

Welcome to Little Wrens at Wrenbury

We very much hope that you and your child will enjoy your time at Little Wrens.

Your child is at a crucial stage in his/her development. Research shows that children learn more rapidly in the first seven years of life than at any other time. It is therefore important that all children are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a parent you play a vitally important role. We at Little Wrens hope to play our part by offering your child a variety of experiences and activities designed to further their individual development.

We hope that your child discovers that learning can be an enjoyable and worthwhile process.



This information pack is intended to give you information about our 3-4 year old provision at Little Wrens but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns.

Little Wrens can be contacted in the same way as the school.

Our contact details are:

Little Wrens

Wrenbury Primary School,
Nantwich Road,
Wrenbury,
Nantwich,
CW5 8EN

Telephone: 01270 685510

Email: admin@wrenbury.cheshire.sch.uk

Subject line: Little Wrens

Our Aims at Little Wrens

We aim to:

1. Provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment in which children feel happy and secure
2. Encourage the emotional, personal, social, physical, creative and intellectual development of the children
3. Encourage positive attitudes to self and others and develop confidence and self esteem
4. Create opportunities for play
5. Encourage children to explore the World
6. Provide opportunities to stimulate interest and imagination
7. Extend the children's abilities to communicate ideas and feelings in a variety of ways

Little Wrens promote equal opportunities for all.

Lead Staff

Head Teacher

Bessa Cador

Deputy Headteacher

Rebecca Charlesworth

Little Wrens Lead

Anna Pitchford

School Administrator

Debbie Rowlands and Ali Hughes are likely to be your first point of contact should you visit or telephone the school. Their friendly and helpful manner will immediately make you feel right at home.

When does Little Wrens start and finish?

Little Wrens operates in two sessions each day.

The **MORNING** session is from 8.55am – 11.55am
(3 hour session - Funding may be used/or £12.00 per session)

The **LUNCHTIME** session is from 11.55am – 12.25pm
30 minute lunch – care session covered by mid-day assistants. You must provide a packed lunch unless paying for a hot dinner (£2.30) for your child.

The **AFTERNOON** session is from 12.25pm – 3.25pm
(3 hour session - Funding may be used/or £12.00 per session)

We kindly ask that you choose a minimum of two sessions per week to allow your child to become familiar with the setting.

FULL TIME OFFER: If you require 5 full days 8.55am – 3.25pm, these can be provided at the discounted cost of £55 per week in addition to your 15 hours free entitlement funding – saving £5.00 per week.

Please fill in the session request form sent out with this pack.

Fees must be paid in advance. If you wish to leave Little Wrens you must let the school office know 4 weeks' before your intended finish date.

Who can pick up my child?

For security reasons we ask that it is always an **adult** who brings your child to Little Wrens. Please do not send them with older brothers and sisters. Each day your child must be “signed in”. This simply lets staff know who has dropped them off and who will be collecting them. Little Wrens has a very strict policy on not allowing your child to go home with another person, only the named person on the Sign-In sheet. Should you need to change the details of the person collecting your child later in the day, please contact the school immediately.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will my child be eligible for Free Early Education Entitlement?

The first full term after their third birthday.

How is it calculated?

The entitlement is 15 hours a week (term time only) for all 3 and 4 year olds. The funding is paid directly to Little Wrens who apply for funding for your child. The free hours are then automatically deducted from your childcare bill. Please refer to the Free Early Education Entitlement flyer.

My child's birthday is in the middle of the term, when can s/he start at Little Wrens?

Your child may start at Little Wrens as soon as they turn 3. However, you will have to pay for these sessions until the start of the term after they are 3, which is when the Free Early Education Entitlement Funding can be accessed. For payment please see our terms and conditions .

What do we do if we are on holiday and do we still need to pay?

Please let the school know if your child will be absent for holidays, your child's key person will be planning activities for your child and it helps them to be aware so they plan effectively for your child's next learning steps. Sessions **must** be paid for even if your child is on holiday.

Do I need to let you know if my child will not be attending Little Wrens?

Please contact the school administrators, Debbie Rowlands or Ali Hughes, to let us know; your child's key person will be planning activities for your child and it helps them to be aware so they plan effectively for your child's next learning steps. If your child is absent due to ill health it is important we are aware of any communicable diseases.

How much notice do you require if I wish to cancel my child's place?

4 weeks prior to the leaving date.

How can I help to prepare my child for Little Wrens?

