

# An Introduction to



Pre-School

**2023-24**

*Please note: taking up a place at the Brambles preschool does not secure a place in the school's reception class. School applications have to be made using the local authority process as part of the normal application round each year.*

## Working in Partnership

**Positive partnerships between parents and staff support your child's transition to the foundation stage of their life-long learning journey**

### Children

Children are the very heart of Brambles pre-school and will always come first. The learning experiences your child encounters at Brambles are carefully planned in accordance with The Early Years Foundation Stage framework and statutory requirements.

### Parents

By working in partnership, parents and Brambles' staff demonstrate mutual respect and a shared commitment for the well-being of your child. By sharing information that relates to your child, parents can help Brambles' staff to ensure high quality care and enable key workers to develop a better understanding of your child's learning needs.

### Staff

Staff recognise that each family brings something different to the setting. Culture and diversity are embraced and celebrated with children and families throughout the year at pre-school.

*You are encouraged to share your favorite music, food, language, artefacts and information from your home country at any point throughout the pre-school year.*

## Pre-school Governors

The school governing body runs Brambles. A small group of governors forms a sub-committee, which meets regularly and reports to the full governing body. The pre-school governors' role is to set the aims and values for the pre-school, monitor implementation of the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and to plan for pre-school development. Brambles does not have a separate Ofsted registration but is inspected at the same time as the school. When Brambles is inspected a letter will be sent directly to you explaining the inspectors' judgements and outlining the strengths and areas for developments which they have identified.

A list of the current pre-school governors is on the school website.

## **Brambles Staff**

**We believe that the provision of high quality learning experiences for children requires a high quality workforce. A well-qualified, skilled staff strongly increases the potential of any individual setting to deliver the best possible outcomes for children.**

The keyworkers at Brambles are all experienced, well- qualified Early Years' professionals. Brambles' staff strive to ensure good partnership working with families and outside agencies and excellent working relationships with the children.

Staff at Brambles all have designated roles alongside their keyworking responsibilities. Each designated role holds different responsibilities and staff have had specific training these roles.

### **Safeguarding**

Receiving and acting upon any reported concerns. Ensuring all staff are familiar with, and adhere to the Child Protection Policy and have regard to the Government's statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'; acting as a first point of contact on issues of Child Protection, both internally, and for members of the public; securely storing records of any concerns. Brambles staff work alongside the Headteacher who is the overall Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### **SEN**

Dealing with any additional needs a child may have. Liaising with parents/carers of registered SEN children; identification of children giving cause for concern; recording data on children and sharing with others as appropriate; liaison with outside agencies; advise and support other practitioners in the setting; ensure that appropriate Individual Child Plans (ICP) are in place.

### **ENCo**

To develop an understanding of the statutory obligation to promote equality and value diversity and differences within pre-school. To work with parents and staff to promote good practice within the setting. To carry out an annual audit of resources and learning opportunities within the setting and to promote images of cultures, race and disability.

### **Volunteers**

To support students from local secondary schools and colleges to fulfil their placement requirements and guide them during their placements ensuring they cover the Early Years Foundation Stage and follow all the day to day runnings of the pre-school. Volunteers are also supported to ensure that they are aware of all the policies and procedures and get the most out of their time helping at Brambles.

## Contact Details

School Reception                      01480 375063  
Brambles                                    01480 375063 option 2

School email                              [office@brampton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@brampton.cambs.sch.uk)  
Brambles email                           [brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk)

Brambles Preschool  
Brampton Village Primary School  
The Green  
Brampton  
Cambridgeshire  
PE28 4RF

Ofsted Unique Reference Number: 135131

## Available Sessions, Funding and Payments

The Brambles Preschool is open only during school term times, and between 9am and 3pm.

We offer the following sessions:

- Morning: 9am to 12 noon
- Afternoon: 12 noon to 3pm
- Full day: 9am to 3pm

The morning session incorporates a snack break and the afternoon session incorporates a break for lunch. Children attending for an afternoon or full day session will need to bring in a packed lunch.

The governing body runs the admissions process for the preschool during the spring term. The number of places available varies according to demand but we aim to offer places so that we have between 24 and 32 children at the setting at any time.

