



# Thorner's Fledglings Pre-School

School Lane  
Litton Cheney DT2 9AU

01308 482410

[www.thorners.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.thorners.dorset.sch.uk)



## Welcome to Thorner's Fledglings Pre-School

Thorner's Fledglings began as the Bride Valley Fledglings playgroup in the Puncknowle Village Hall in the 1980s. In 2007 the playgroup moved to premises within Thorner's Primary School in Litton Cheney. In 2016 the pre-school became part of the school.

Fledglings welcomes children aged 3 years or more.

The premises are perfect for our young Fledglings. Our children have full access to school resources and enjoy:

- ✓ the use of the school hall (LATCH) for gymnastics and other activities
- ✓ the Discovery Area for outdoor exploration
- ✓ the school playground, tennis court and field for games, cycling and scooting
- ✓ the school pool for swimming in the summer term, and
- ✓ the extra resources the school can provide above and beyond what we offer.

Our classroom is well-resourced and the children enjoy many experiences as they learn through their free-play and teacher-led activities.

For all policies and procedures please look at our website via the schools website:

[www.thorners.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.thorners.dorset.sch.uk)

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## Our staff

### **Julie-Kay Keefe**

Fledglings Manager  
Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Work related experience:** Has worked in Early Years Education since 2000.

### **Qualifications:**

Degree in Early Years Care and Education  
Paediatric first aid

### **Magda Malak**

Childcare Assistant

**Work related experience:** 6 months' experience as Teaching Assistant in primary school including Early Years

### **Qualifications:**

Currently undertaking teacher training



## Our Vision

**At Thorner's Fledglings we are committed to making your child the centre of our work. We aim to promote close working relationships with parents/carers, recognising parents as the child's first and most important educators. We believe that partnerships between the school, home and the environment are important in helping children's learning and development.**

We aim to achieve our vision by:

- Following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Safeguarding your child's wellbeing by ensuring that their learning environment is safe and that safe recruitment processes are followed
- Ensuring that we provide an environment that is stimulating and meets your child's needs
- Giving children strategies to help their personal, social and emotional development within small and whole group learning environments
- Involving your child in their learning environment as much as possible
- Engaging your child in conversation, discussion and play that will promote and extend your child's language and interests
- Ensuring your child always feels valued, respected and included
- Helping you and your child manage their transition from home to pre-school, then from pre-school to school. We regularly meet parents to discuss their child's development and needs



## Our Facilities

*"Fledglings is definitely worth a visit. Having put two children through Fledglings Pre-School, my eldest having had the experience of another very well known Pre-School, I can honestly say I have absolutely no qualms about enrolling my third at Fledglings. My eldest two both had an incredible time and enjoyed the many discoveries they experienced, particularly the time they spent down in the Discovery Area."*

*"Pearl absolutely loved everything about Fledglings, but visits to the Discovery Area, which is an amazing facility, was always a highlight of her week."*



- Fledglings is situated in the heart of Thorner's Primary School in Litton Cheney. We are particularly fortunate in having access to the many facilities that the school boasts, including a swimming pool, a Discovery Area (Forest School's Nature Reserve) and the community hall (LATCH).
- In their own classroom, Fledglings children have a library corner, a home corner and outdoor play area and garden. The classroom is well equipped with educational resources that encourage your child to thoroughly enjoy free and structured play.
- Your child will have so much fun squelching through the mud in the Discovery Area, squishing their hands in pots of goeey paint, baking delicious buns and biscuits, creating fruit kebabs during their healthy morning snacks, drawing lines, letters and curves, pretending to be the three little pigs, Goldilocks or Jack, climbing and jumping off equipment during gym, all the while developing and growing and acquiring new skills to help them when they start school.

## Parental Involvement

We look forward to a close working relationship with parents. Although our practitioners are very friendly and nurturing, children *can* find it difficult to be separated from their usual surroundings and caregivers. We believe that greater parental input makes a child's transition easier. Therefore we encourage participation in several ways, such as:

- continuous dialogue with your child's key worker
- helping in the Discovery Area and with other activities
- assisting with fundraising, as part of the Thorner's School Association



## Opening times, funding and fees

Fledglings are open daily from 9am to 3.30pm, during term time.

### Sessions offered:

- Morning 9.00 – 12.00 (3 hours); drop-off from 8.50am
- Lunch 12.00 – 1.00 (1 hour)
- Afternoon 1.00 – 3.30 (2.5 hours); pick up at 3.20pm to avoid end-of-day congestion with school



All children are entitled to 15 hours free pre-school learning from the term after they are 3 years old until they go to school. Parents can apply to Dorset County for 30 hours funding.

It is up to each parent to decide how they spend their funded 15 hours. The lunch club can be included as part of the funded hours (forms will be available for you to complete in the previous term).

**Please note:** lunch cannot be booked as a session on its own; it must follow on from the morning or continue to the afternoon session (or both).

### Payment for sessions that are not funded:

- Morning session: £13.50
- Lunch club: £4.50
- Afternoon session: £11.25

**Just to clarify: a whole day that is not covered by funding will cost £29.25.**

## Information for working parents

We have accounts with the following providers for accepting payments directly from the wages of working parents; this saves tax and national insurance. Please ask your finance or HR office if they belong to any of these schemes.

**Co-operative child care vouchers: provider number 85104725.**

**Computershare vouchers: User id 0016646383.**

**Edenred: carer account number P20819966.**

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### Uniform (optional)

- Purple sweatshirts
- Orange t-shirts

### What to bring (suggestions)

- Clothes that you don't mind getting muddy or painted
- Change of clothes
- Wellies and waterproof clothing for outdoor play
- Wet weather clothing
- Sun hat and sun lotion when needed
- Sensible footwear for climbing equipment
- Helmet for cycling
- Healthy packed lunch for lunch club - **no chocolate, sweets or nuts please**

### Hot Lunches

You child can order a hot meal either through the school office with a cash or cheque payment or you can order directly online at [www.myschoolmeals.co.uk](http://www.myschoolmeals.co.uk) after receiving an authorisation code from the school office. Online orders are paid through Paypal. Currently hot meals cost £2.40 per meal.

All hot meals are nutritionally balanced and a vegetarian option is always available. The meals are provided locally and cooked in the Litton and Thorner's Community Hall (LATCH). Meals for Fledglings children are brought to the Fledglings room by our staff.

We are very pleased that you are considering Thorner's Fledglings as a pre-school for your child. Please do contact us for any further information.

We hope to see you soon.

