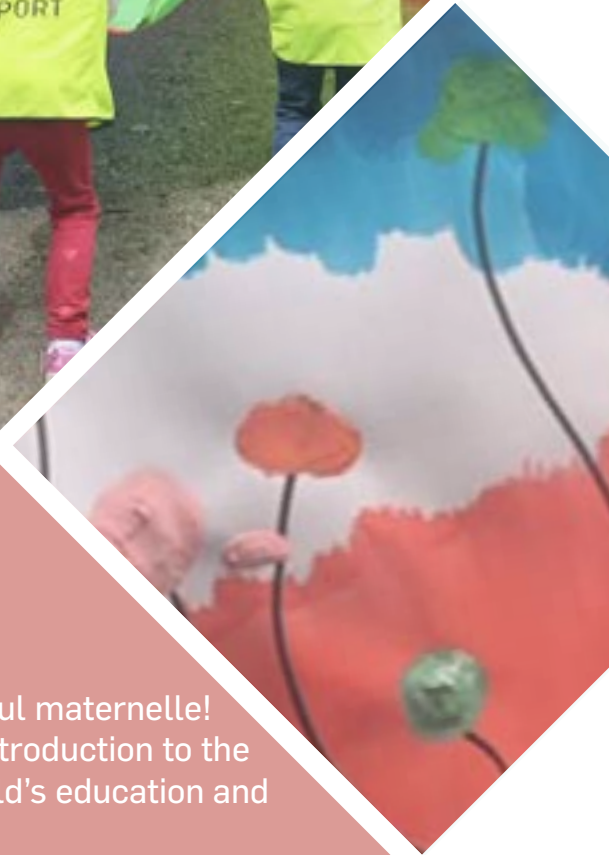


LYCÉE FRANÇAIS
D'OSLO

DEN FRANSKE SKOLEN



WELCOME TO THE FRENCH PRESCHOOL

School year 2019-2020
(from 1st august 2019 to 31 july 2020)

Dear parents,

We are very happy to welcome your child to our wonderful maternelle!
We have created this booklet especially to serve as an introduction to the preschool. It contains various information about your child's education and our organisation.

This booklet comes as a supplement to the one entitled Information for parents, which provides information about the entire French school and explains how the LFO functions in general.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful and are always available to answer any questions you might have.

The preschool staff

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1. ORGANISATION

In France, preschool (école maternelle) is unique in that it marks the beginning of compulsory education at the age of three. Preschool consists of three sections, each lasting one year:



- Petite section (PS) – small section
- Moyenne section (MS) – medium section
- Grande section (GS) – large section

In the organisational structure of primary school, preschool covers the early learning stage (cycle 1).

2. THE AIMS OF PRESCHOOL

Uniquely French, maternelle provides a crucial step in children's development and plays an essential part in guaranteeing their academic success.

In fact, these first school years provide the foundations on which the whole of their educational future is built.

The main aim of preschool is to make children want to go to school - in order to learn, thrive and develop as individuals.

The three-year preschool education helps awaken children's personality, stimulates their language, sensory, motor, cognitive and social development, builds their self-esteem and respect of others, and contributes to their emotional growth.

For more information about French preschool, we recommend the Ministry of National Education's website: <https://eduscol.education.fr/cid103171/ecole-maternelle.html>

Children thrive while developing language skills.

3. TEACHING IS ORGANISED IN FIVE AREAS

- Mobilising all aspects of language (oral and written)
- Expressing yourself and understanding through physical activities
- Expressing yourself and understanding through artistic activities
- Developing tools to structure thought
- Exploring your environment

4. TIMETABLE

Days at the preschool are structured and organised to follow the curriculum devised by the French Ministry of National Education.

Children should be in the classroom at no later than 8.30 in the morning.





It is very important that parents respect preschool hours. Our teachers start with a class ritual each morning to focus the children's attention.

If children miss this, it will be difficult for them to make the transition between home or playground and class time.