We are currently able to offer places to children in their preschool year (4<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 for September 2023 admission) and from September 2023 we will also consider children whose third birthday falls between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 once they are eligible for Early Years funding (the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday). The full admissions criteria is on the school website, under the Brambles tab.

The cost of childcare at Brambles can be met either through Early Years funding or parents may pay for non-funded hours.

Every child, once three years old, is eligible for 15 hours of free childcare known as the **universal** entitlement. The entitlement can be split between the Brambles and another provider, or used entirely at a single setting.

Some children are also eligible for another 15 hours of free childcare, known as the **extended** entitlement. Again, this can be split between providers (but not more than two in a single day), or used at a single setting. Extended entitlement hours are available to working parents who meet certain criteria. Check your eligibility on the government website [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). If you are eligible, you will be given an 11-digit eligibility code that you must provide to the preschool prior to taking up a place. You will need to reconfirm this code every three months in order to keep accessing the extended entitlement.

If you wish your child to attend sessions for which you do not have funding, then you will need to pay for these hours. The rate for non-funded hours for the 2022/23 academic year is £5 per hour (this may be increased slightly for 2023/24 but this is yet to be determined). Brambles accepts childcare vouchers from a number of providers, a list is kept in the school finance office. You may also use the government's tax-free childcare scheme, details of which are available using the Childcare Choices website as above. Brampton Village Primary School is cashless, and fees should be settled using our electronic payment system, PAY360. Barcoded letters are produced for those who prefer not to pay online. These can be used at any Post Office or Paypoint (e.g. both Brampton Co-Ops). Invoices are raised monthly.

It is possible to change the hours your child attends each term, depending on availability.

In order to access Early Years funding all parents it is a condition that the local authority's Parent/Carer Declaration form must be completed. For extended entitlement, parents must also provide their 11-digit code and details of their National Insurance number (needed to verify their code). The preschool is able to access additional Early Years Pupil Premium in respect of families on low incomes, where parents provide their details on the Parent/Carer Declaration form.

If your child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowances, the preschool may be able to claim additional funds to support your child's access to Brambles. Please ask for the appropriate form if your child is eligible.

All parents will also need to complete the Brambles' own form, which confirms the allocated sessions and indicates acceptance of our terms and conditions.

All children attending preschool in the afternoons must be collected at 3pm. Should you fail to collect your child on time, a late fee of £5 per five minutes late may be charged.

While the Brambles is very much a part of Brampton Village Primary School, it has to be financially self-sufficient. For this reason it is important that revenue be received for all hours children attend the preschool and that invoices are settled promptly.

## What do you teach my child?

**Brambles pre-school uses the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework, which is a statutory document for early years' settings. It outlines the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.** It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life. (EYFS 2021, p.5)

## Overarching principles

Four guiding principles set out in EYFS (EYFS 2021, p.6) shape practice at Brambles Pre-School. These are:

- Every child is a unique individual, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

## The areas of learning and development

There are seven areas of learning and development, which shape the educational programme at Brambles. All areas of learning and development are important and are interconnected. Three areas are particularly crucial for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These three areas, the prime areas, are:

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

Providers must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are:

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

For more details you can access the EYFS 2021 online via the DfE website at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974907/EYFS\\_framework\\_-\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974907/EYFS_framework_-_March_2021.pdf)

## Active Learning Through Play

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an ongoing judgement to be made by keyworkers about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults.

Our keyworkers respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. As children grow older, and as their development allows, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Reception.

It is expected that the balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. But throughout the early years, if a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, keyworkers will discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child. Keyworkers must consider whether a child may have a special educational need or disability which requires specialist support. The Brambles' SENCo will link with, and help families to access, relevant services from other agencies as appropriate.

For children whose home language is not English, Brambles takes reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, supporting their language development at home. Brambles ensures that children have sufficient opportunities to learn and reach a good standard in English language during their time in pre-school and EYFS, ensuring children are ready to benefit from the opportunities available to them when they begin Reception.

When planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and strive to incorporate these in their practice. Three characteristics of effective learning are:

- Playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements;
- Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

## Safety Matters

At Brambles, children will learn that safety matters. They will learn how to cross the road safely, how to stay safe in the home, how to stay safe when out and about and what to do if they get lost. They will also look at how to keep their bodies safe. When talking to the children about personal safety, staff will not be making it scary and they will not be talking about sex or sexual abuse. Staff will be empowering the children through simple conversations, through play and activities to teach the children how to keep themselves safe.

Staff will be use the NSPCC website and materials, using age-appropriate terms, to teach the children the 'Underwear Rule', and talking PANTS. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/> Please visit the website as it is very informative and by working together to ensure children hear the same message that they can say no and always tell an adult of they are worried or upset about anything.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please email or telephone Brambles.

## Planning, Preparing and Assessment

All staff help your child to become familiar with the setting. Reliable staff offer a settled relationship for your child and help to build a relationship with you, the parent. Staff consider the individual needs, interests, and stages of development of each child in the



class, and use this information to plan challenging and enjoyable experiences for all children across all seven areas of learning and development. Keyworkers carry out regular assessments to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. They use their observations to shape and adapt learning experiences for each child. Parents and carers are encouraged to share observations and information with all Brambles staff to help them to know and understand each child better. At the end of each term keyworkers complete individual Learning and Development Summaries for each of their key children.

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Brambles provide an environment in which all children, including those with special educational needs (SEN), are supported to reach their full potential. Staff have a wealth of experience with children with additional needs both on a personal level with their own children and also within the classroom setting. Staff attend regular training to ensure they have the most up to date knowledge and understanding of how best to support specific needs and all staff have a good understanding of using Picture Exchange Cards (PECs), Visual Timetables and use some British Sign Language.

## Other Settings

If your child also attends another setting, a copy of your child's termly Learning and Development Summary will be shared with the other setting after you have received your copy. Brambles pre-school encourage shared settings to come and visit your child at Brambles as well as request to visit your child at their other setting, to ensure that between the two settings your child is enjoying and achieving between all seven areas of learning.

## Outside Agencies

Brambles work with the local Early Years Support Team, such as sector support workers where children have particular needs. Procedures for contacting the local authority on child protection issues to enable Brambles and social care to work well together are clearly set out in the settings policies and procedures. Anything that may affect the wellbeing of a child is brought to the attention of, and shared with, Ofsted.

## Safeguarding

If there is a suspicion of abuse, you will be informed at the same time that a report is made, except where the guidance of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board does not allow this.

*This would usually be the case where the child is to go home to the abuser and the investigating officers will inform the parents.*

## Observations

Observations of your child are made in order to assess their learning and development. Observations form a part of your child's learning and development file. Should students need to make observations for their college assignments permission will be sought specifically for them at the time. Please ask staff if you would like to access your child's Learning and Development file.

## Play

During your child's day, they will access activities both inside and outside during free play. Our outdoor play area offers the seven areas of learning as indoors but on a larger scale. There are chances to take risks outside by using equipment. There are two members of staff in each area to aid learning through play. Brambles children area also able to access the school to use their hall for PE, the music room for music, the wooded area for campfire cookouts, the environmental area for investigation and the playground and equipment for play. This helps Brambles children to become familiar with school.

## Experiences

During the year children will experience recycling, cooking, gardening and other activities which they may also do at home. We often have visits from the wider community. We have been very lucky to have parents, a music group, a story teller, the police service, lollipop man and many other visitors over the years.

The children will visit their school buddies (reception through to Year 6), go to some of the school assemblies and in the summer term, Brambles children go to the school playground after lunch and play with children from reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Here they start to learn the rules of the playground, who the Midday Supervisors are and make new school friends in preparation for starting reception in September.

## Illness

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they **MUST remain at home for at least 48 hours** and until the last episode of sickness or stools have become hard.

## Medication

Please bring the medication in the original container bearing the prescription label, which has the details of dosage and times. You will need to complete in a medication form to confirm these details and give your permission for the administration of medication. We are only able to administer prescribed medication. Please inform staff if they require specific training to administer your child's medication.

