



# Harrold Pre-School Prospectus



Harrold Centre  
High Street  
Harrold  
Bedford  
MK43 7BH  
Tel: 07929618244

Monday- Friday 9.30am-12.00 pm

## Contacts

Pre-School Leader:	Lesley Hartwell	01234 720503 (Home) 07815 313216(Mobile)
Deputy Pre-School Leader:	Louise Dempsey	01234 720493



## Introduction

Welcome to the Harrold Pre-School. This booklet is designed to provide general information about the Pre-School and the way it is organized. We hope you will find it informative and helpful, however if you wish to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact either the Pre-School leader or the Chair Person. An application form is included at the end of this document.



Harrold Pre-School was established in 1965. The Pre-School is permanently based in the Village Hall, which is located in the heart of the village. Alongside the Village Hall is a playground with an open grassed area that the Pre-School can use. The Pre-School has excellent links with other village amenities, and the children are welcomed by the fire Station, the local allotments, garage, shop and Country Park. Nearer to Christmas we are able to go and feed the local deer herd, that somehow get mistaken for 'reindeer'.

The Pre-School is a registered charity and has a welcoming community atmosphere where children forge and foster friendships that often last through their educational life. We take an active role in bringing parents together to help with fund raising or simply for social events. We find this is particularly valuable for new parents or families that have recently arrived in the village.

Our formal aims are:

- To enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age in a Community based Pre-School that involves all parents
- To provide a happy, safe, secure and stimulating environment
- To work within a framework which ensures equality of opportunity for all children and families



It is very important to us that all the children's learning is through play activities and that they learn the important skills of social interaction which will enable them to have high self-esteem and confidence to tackle the more structured school day.

## Links with Lower Schools and Beyond

The Pre-School has excellent links with the local Lower Schools with a good transition between us and them. These schools feed Harrold Middle School which in turn feeds through to the highly popular Sharnbrook Upper School.



## What We Offer Your Child

Our first priority is to offer a safe and caring environment.



We believe that our children's experience of Pre-School should be a positive and stimulating one. Enabling children to learn through play is our key ambition. We focus on helping to develop the child's social skills, increase their self confidence in a group setting and to provide them with a wide range of stimulating and enjoyable activities.

The Pre-School is divided into two groups (Dolphins for two and a half to three and a half years and Sea Lions for three and a half to school age). Although all children take part in similar activities, the separate groups, enable a gentler settling in approach for the younger ones. The groups regularly join together for outdoor play, special events and outings.

Our social environment allows children to make a range of choices for themselves throughout the session, which encourages their independence and stimulates their minds. Within the sessions we provide a wide range of structured activities that support the 6 government approved learning outcomes: Language and literacy, personal and social development, mathematics, knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development and creative development. We also bring children together at the start and the end of the day for 'Circle-Time', that forms the opening and closing of the session for the children.

The success of the children and the pride they have in the work they produce at the Pre-School is celebrated, and we are fortunate that the examples of the children's work can be always displayed at The Harrold Centre –not just during sessions.

### Staff

Because we operate a low staff ratio of children to staff we are able to provide a good degree of individual care. Our staff are highly motivated and caring individuals who are parents themselves.

The Pre-School Leader is Lesley Hartwell who has many years experience in the childcare world. Lesley has been a registered foster parent and is a fully qualified in Early Years Learning and the operation of the Pre-School.

The Deputy Pre-School Leader is Louise Dempsey who has worked at the Pre-School for 5 years. Louise has been involved in the education world since 1991 and has a BTEC National Early Years Education Qualification.

We have 5 permanent employees and 2 relief staff members.



## How Parents are Involved

We welcome visits at anytime and offer introductory sessions for any prospective parent/carer to see our child care environment in action. We are also happy for any parent/carer to stay with their child until they are happy that they have settled in enough for them to leave.