Before your child can settle into the routine of Little Wrens life, he/she has to confront two obstacles. Firstly he/she must come to terms with leaving you and secondly he/she will be faced with a whole new environment full of other children and unknown adults.

A little advance preparation can make the separation much easier to manage. It is a good idea to encourage your child to make friends with other children who are coming to Little Wrens. This is particularly easy if your child was attending Wrenbury Preschool, another pre-school provision or a playgroup setting.

It also helps if you continue to talk about Little Wrens in a positive manner – keep reminding your child of all the fun activities that will be on offer and all of the new friends that they will make.

What if my child has a problem settling into Little Wrens?

Despite your best efforts your child may still have problems settling into Little Wrens. It is important to remember that you are not alone! Many parents have gone through the same thing before and many will do so again. Some children, no matter how confident, are just not prepared to stay with complete strangers for a couple of hours. Having said that, the majority of children do settle very well which allows staff to offer extra support to those who need it.

Each child and situation is different. For some children it is best that the parent stays with them until they are more settled. For others this simply doesn't work and we find that the child becomes settled more quickly when their parent leaves. If you are concerned, please speak to a member of staff and we can work out the best way forward for you and your child.

Please don't give up or give in! Perseverance is essential and the end reward will be happy and confident children.

Little Wrens Snack

The main aim of snack time is to get the children used to the social side of eating with others. A healthy snack is provided every day and usually consists of milk or water to drink and a variety of fruit. Children will be given the opportunity to help in the preparation of and setting out of snack.

What if my child is allergic to something or is a fussy eater?

The children are encouraged to try everything, but if your child has any strong dislikes or allergies please inform us. If your child is a fussy eater at home you may find that in Little Wrens he/she will happily eat what others are eating, especially if they have helped to prepare it! Your child will never be forced to eat.

What should my child wear to Little Wrens?

We are frequently outside during your child's Little Wrens session so please ensure that they come to Little Wrens suitably dressed each day. If you choose to you may like your child to wear our school uniform. You can purchase a Wrenbury sweatshirt. Please contact the School Office for details on how a school sweatshirt can be ordered. Equally, you may prefer to buy a red jumper or cardigan from the school uniform section of any major supermarket chain. A white or red polo shirt and a grey/black skirt or trousers are our school uniform; again, purchased at any large supermarket.

Little Wrens does provide aprons for messy activities such as baking, painting and gluing but nevertheless new or expensive clothing is not recommended as accidents do happen!

How is my child expected to behave in Little Wrens?

As in every community it is necessary for the Little Wrens to impose basic rules on behaviour. Certain rules regarding safety MUST be observed and ALL CHILDREN will be expected to follow them. Most rules in Little Wrens serve two needs, they prevent your child from doing something undesirable and, in turn, protect him/her from having something unpleasant done in return.

Other rules will teach the children the importance of using equipment correctly and some rules are concerned with common courtesies such as learning to share toys, co-operate with others etc. Your child will soon learn what acceptable behaviour at Little Wrens is.

What if my child misbehaves?

When your child starts Little Wrens he/she may find it difficult to adapt to the rules of the Little Wrens and will be unwilling to accept Little Wrens' discipline. Our policy is to use praise and encouragement. We also reward good behaviour. The sanction for unacceptable behaviour is time out, with a member of staff, from free play. If this is a regular occurrence with your child, we will inform you of this. It is hoped that by speaking with parents we can work out ways of dealing with any behaviour issues.

What if my child becomes ill?

We will ask at the beginning of the year for your permission to provide us with some contact numbers which we can use in an emergency. If your child becomes ill or has an accident while attending Little Wrens we will contact you immediately using your Emergency Contact Number(s). Please ensure that you inform the Little Wrens if any of the contact numbers change in the course of the year.

What will my child be doing in Little Wrens?

Little Wrens education is about focussing on the development of the individual child and during your child's time in Little Wrens he/she will experience a great variety of activities.

Activities offered to the children include:

- sand play
- construction play (e.g. Duplo, Lego)
- water play
- jigsaws
- painting
- snack and baking
- modelling
- drawing
- role play
- stories and together time
- physical activities (indoor and out)
- craft activities
- listening activities
- board games
- visits to local areas of interests
- ICT activities



Of course when you ask your child the question, “*What were you doing in Little Wrens today?*” the reply will often be “*Only playing*” and this is exactly what they will have been doing! However, there is much more to play than meets the eye.