## Crutches and Slings

If your child has crutches a risk assessment will be completed prior to your child attending preschool to ensure it is safe for them to do so. If your child has a sling or a cast, again a risk assessment will need to be completed. In the case of a suspected fracture your child will need to remain at home until in a hard cast or the doctor agrees it is safe for them to return to preschool, for which a risk assessment will be completed.

## Data Protection

Brambles Pre-School complies with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Human Rights Act by having systems in place that meet these legal requirements for storing and sharing information. Please see Brampton Village Primary School website for our Privacy Notice (how we use pupil information).

## Confidentiality

All the forms you complete for us are treated with sensitivity and value. Brambles respect the privacy of the children and families, while ensuring access high quality early years care and education in the setting. Confidential information is not normally shared in the public domain or readily available from another source. The information you choose to share in confidence will only be used to enhance the welfare of your child.

## Consent

Your consent will be obtained as part of our admissions paperwork for specific activities such as trips and visits within the village, emergency medical treatment and for photographs of your child to be used within the setting. Specific consent will be requested for some activities, for example a trip further afield.

## Access to records

You are welcome to view your child's Learning and Development record by requesting this with your child's keyworker. You are welcome to view your child's best book at any time. Both your child's Learning and Development record and best book can be shared with you during any parent consultation, again, please speak to your child's keyworker to arrange a mutually convenient day and time.

## Mutual respect

Staff treat families with professionalism and respect, including privacy at all times. The expectation is that families will behave in the same manner towards the staff of the Brambles and school. Physical, verbal or electronic abuse will not be tolerated.

## Pre-school Uniform and Clothing

Uniform is not compulsory but for those who wish to purchase branded uniform items, it is available to purchase online from Orchard Clothing. A link to Orchard Clothing is on the primary school website under school information. The PTA sell some second hand badged items. Please see the link on their page of the school website for how to make a purchase.

Whether or not you wish to purchase badged items, it is important that the clothing your child wears to preschool is suitable to enable them to participate safely in a full range of activities.

The children's cloakroom has stores your children's belongings. Your child has their own peg on which to hang their coat; a green bag (which we provide) for spare clothes, a basket to store hats and gloves, and a plastic box under that to store their wellies. Each child must have one change of clothing and underwear in the preschool at all times.

Your child MUST have a named pair of wellington boots which can remain at Brambles for the whole year. Children really do go outside every day and by ensuring your child has wellies and a suitable coat for the season at pre-school they can access all areas of the Brambles garden and school grounds all year round. In winter months if your child arrives in wellies, please ensure you bring a pair of shoes to change into.

Brambles has a stock of waterproof trousers and jackets for when it is pouring with rain on our weekly walks or visiting the school playgrounds to prevent home coats and jackets from becoming too wet. Please ensure your child always has a season-appropriate coat/jacket with them as the weather is very unpredictable and we do play out all year round.

Brambles has a stock of sun safe legionnaire hats used when the children play outside. The hats are provided to ensure that your child's neck and ears are protected from the sun. All the hats are identical and Brambles staff ensure that they are washed regularly. Please do not bring any other hats to Brambles

**Please apply Sun cream prior to dropping your child off for their session.** Brambles uses Nivea Sun, Kids factor 50+ sun cream for children who attend all day. If you wish your child to use a different brand, please bring in your own sun cream clearly labelled with your child's name which can remain at Brambles.

**It is vitally important that you name EVERYTHING that comes in to Brambles.** There may be 40-50 children attending Brambles during the week, and many have the same or similar items of shoes, clothing and lunchboxes. By naming your child's items, you will ensure that they are returned to you.

