's summer fete and going along to the PTA events.



Social Media

All photographs that are taken at Brambles are for the sole use of Brambles Pre-school and each child's photographs are printed and used in their own Best Books. For the winter and leavers assemblies photographs may be taken by parents however they **MUST NOT** be put on to your own personal social media sites. This is because there are children who do not have permission for their photographs to be published anywhere due to safeguarding or parental preference.

Examples of notes sent home to parents as reminders



PTA and Fundraising

As a parent of a child at Brambles you are automatically a member of the parent teacher association (PTA). The PTA depends on continual cycle of parental involvement and support from parents is critical to the success which is why your support is needed.

The PTA board can be found outside the school main reception. The board usually has details of upcoming meetings times and dates, what the school is currently fundraising for and information of the PTA members. The PTA are a small and friendly committee – everyone is welcome! The meetings held twice-termly and are a great way of meeting other families and are held to discuss new ideas and plan all fundraising events in the school, plus you don't have to commit to every meeting.

How does the PTA support Brambles?

The PTA give money towards the leavers trip, money towards new resources and pays for the personalised leavers bags

How does the PTA support School?

If your child attends Brambles and then goes into Brampton Primary School the PTA has previously fundraised for new playground equipment, garden areas, fixed the projectors in both halls, new computer suites, athletics tops, Y6 leavers books, classroom blinds, school trips, library books, cameras for each classroom and much more that your Brambles child will benefit from when they go into school.

How can I help?

Join come along and be part of the PTA

Volunteer to set up, help on a stall, help to clear away at various fetes, discos & movie nights

Support by contacting organisations that can help with raffle prizes, match funding etc

Fundraise by attending the various PTA events across the year

If we do not get help from Brambles families for fundraising events, we will sadly not have enough money for the Brambles Christmas class gift, subsidising the leaver's trip or personalised leavers gifts.



The journey to reception....

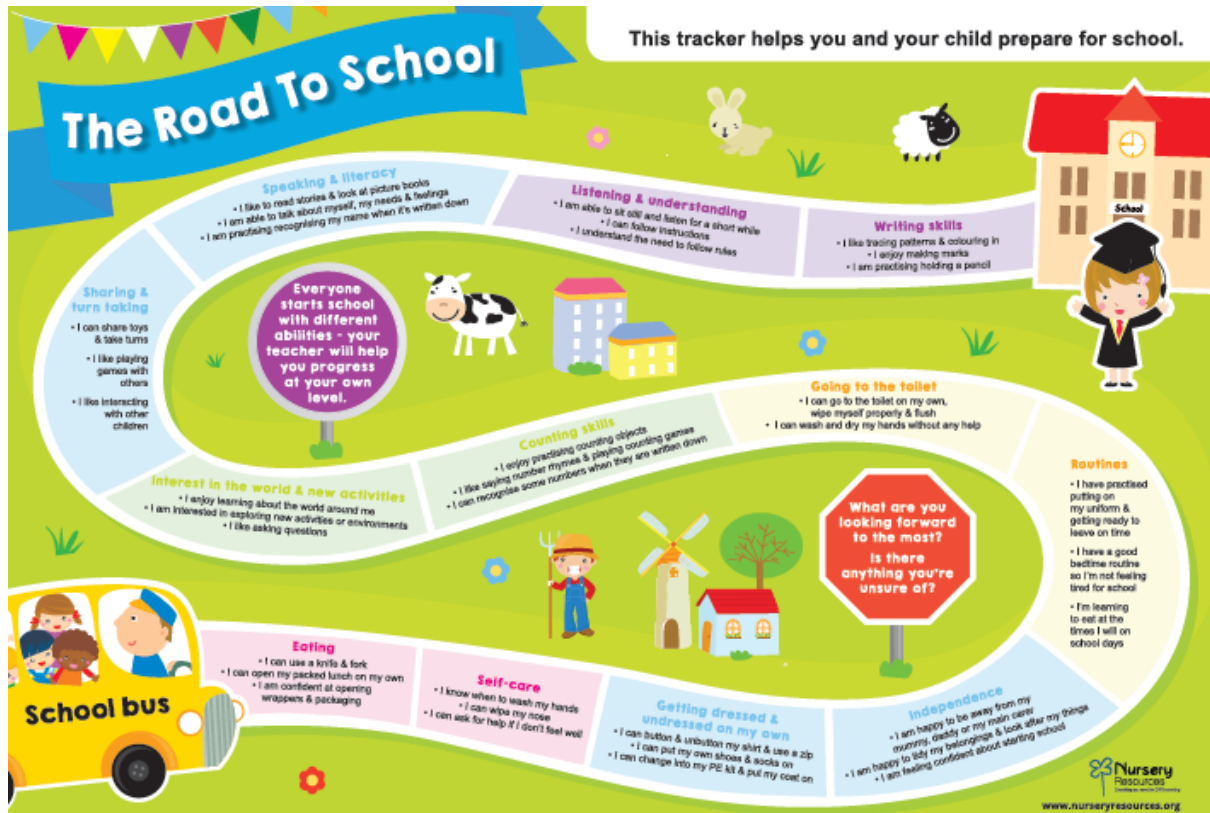
Your child's time at Brambles will pass by so quickly and before you know it your child will be starting reception class. **Please note:** *Your child **will not** automatically get a place at Brampton Village Primary School just because your child attends Brambles Pre-School. You will still have to apply for a place when the application round opens.*

Around **October** time information regarding applying to school will be sent out to all Early Years settings, including Brambles. You will be asked to make preferences to which school you would like your child to attend by the deadline that is given. This can be done online on the Cambridgeshire County Council website. Please speak to Brambles staff should you require help to complete your application. Around **May** time you will be informed of your child's allocated school. Should you not be happy with your assigned school, please follow the instructions that are sent to you to appeal. Brambles staff are unable to help with this.



