



Call us on
01934 844511
to arrange
a visit

Shipham Pre-School

Prospectus 2017-18



Welcome to Shipham's wonderful Pre-School

Shipham Pre-School is open to all children aged between 2 to 5 years from the village and surrounding area. It is sited in the grounds of Shipham First School, and with currently between 9 and 15 children in the Pre-School at any time it's a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment in which children grow and thrive.

After our last Ofsted visit the inspector described Shipham

Pre-School as "a welcoming environment" and we can't help but agree! Our facilities are second-to-none, our staff are passionate about providing the very best care and education, and – most importantly – the children absolutely love it here.

We welcome visits from prospective families, so please get in touch and we'll be happy to show you what our wonderful Pre-School has to offer you and your children.

Shipham Pre-School, Turnpike Road, Shipham, Somerset BS25 1TX

Tel: 01934 844511

Email: shipham.preschool@hotmail.com

www.shiphampreschool.org.uk



Forest school

Several times every term we enjoy planned sessions in the First School's wildlife-friendly forest school area. Even in the depths of winter you'll find us outside, wrapped up warmly against the worst of the weather, building dens, looking for mini-beasts, hunting for treasure, making mud soup and generally getting back to nature! In the winter we might make hot chocolate over our 'campfire'; in the summer we're more likely to be making daisy chains.

Our range of indoor activities and facilities include:

- ★ Themed large-scale role play area which changes every term
- ★ Dressing up and imaginative play in kitchen and home areas
- ★ Song and story time
- ★ Daily dancing to music sessions
- ★ Construction with blocks, bricks and other toys
- ★ Sand pit, water play and messy play areas
- ★ Painting, drawing and writing tables
- ★ Book/quiet corner
- ★ Cooking
- ★ Computer and DVDs for interactive learning
- ★ Our guinea pigs, Fluffy, Freckles and Flash, and goldfish tank



- ★ Regular 'good news' times when the children are encouraged to share their news from home with each other

We also have access to the adjacent First School grounds. We use the tarmac playground for our tricycles and other ride on toys, and we have weekly gym sessions in the First School hall, as well as discovering all about nature in their forest school.



Freeflow play

Our deck and playhouse are enclosed by a wooden fence and bolted gate and used for freeflow play, weather permitting. We treat this area as if it were part of our indoor space, so during

freeflow play time children are able to use the activities inside and outside as they wish. The deck is used for growing flowers and vegetables, for rearing frogspawn, and includes blackboards, trikes, hula hoops, a gutter ball run and home corner. The children love deciding how they want to spend their time, and freeflow play allows them to pursue their own particular interests.

Education and learning

Our staff are inspirational, experienced and highly qualified, as well as tirelessly enthusiastic and caring.

Each child is assigned a key person who is responsible for monitoring and recording that child's development throughout their time at Pre-School, including how they are progressing in

the three prime areas of learning:

- ★ Communication and language
- ★ Physical development
- ★ Personal, social and emotional development

We will meet with you at least once a term to find out more about your child's needs, interests, likes and dislikes, as well as discuss the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and plan your child's learning.

However, we're happy to talk about your child's progress at any time – we always have time for informal chats at drop-off and collection times, and we are proud of the close relationships we establish in this way.

Learning is play-based, and even though the children may not be aware of it they will be acquiring and





practising new skills throughout the day. We focus on the following areas:

- ★ Literacy
- ★ Mathematics
- ★ Expressive arts and design
- ★ Understanding the world

Each term at Pre-School is planned around a theme (previous themes have included 'farmyard', 'African safari', 'airport' and 'castles and fairy tales') which informs that term's role play, art and activities. Linked to these themes we have enjoyed days out at the beach, the aquarium and on the farm, as well as visits from local celebrities like the lollipop lady, butcher and car mechanic.

We also have a busy calendar of annual events including a Nativity

play, Christmas party, Chinese New Year celebrations with dragon dance, and sports day.

A solid foundation

The pre-school years create the foundations for later development and learning experiences. We aim to provide a safe and stimulating child-centred environment where your children can play and grow. At the heart of all we do is a desire to promote happy, well rounded, confident young people.

We believe that children flourish when they know how they are expected to behave and should be free to play and learn without fear of being hurt or unfairly restricted by others. We encourage the children to be caring, thoughtful and well mannered. We promote this by example, by responding positively to good behaviour and giving an explanation of why some behaviour is unacceptable. We do not allow any toy weapons into the Pre-School, and request that you leave these at home.

