

A vibrant field of sunflowers with bright yellow petals and dark brown centers, set against a background of lush green foliage. The sunflowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing signs of aging and wilting.

Preschool Autumn Term 2025

‘ Our brains are built to benefit from play no matter our age.’
Theresa A. Kestly

We believe children learn best through play. We want children to become curious, confident and happy learners so we follow the principles of The Curiosity Approach. By providing a calm, nurturing environment full of authentic, open-ended resources we allow the children to use their imaginations, explore, create and make connections between their experiences and the world around them at their own pace. Invitations to play are set up for the children to explore, using loose and many natural parts to further develop children’s creative and critical thinking.

You will find us outside in all weathers – come rain or shine, snow or wind. Not just in our Preschool garden or the ‘ Spinney ’, but out and about in the local area, stomping through streams, rolling down hills, jumping in the muddiest puddles all whilst learning to respect the beautiful land and nature we find ourselves immersed in. You can be sure that the saying “there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes” is taken quite literally here at Michaelchurch Escley Preschool!

Mathematical:

Number songs, matching and sorting. 1-1 correspondence, cooking activities and water play.

Physical (gross and fine motor):

Daily walk, forest school sessions. Loose part play indoors and outdoors. Children will use tools e.g hammers, scissors, garlic press, mashers, tweezers, tongs. Mark making using various mediums. Making and playing with playdough and clay. Use of the climbing tree.

Literacy:

We are a literacy rich environment with books all around the room for children to choose from. We enjoy sharing stories together with time set aside to look at books independently after lunch; there's always a willing adult to model the love of reading!

Expressive Arts and Design:

Children are encouraged to mark make indoors and outdoors, using paint, 'junk', clay and natural objects as well as tools. They make their own playdough. We focus on enjoying the process of creating rather than the end product.

Communication and Language:

We enjoy sharing stories together. Taking turns to speak and listen. Clapping our names to listen for syllables. Using letters to form our names. Recognising our written names. Learning to follow instructions for cooking activities and making playdough. Lots of singing!

Parental Involvement:

Looking at child's chosen book from preschool together. Practising independent skills such as putting on wellies and coats, using our magic way.

Family photo to display.

Tapestry – an online journal where we document your child's week, usually in pictures.

Parents skills... If you have any special skills that you'd like to share with the children, please get in touch!

Autumn / Winter

Understanding of the World:

Celebrating festivals – Harvest, Diwali, Advent, Nordic Christmas traditions.

This is me! – Finding out all about each other.

Autumn – looking for signs of Autumn on our daily walks.

Changing season from Autumn to Winter.

Visits off site – Dulas Court and others to be confirmed.

Children offer their own ideas for their play, documented on our spider diagram for child led play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

Building healthy relationships, preschool routines, teeth cleaning, healthy eating, independent skills, taking turns. Expressing feelings, kindness hearts, mindfulness activities and celebrating birthdays together.