## Information Sharing

Brambles keep you informed about your child's progress at Brambles and provide information about pre-school activities and events. Please read the information made available to you, as it will help to keep you up to date with what is going on in the classroom, special occasions, dates for your diary and more. Brambles does not use systems such as Tapestry, Family, or See Saw which are used by many nurseries and childminder settings, as we prefer to focus on engaging with the children. The preschool offers the following channels of communication:

- **Informal daily chats:** we have an 'open door' policy for parents to speak to any member of Brambles staff as and when the need arises at the start and end of every day. Please just speak to the person on the gate.
- **Newsletters:** weekly and termly newsletters are sent electronically unless you specifically request a hard copy. These are also available from the school website, along with the main school newsletter if you interested in the wider school community.
- **Regular update emails from your child's key person:** you will receive regular communication from your child's key person sharing information about your child ensuring that your child is happy and cared for whilst at Brambles. You are welcome to share photos and information about achievements and celebrations involving your pre-school child with your child's key person.
- **Dates for your Diary:** we know how busy life can be, so dates for assemblies, celebrations and activities are shared on newsletters to give you time to make

suitable arrangements to attend. Reminders are also given of school and preschool holidays and public bank holidays. *Please make sure you look out for dates in July for the new reception Getting To Know You Sessions and Transition Day in school, as you will need to take your child to these.*

- **Notice Board:** the notice board is located opposite the main Brambles Pre-school door at the front of the school. On the board, you will find updates, PTA news and other relevant messages. You are welcome to take a photo of the board if it helps.
- **Parent Consultations and End of Year Report:** parent consultations are held in the autumn and spring terms. In the summer term you will receive an end of year report.

## Policies and Procedures

You are welcome to view Brambles policies and procedures at any time. If you would like an electronic copy, please email us. Policies and procedures are essential to help provide good quality provision that is compliant with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)*. They do this by setting out for staff and parents the type of childcare offered and what actions are required to achieve this. Policies and Procedures are reviewed annually, unless changes are required during the year.

Policies include:

- *Child protection and Safeguarding including Mobile Phone Use and the Prevent Duty*
- *Staffing, Induction, Qualifications, Training and Support*
- *Equal opportunities, Valuing Diversity and British Values*
- *Health*
- *Information and Records*
- *Managing Behaviour*

## Snack Time

For children attending the preschool during the morning, Brambles provides a healthy snack, most often consisting of a piece of fruit or vegetable plus milk or water to drink.

At other times we may prepare and eat topic-related food at preschool, exploring different tastes and textures and colours. For example, we might “eat a rainbow” of fruit and vegetables together. It is important that we are aware of any allergies to keep your child safe.

Staff have attended healthy eating courses and are aware of portion control and ensuring a balanced diet when planning for snacks. Dietary requirements are catered for and snacks

are made inclusive; i.e no child has a different snack from anyone else. Staff also use snack time to talk about all areas of healthy practices such as exercise, brushing teeth and sleep.

## Packed Lunches

If your child is at Brambles for lunch in the afternoon session, you will need to provide a packed lunch. Your child has 30-45mins to eat lunch so please consider this when packing their lunch box and do not pack too much. We suggest that you include the following:

- Lunch bag - named on the outside, no ruck sacks please due to limited space
- A small drinks bottle in the lunch bag or attached to it -named on the outside
- Spoon – if sending yoghurt/pudding/custard/jelly
- Small plastic bag -for empty yoghurt/jelly pots and left-overs
- A sandwich or other carbohydrate
- Cheese, yogurt or other calcium
- A piece of fruit or vegetable. Please cut grapes, hot dog sausages, cherry tomatoes lengthways in quarters to reduce the risk of choking
- **Please DO NOT send your child with nuts or nut products**
- Please avoid chocolate

## Outings and Trips

During their time at Brambles, your child will have the opportunity to go out in to the local community to meet people and to look at the area in which they live. Trips might include the Co-op, dentist, hairdresser, the post box and the library bus. Sometimes we visit the local Dementia Group.

## Celebrations

Brambles enjoys celebrating all sorts of things: swimming badges, football trophies, new babies and family events such as weddings. Staff encourage parents to share their family traditions, using this information to teach the children about our world. Over the years past our pre-schoolers – and staff - have found out about lots of places, including America, Greece, Russia, Poland, Britain, Philippines, Australia and France.

Children enjoy learning about food, housing, weather, music, landmarks and language. Parents and visitors have come in to speak to the children and to share artefacts from each country; they have talked and played music in their native language and brought in both homemade and shop-bought food too. Staff have found that the children enjoy this immensely and benefit from learning about and celebrating different cultures.