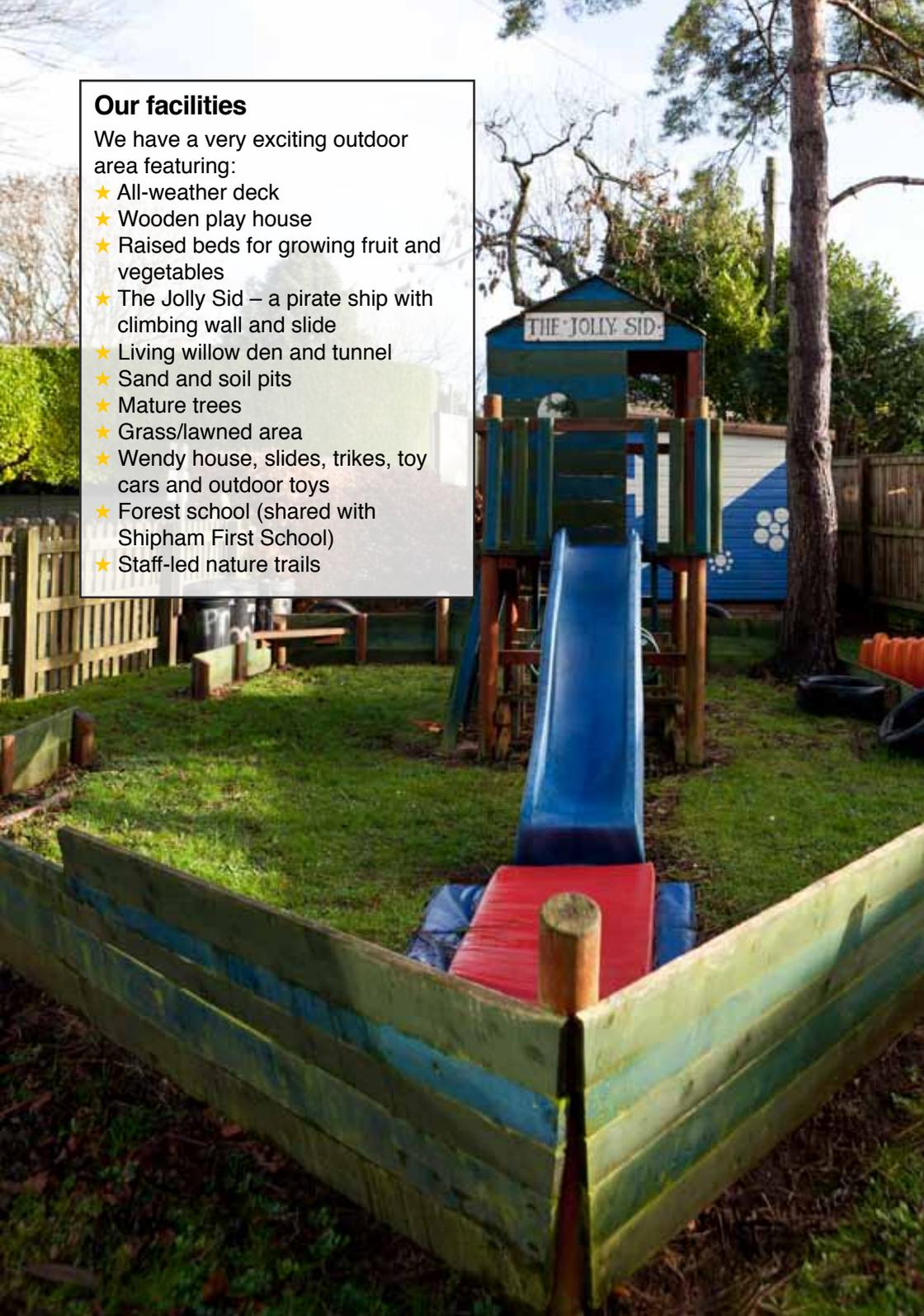
Transition to 'big' school

Children making the step up to full-time education enjoy sessions with the Reception teacher at Shipham First School (accompanied by Pre-School staff). It familiarises them with the routine and environment of primary school and gives them the best start in formal education, wherever that may be. Reception teachers from other schools that our children are due to attend are invited into Pre-School to meet the children during the summer term.

Our facilities

We have a very exciting outdoor area featuring:

- ★ All-weather deck
- ★ Wooden play house
- ★ Raised beds for growing fruit and vegetables
- ★ The Jolly Sid – a pirate ship with climbing wall and slide
- ★ Living willow den and tunnel
- ★ Sand and soil pits
- ★ Mature trees
- ★ Grass/lawned area
- ★ Wendy house, slides, trikes, toy cars and outdoor toys
- ★ Forest school (shared with Shipham First School)
- ★ Staff-led nature trails





Opening hours and fees

The Pre-School is open Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm, every week of the school year.

You can enrol for part- or full-day sessions:

- ★ **Morning** 9am to 12noon, **£14.40**
- ★ **Lunch** 12noon to 1pm, **£3.70**
- ★ **Afternoon** 1pm to 3pm, **£9.60**
- ★ **Full day** 9am to 3pm, **£27.70**

At lunchtime we eat with the school children in the First School hall – your child can have a cooked lunch (at an additional cost) or you can provide a packed lunch. We accept Early Years

Entitlement (EYE) funding, including the 30 hours extended entitlement, and employee incentive childcare voucher schemes.

Health & safety

The children's safety is our priority. All staff are trained in first aid and child protection. The building, grounds and Pre-School events are all subject to regular risk assessments.

Management

Shipham Pre-School is a governor-run pre-school affiliated to Shipham First School.