Play is natural to the children and is the way in which they learn. Through play the children learn new skills, develop new interests, encounter new experiences and build on previous knowledge. At Little Wrens we aim to provide a secure, caring, happy and structured environment where the children learn through meaningful play using materials and equipment carefully selected by the staff.

Each of the activities offered to the children provide countless learning experiences for the children, e.g. by seeing their names on paintings and looking at books in the book corner helps to familiarise the children with the printed word and encourage an interest in books.

The children are preparing themselves for writing by expressing their ideas through drawing and painting, while developing their ability to hold pencils and pens.

There is preparation for mathematics by sorting, matching, selecting and ordering as they play with materials such as sand, water, construction and gluing materials.

Jigsaws, games, painting, drawing, computer programmes etc. encourage recognition of colour, shape and pattern.

Pupils acquire knowledge of the world through participating in activities such as together time, singing and walks in the school ground and local environment.

Skills such as listening, talking, questioning, recalling information and describing are encouraged to develop through individual, group and whole class activities.

At Little Wrens the children learn to make new friends and learn to respect one another. They learn to take turns, share and become more independent. They also learn to follow rules and carry out instructions.

The fact that there are so many activities at Little Wrens may mean that your child does not always take home evidence of his/her play. However what they do take home is always their own work. Please remember that what may look like a scribble to us could be a work of art to your child, so always award any effort with some praise!

How will I know what my child is doing?

At the start of each term, you will receive a Newsletter and a holistic planning overview. Each week, a Little Wrens newsfeed will be posted on the school's Website. You will get a login to the Learning Book, which we use to track progress against the EYFS profile and upload pictures of your child engaged in the activities to promote good learning. You will have the chance to speak to a member of staff at either 'Meet and Greet' in the morning or at the end of the hand-over.

How will I know how my child is doing?

We are very fortunate at Little Wrens to have more contact with parents than at any other stage in your child's education, so we welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's progress at any time.

Twice yearly, in the first and second terms, you will be invited to make an appointment to see your child's Little Wrens teacher for a formal parent contact meeting. The focus of these meetings will be to discuss your child's Little Wrens Profile, which forms the basis of their report for reception.

How can I be involved?

Parents are always welcome to come into the Little Wrens. If you have a particular interest or talent which you would like to share with us, please let us know! You can also upload information about your child's learning at home to your child's profile on the Learning Book using your own personal log-in.



We also rely heavily on parental help when we plan outings and trips. *Please also see the section on How can I help my child?*

Help from Outside Agencies

We are very fortunate at Little Wrens to have the input of many outside agencies including speech and language therapists; Lydia and Christine, our school nurses as well as the early years support team. At the beginning of your child's time at Little Wrens, we ask for your written permission so that your child can be seen informally by these visitors. Any concerns raised by these agencies will be discussed with you immediately. Your permission will always be sought before any formal assessments are made.

Child Protection

Wrenbury recognises that it has an explicit duty to safeguard and protect children from abuse as defined in the Children's Act 2004 and the Education Act 2002. The overall intention and purpose behind the school's child protection policy is underpinned by the fundamental principle of the Children's Act 1989; 'the welfare of the child is paramount'.

Everyone in our school shares an objective to help keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for children to learn in.
- Supporting children's development in ways which will foster a sense of self-esteem and independence.
- Identifying and responding to children in need of support and/or protection.

Little Wrens commitment

Little Wrens will:

1. Establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
2. Ensure all children have effective means of communication with more than one adult in school.
3. Give opportunities for class or group discussions of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and tolerance.
4. Include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
5. Ensure that wherever possible every effort will be made to establish effective working relationships with parents and colleagues from other agencies.

Further details/copy of our Child Protection Policy are available from the school office and are on our school website.

How can I help my child at home?

Throughout your child's time at Little Wrens, it is hoped that you will continue to take on the role of your child's primary educator. As soon as your child comes into the world, you are preparing them for the life they have ahead of them. Many of the skills required are not learned automatically and children need encouragement and practice to acquire them. As a parent you can work alongside Little Wrens' staff to help your child prepare for the formal learning of school.

TALKING AND LISTENING

Children need lots of encouragement and practice to LISTEN as well as TALK!