## British Values

Brambles has a duty to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## Invitation Events

There are a number of opportunities for parents to come in and share events with their child during the year:

- **Winter Assembly:** usually held in the school hall, a time for families to get together to see their children perform in their first assembly. It is an opportunity for parents / carers to get to know each other and to talk to staff. This celebration usually lasts about an hour and a half.
- **Brambles Sports Day:** is a time for families to get together once again and cheer on the children taking part
- **End of year celebrations:** at the end of your child's pre-school year, there will be a leaver's assembly and the last week of term has many celebrations to ensure that all children can take part. It is a wonderful time, everyone joins in, and your child will receive an end of year report, his or her best book plus a personalised gift.

## Parent Helpers

Brambles welcomes parents who wish to help. Parents can help in the classroom, by reading, playing and helping with activities such as cooking, or accompanying us on our walks into the village. If parents cannot come in due to work or other commitments, consider asking preschool staff about how to support the preschool in other ways, for example by providing a special snack.

Every Brambles parent is automatically a member of the PTA, which depends on a continual cycle of parental involvement and support. Look out for dates of meetings and opportunities to help out with important fundraising events such as discos. The PTA gives money towards educational visits and items specifically for Brambles as well as projects which will benefit your child once at school. When the PTA puts on large fundraising events such as the summer fair the Brambles has a stall and will ask for donations for prizes, help running the stall, and we will encourage you to come along!



## Absences

There will be times when your child is unable to attend pre-school. Attendance is important, but equally we understand that small children catch germs easily and get unwell therefore will need to stay home. As pre-school attendance is not compulsory, you may wish to take your holiday during term time whilst you can. If your child is absent for any reason, please ensure that you call or email Brambles. It is important for safeguarding purposes that we know that a child is not going to be attend. If we cannot account for a child's whereabouts when we are expecting them at preschool, then we would need to contact the authorities.

Call Brambles on: 01480 375063 option 2 or Email: [brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:brambles@brampton.cambs.sch.uk)

## Nappies

Your child may still be in nappies when they start to attend preschool. If this is the case, you will need to provide a small pack of nappies or pull-ups in the correct size, a packet of wipes and a packet of nappy bags. You will need to replenish these supplies regularly. Please let us know when you are potty training so that we can support your child with this process at Brambles.

## Transition to School

Your child's time at Brambles will pass by quickly, and before you know it your child will be starting reception class. Please remember that your *child will not automatically get a place at Brampton Village Primary School just because your child attends Brambles Pre-School. You will still have to apply for a place when the application round opens.*

In the Autumn term information regarding applying to school will be sent out to all Early Years settings, including Brambles. You will be able to use the local authority's website to apply for a place, usually by a deadline in January. You will be asked to list three schools in order of preference. You may wish to find out about and attend school visits in order to inform your choice. Brampton Village Primary School usually offers a chance to tour the school and meet the head teacher in November. Please speak to Brambles staff should you require help to complete your application.

In April or May you will be informed of your child's allocated school. Should you not be happy with your assigned school, then you will be able to appeal, though Brambles staff are unable to help with this. Your chances of getting a place at the school you want are much

higher if you meet the initial deadline. It is possible to make a late application but these are not dealt with until after the first round of allocations.

If your child is allocated a place at Brampton Village Primary School, you will receive information about transition to school including the dates when your child can visit their new class. There will be a registration evening for you to meet your child's teacher, hear about the school and an opportunity to ask questions. There will also be an opportunity for you to accompany your child to visit their new classroom in "Getting to Know You" sessions. All paperwork and any comments with regards to starting school must be directed to Brampton Village Primary School by emailing them directly or popping into the school office. Brambles staff are unable to help with this.

Brambles staff make suggestions to school staff about friendship groups, etc to help them determine class allocations. While your child may not be with their best friend, they will know other children from their keywork group and Brambles as a whole. In determining classes, school staff split the children by a number of criteria: gender, children with special educational needs (SEN), children with English as an additional language (EAL), autumn born, spring born and summer born. Please note: reception classes still play together in their outdoor area, at playtimes and during lunchtimes. At the end of the reception year and all the way through school, the children will be mixed again.