### Duty Days

The Duty Days are voluntary and involves undertaking a few necessary tasks during the morning such as preparing the milk and juice at snack time. More importantly it is your Child's Special Day and gives you chance to spend time with your child and get to know their friends.

### The Management Committee

Parents are also invited to the Management Committee. The pre-School is a registered charity and depends on parents to join the committee to assist in it's running. The management committee consists of a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and up to 12 members. The Committee is the 'responsible body' of the Pre-School. It is the employer of the staff, and the body that is responsible under current child care legislation.

All members are volunteers and as children graduate to the Lower School there is an annual turnover of members. An important duty of the Committee is fundraising and to provide parents with information about activities and forthcoming events.

### Current Management Committee Members are:

Martin Vine – Chair Person

Helen Stockdale – Treasurer

Aliza Russell - Secretary

Jackie Long

Nicola Vine

Aine MacKay

Sally Bailey

Catriona Hammett

Helen Kirchin

Barbara Aellen

Apple Ivory

Andy Bateman

### Friends of Harrold Pre-School

If you feel unable to take on the commitment of the committee we are always looking for parents wishing to help with fundraising events. Fundraising funds are used to improve equipment and facilities for our children. Fees only contribute to the day-to day running costs of the Pre-School.

We welcome any input from parents/relations who have a particular skill, talent or hobby that they could share with the children.



## Admissions

We are one of the most successful and well renowned Pre-Schools in the area, because of this there can often be competition for places. We operate an admissions policy that when we near capacity, favours local children over those from outlying regions. Book early and avoid disappointment.

### Age

Two and a half years to five years. There are two groups Dolphins (two and a half years – three and a half years) and Sealions (Three and a half years to school age).

### Session Times

Monday to Friday 9.30am -12.00 noon

Monday and Wednesday from 12.00 noon – 1.30pm for Lunch Club (Sealions only and subject to demand)

If you are a prospective parent and wish to visit or bring your child for a session simply contact the Pre-School Leader – see Contact Details.

### Fees

£8.00 per session (Grants are available for children commencing the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

£5.20 per session for Lunch Club (Monday & Wednesday for Sealions only)

**Snack Time:** as part of the government milk scheme we offer free milk for all our children. We request that the Duty Parent supply a healthy snack for each child to accompany their drink.

### Term Dates:

Our opening days mirror the local authority school opening dates. Local Lower Schools close 2 days in each academic year for teacher training. Harrold Pre-School may also close on the same days. When the Lower School dates are known we will pass this information on to all parents.

### Uniform

We do not have a compulsory uniform, however T-shirts, sweatshirts and summer caps with the pre-school logo are available to purchase.





## OFSTED Reports and Happy Parents

Harrold Pre-School is a registered charity. We are also a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, a national educational charity and umbrella body, linking 17,000 community based Pre-Schools.

A full copy of our last OFSTED report is available from the Pre-School Leader. We are very proud of the report which found that the Pre-School 'provides a wide variety of interesting activities in a spacious and stimulating environment' and that 'the children's personal and social development is good'.



Circle Time at the start of the day

The inspectors considered that 'the programme for knowledge and understanding of the world is excellent'. Indeed the 6 government approved learning outcomes, the Pre-School's performance ranged from 'good' through to 'excellent'.

The inspectors also considered that 'the partnership with parents and carers is very good and supports the children's learning well'.

Since the report, the Pre-School has embarked on a series of actions to increase the quality of provision further.

As important are the views of parents. Here are some quotes from some of our many parents who have been delighted with the service they receive from the Pre-School:

**"Staff are fantastic – Their energy and enthusiasm seem boundless"**

**"I think it is and excellent Pre-School with excellent transfer to school. I am thoroughly satisfied with all aspects"**

**"I'm happy with the pre-school and know that my daughter enjoys it very much"**

**My son loves Pre-School and is learning a great deal through play"**

**My daughter has received the very best care and education – I have been delighted with her progress in all areas. I would gladly recommend the pre-school to anyone"**