- Talk to your child, and listen to them when they are talking to you
- Name objects when you show them to your child
- Talk to your child about colours and numbers in the World around them
- Rhythm is important. Use words of varying length and perhaps play clapping games to "clap" words (e.g. CAR-PET; UM-BREL-LA)
- Talk about what you can hear when you are out and about with your child or in the home
- Play silly rhyming games e.g. make up silly names for one another e.g. maddy daddy, Hannah banana etc
- Play memory games

MOVING AND DOING

- Clapping helps the hearing and memory. Let your child copy simple clapping rhythms
- Play lots of movement games such as Simon Says
- Encourage games which use positional language such as *on top of*, *underneath*, *next to*, *beside* as these are words which children can often confuse

HAND CONTROL

Encourage the muscles that will eventually allow your child to hold a pencil by allowing your child to participate in activities such as:

- Playing with water, sand and playdough
- Writing or drawing with a variety of pencils, pens and crayons
- Gluing and other craft ideas
- Threading beads, making jigsaws, using peg patterns and other games which use counters and dice
- Supervised cutting activities with scissors

HELP WITH READING

- Encourage positive reading experiences by setting aside special times for the purpose. Create cosy reading situations where you will not be interrupted or distracted
- Talk about the sounds of words – what does *apple* start with? Can you hear what *cat* ends with? Use the sounds of the letters as opposed to the letter names (e.g. the letter a is always pronounced aah (as in apple) not ai (as in chain))
- Let your child choose books that he/she wants to read
- Talk about the front cover, what might happen in the story?
- Use books with flaps
- Continue to read aloud to your child, providing a good model, long after your child learns to read

SOCIAL SKILLS

- Play games with your child which encourage turn taking and sharing
- Encourage your child to listen to and carry out simple instructions
- Encourage your child to become more independent by doing simple tasks by themselves (even if it takes longer to get the job done!) such as putting their own shoes and coat, buttering their own toast, tidying their toys away etc.
- Encourage your child to go to the toilet and wash their hands by themselves.
- Encourage your child to play and interact with other children

Throughout your child's time at Little Wrens you will be invited to attend a variety of events which will give you more ideas about helping your child at home. In the meantime, please feel free to speak to the Little Wrens staff if you feel that you need more help with suitable activities at home.

What happens next?

Please fill out your choice of session form and return it to the school's office. You will then receive a letter confirming whether or not your session choices are available and your child's place at Little Wrens has been secured.

We will ask you to complete an enrolment form and a Terms and Conditions forms and will request information from you about your child including their likes/dislikes, allergies, who stays in the child's home, their friends, their development including toileting and if any other agencies are involved with your child or the family etc. This gives us a very clear understanding of your child and how to support them best once they start Little Wrens. You will then have the opportunity to ask any further questions. In the meantime if we can answer any further questions or offer you any advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch, our contact details are at the front of this information pack.

Please note: Little Wrens, whilst in Wrenbury Primary School's setting, is a separate pre-school provision for 3-4 year olds open to all families, not just Wrenbury School families. A place at Little Wrens is not a guarantee of a place at Wrenbury Primary School. An application for a school place for your child to start in reception at Wrenbury Primary School has to be made through the Cheshire East online application process. You can access their School Admissions page by following this link -

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/schools.aspx>

Little Wrens at Wrenbury

Session Request Form

Child's Name.....

Parents' Names.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Child's Date of Birth.....

Contact Numbers

Email Address.....

**Please indicate which sessions and the start date you require below:
Morning sessions, 8.55am-11.55am, term time only**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please state whether you will be paying £12 for each session [P] or using your 15hrs entitlement (3-4 year olds only) [F].

Afternoon Sessions 12.25pm – 3.25pm - term time only

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please state whether you will be paying £12 for each session [P] or using your 15hrs entitlement (3-4 year olds only) [F].

FOR CHILDREN STAYING FOR A FULL DAY ONLY

Lunchtime Sessions 11.55am – 12.25pm - term time only – please bring a lunch for your child or pay £2.30 for a hot dinner.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Please forward this request to:

Little Wrens
Wrenbury Primary School,
Nantwich Road,
Wrenbury,
Nantwich,
CW5 8EN

Email: admin@wrenbury.cheshire.sch.uk

Subject line: Little Wrens

Once we are satisfied that we can meet your requirements, we shall without hesitation, forward an enrolment pack which will contain all the necessary documentation and information you need to complete prior to September.

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Date:.....

Thank you for your enquiry and look forward to welcoming you and your child to Little Wrens in the near future.