Brampton Village Primary School. If your allocation is Brampton Village Primary School the reception team will send out transistion information letters directly to your home. Please ensure you read these letters and make notes of the dates that you will be asked to visit. There will be visits for you and your child to attend together, a registration eveing where you will be informed of your child's teacher and have the opportunity to meet them plus dates for your diary. All paperwork and any comments with regards to starting school must be directed to Brampton Village Primary School by emailing them directly or popping into the school office. Brambles staff are unable to help with this.

Class allocation. Brambles staff are asked by Brampton Village Primary School Reception staff to split those children who will be attending reception from Brambles into classes. Children are equally split by the following process: boy/girl, children with special educational needs (SEN), children with English as an additional language (EAL), autumn born, spring born and summer born. Your child may not be with their best friend, however they will know at least two other children from their keywork group and many other chidlren from Brambles. Please note: reception classes still play together in their their outdoor area, at playtimes and during lunchtimes. Also, at the end of recpetion the chidlren are mixed again for their move into Year 1, the mixing of classes occurs all the way up to Year 6.



Remember - learning is not a competition, children learn at different rates. For more ideas to help prepare your child for school, talk to your childcare practitioner.

This tracker is a great way to see the types of skills that help prepare them for reception.

Transitional visits into school will happen daily throughout the pre-school year with Brambles. In the second half of the summer term, the school will hold a reception parents evening for you to attend, Getting to Know You (GTKY) Sessions that you attend with your child plus a parent meeting in the evening that you attend without your child.

Pre-school Term Dates



Brampton Village Primary School Term Dates 2022 - 2023



School Holiday	School Closed Bank Holiday	Staff Training Day	School Open Pupil Day
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September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							December 2022											
	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
				1	2	3	4							1	2				1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30					24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31	
										31																						

January 2023							February 2023							March 2023							April 2023											
	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
							1				1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5							1	2	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			6	7	8	9	10	11	12		6	7	8	9	10	11	12		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			13	14	15	16	17	18	19		13	14	15	16	17	18	19		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			20	21	22	23	24	25	26		20	21	22	23	24	25	26		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29			27	28							27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	30	31																														

May 2023							June 2023							July 2023							August 2023											
	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4							1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	29	30	31							26	27	28	29	30				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30	31			
																		31														

Absences

There will be times when your child is unable to attend pre-school. Attendance is important, but equally we understand that little ones do catch germs easily and get unwell therefore will need to stay home. Also, as pre-school is not compulsory, you may wish to take your holiday during term time whilst you can. **If your child is absent for any reason, please ensure that you call the school office or email brambles (not the school office)**

School office: 01480 375063

Brambles office: 01480 375063 option 2

Email: brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk

Transition into Brambles

Why is there a transition week prior to my child starting?

Transition week was a result of Covid rules and regulations initially. However since starting the transition week staff have found that it supported the children even better to settle than in previous years. The feedback from previous families was also very positive as they were able to leave their child much more happy and content.

What happens during the transition week?

You child, regardless of the sessions they are booked in for, are expected to attend the whole week to support their emotional well-being and transition into Brambles.

Monday 15min walk through to pop belongings in green bag

Tuesday AM Session: Children come in on their own for 30mins in small groups.

PM Session: 15 min walk through to pop belongings in green bag

Wednesday Children come for 1hr in small groups

Thursday Children come for 1.5hrs in small groups

Friday Children come for 2hr in small groups

What happens if my child is not settling?

If your child struggles to come in to the setting, please wait at the back of the queue and a member of staff will be available to support your child. If your child comes in and becomes upset, staff will always call you and if this continues, they will make arrangements to have reduced hours whilst they settle.

Pre-school Mascots



During your child's time at pre-school they will bring home a cuddly woodland animal (to keep in with the school's tree themes) who will spend the week with you. Please write, draw, colour and, if you would like share photos, of what the mascot, your child and you as a family get up to. This really supports your child talking about their home life, extended families and other experiences that help formulate your child's next steps.

Helpful Check List

For the green bags that Brambles provide:

- Named wellies to leave at pre-school
- A change of seasonal clothes in a named plastic bag

Clothing worn to Brambles:

- Named coat (suitable for the weather)
- Named shoes (no open toed sandals without socks and please no laces or wellies to be worn in class)
- All clothing named and ones that are easy for your child to do independently such as leggings or jogging bottoms

If nappies are worn:

- 1 x small packet of nappies named
- 1 x packet of wipes named
- 1 x packet of nappy sacks named

Other items to bring with you that are completd:

- All about me booklet
- Any medication paperwork with the medication with the doctors prescription sticker on it

Please note: We can not accept any non prescribed medications

- Asthma and / or toileting permission paperwork
-

For you to cut out and keep

Please cut these out and use them on your fridge, in your wallet, take to work, pass on to family etc

The Green
Brampton
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE28 4RF

School: 01480 375063

Option 2

brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk



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