

From
September
2026



Welcome
To Combe Martin School
**Rockpool Early
Years Foundation
Stage Unit**

**Starfish
&
Tiddlers Nursery**

*Rosea Bridge Lane
Combe Martin
North Devon
EX34 0DP*

Tel: 01271 440897

Combemartin.sch@alumnismat.org





The main playroom



Our outside classroom

Early Years Foundation Stage Unit

We are excited to introduce our new EYFS unit.

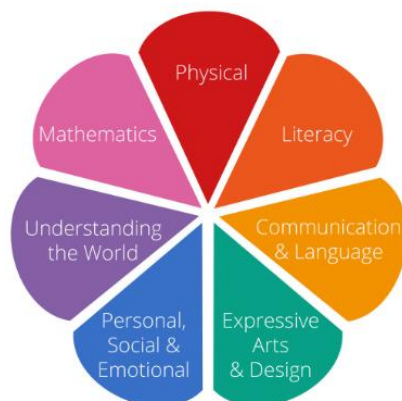
A joint EYFS unit blends nursery and reception, letting children learn and play together in one continuous, flexible space. This helps younger ones settle faster through peer role models and makes the transition to school seamless.

Benefits of a Joint Unit

Smoother Transitions: Moving from nursery to school feels natural without a big change in environment.

Peer Modelling: Reception children solidify their own learning, self-esteem, and social responsibility by taking on leadership roles and helping younger nursery peers.

Flexible Learning: Both year groups can access rich, continuous provision (like construction, creative, and free-flow outdoor areas) tailored to the 7 Areas of EYFS Learning.



Our setting aims to:

- provide high quality education and care for children between the age of 2 and Year 1 in school
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop
- add to the life and well-being of its local community
- offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity

Parents

All parents have the right to be:

- valued and respected
- kept informed
- consulted
- involved
- included at all levels

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment
- is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children.
- has the chance to join with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together
- is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do
- has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes progress
- is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop



Our Team

All our staff have a current DBS check and have received up-to-date training on all Safeguarding Issues.



Jo Railston
Teacher & DDSL



Debbie Harper
Teacher



Helen Hornsby
L3 Early Years Practitioner



Sally Matthews
L3 Early Years Practitioner



Emma Fiander
L3 Early Years Practitioner



Courtney Dyer-Evans
Early Years Practitioner

The team will also be supported by



Dee Seddon
Headteacher & DSL



Debbie Jenkins
Administrator



Georgina Parsons
SEND coordinator

Our term dates for 2025 / 26 are as follows:

Autumn Term 2026	Monday 7 th September 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026
Spring Term 2027	Tuesday 5 th January 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027
Summer Term 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027	Friday 23 rd July 2027

Half term holidays:

Autumn Term 2026	Monday 26 th October 2026	Friday 30 th October 2026
Spring Term 2027	Monday 15 th February 2027	Friday 19 th February 2027
Summer Term 2027	Monday 31 st May 2027	Friday 4 th June 2027

We have non pupil days on Friday 23rd October 2026, Friday 23rd May 2027 and Friday 25th June 2027 ; May Bank Holiday is on Monday 3rd May 2027.

GENERAL INFORMATION - TIDDLERS

Our sessions are held from Monday to Friday inclusive from 9:00am to 12:00pm and 12:00pm to 3:00pm. Lunch will be taken from 12:00pm. We also offer a breakfast club from 8am till 9am (Includes breakfast) and an After School Club from 3:00pm – 4.30pm Monday - Thursday (includes light snack).

Fees

A session (3 hours) is £18.75. Due to overheads, a full fee will be charged during absenteeism. Please see Nursery staff with regard to prolonged absence of more than 2 weeks.

Charges for Before and After School Care and Hourly rate.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from 8am – 9am each morning. The cost for this is £6.25 which includes breakfast.

After School Care

After School club runs from 3pm – 4.30pm from Monday – Thursday. We do not have an After school club on Fridays. The cost is £9.50 for the session which includes a light snack.

If you are withdrawing a child from the register, we require you to give 4 weeks notice to avoid unused placements.

The Early Years Funding Policy for children aged 3 and 4 allows a maximum of 15 funded hours per week for each full week of term. You may be eligible for an additional 15 hours for which you will need to register. More information is available at beststartinlife.gov.uk

Bills will be distributed at the beginning of each term. Your child's fees should be paid monthly in advance.

Tiddlers Nursery is a registered setting for "2 year old Funding". For more information please check "beststartinlife.gov.uk". Information can also be found here if you wish to apply for the 30 hour working entitlement.

If you wish to register your child with Tiddlers, please complete and return a registration form to the Administrator.

How parents take part in the setting

Our setting recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of the staff sees themselves as partners with parents in providing care and education for their child. There are many ways in which parents take part in making the setting a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff
- sharing their own special interests with the children
- helping to provide, make and look after the equipment and materials used in the children's play activities
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the setting
- joining in community activities in which the setting takes part
- building friendships with other parents in the setting



Key persons and your child

Our setting uses a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she is particularly responsible. Your child's key person will be the person who works with you to make sure that the care and education we provide is right for your child's particular needs and interests. When your child first starts at the setting, she will help your child to settle and throughout your child's time at the setting, she will help your child to benefit from the setting's activities.

Learning opportunities for adults

As well as gaining qualifications in early years care and education, the setting staff take part in further training to help them to keep up to date with thinking about early years care and education.

The setting's timetable and routines

Our setting believes that education and care are equally important in the experience which we offer children. The routines and activities that make up the session/day in the setting are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the setting
- ensure the safety of each child
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning

Attendance

- Illness can't be helped but persistent absence is proven to have a detrimental effect on your child's attainment at school so it is monitored closely. If your child's attendance drops below 95%, you will receive a letter and the head will contact you to discuss.
- If your child is ill please ring BEFORE 8.40am and leave a message with the reason why your child is absent each day.
- Please make sure that we have a list of emergency telephone numbers.

The session

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from - and work at - a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity - and are encouraged - to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor classroom.

Snacks and meals

The setting makes snacks a social time at which children and adults eat together. We plan the menus for snacks so that they provide the children with healthy and nutritious food.

Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

Policies

Copies of the setting's policies are available for you to see on our website.

The setting's policies help us to make sure that the service provided by the setting is a high quality one and that being a member of the setting is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his/their parents.

The staff at the setting work together to adopt the policies and they all have the opportunity to take part in the annual review of the policies. This review helps us to make sure that the policies are enabling the setting to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

Special Educational Needs

As part of the setting's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs a child may have.

The setting works to the requirements of the Education Act (1993) and The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2014).

Starting at our setting

The first days

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into the setting. The setting has a policy about helping children to settle into the setting.

Clothing

We provide protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities. We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include taking themselves to the toilet and taking off - and putting on - outdoor clothes. Clothing that is easy for them to manage will help them to do this.

All our Nursery Children can choose to wear a Tiddlers uniform if they wish or their own clothing. We ask that the clothing provided is practical and comfortable. All our Reception class children should wear our school uniform.

All children to have a complete change of clothing each time they attend our Foundation Stage unit.

Parents, Teachers, Friends of Combe Martin School and Tiddlers

The friends group work really hard to provide extras for the children. The Friends fundraise for the nice things for our children.

If you are interested in joining the committee, you would be very welcome but we also need you if you are able to help us out occasionally.

Please support us in any way you can.

Thank You