It is also important not to be late to pick up your child in the afternoon. Some children get very worried when their parents don't arrive on time.

	School opens	Bell rings	Class begins	Morning break	Lunchtime	Afternoon break	School ends
Preschool	07.45 (pre-school care)	8.25 (students line up to go to class)	8.30	Staggered from 10.20 to 11.45	12.00-1.00 pm	-	2.45 pm (2.30 on Fridays) then after-school care until 4.45 pm

5. PRE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE (GARDERIE)

All children at preschool can attend pre- and after-school care. This is included in the school fees during time term (from 7.45 am until class starts and from class ends until 4.45 pm) as well as during the vacations, up to a maximum of 46 weeks a year, as specified in the school calendar.

6. PRESCHOOL CAMP (JARDINS D'ENFANTS)

Preschool camp will welcome your children during the vacations. One month before the vacations, parents will have to register on notes hanging by the doors of each classroom. The activities vary from day to day and may involve sport, culture or art.

It is open from Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 4.45 pm, and the cost is included in the preschool fees.

7. A PROFESSIONAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC TEAM: WHO DOES WHAT?

The **head of the primary school** (directeur) has administrative responsibilities and represents the school vis-à-vis the parents. He works with the **office administrator** (assistante de direction), who runs the day-to-day administration of the whole primary school (preschool and elementary school).



Preschool and elementary school teachers receive the same training. They are qualified to teach all the classes from petite section in preschool to CM2 (5th grade). They teach children to read, write and count, engaging with them in their educational development. Committed to creating positive connections to both the class and learning, our teachers ensure that children acquire basic knowledge and awaken an interest in the world around them. Some teachers are specialised in working with children with special needs.

Preschool teaching assistants (ASEM) help the teachers care for the children as well as prepare and maintain the premises and materials used by preschoolers. They assist in the implementation of pedagogical activities under the supervision of preschool teachers and are also responsible for supervising the children at mealtimes.

The librarian (enseignante-documentaliste) is responsible for the primary school library, known as the BCD. She receives all the classes from petite section to CM2 and has a different approach than her teacher colleagues to learning to read, becoming familiar with literature, and autonomy.

The list of all the preschool staff is on the attached sheet.

8. PREPARING TO START PRESCHOOL: SOME ADVICE FOR PARENTS

The first day of school

Try to change your child's rhythm a few days before school starts so that they are better adjusted to school hours.

The first day of school is, naturally, a special day for both you and your child. We would like to give you a few tips on how to make the transition as smooth as possible :

- **Your child needs to feel safe:** Prepare your child by explaining what there is to look forward to: play corners with dolls and cars, duplo, books, felt pens, pencils and paper to make you beautiful pictures ... a teacher, an assistant, and ... lots of new friends.
- **Share your enthusiasm with your child:**
 - » Don't spend ages saying goodbye. Tell your child that you will only stay a minute.
 - » Don't leave the classroom without telling your child, and say that you will come back and get them later.
 - » Walk calmly out of the classroom with your head held high.
 - » Be firm when you leave and don't return to the classroom you have just left.
 - » Remember that children usually stop crying the moment their parents have gone. If there is a problem you will be told, so don't worry about it.



Mark all your child's clothes and things

All your child's things should be labelled, especially their school bag, lunchbox, snack box, and all the clothes left in the classroom (sweaters, jackets, scarves, slippers, shoes, boots ...).

It's also very important to label all blankets, cuddly toys and dummies/pacifiers used at naptime.

Mealtimes: lunch and afternoon snack

- » Don't make more sandwiches than your child can eat. Your child will be pleased to empty their lunchbox and make us and you happy!
- » Cut up fruit so that it's easy to eat. Very few children manage to peel an orange or eat a whole apple.
- » If your child is used to being fed, cut bread into small pieces.
- » For practical reasons, only solid food is allowed.
- » Avoid yoghurt, as we can't keep it in a fridge.
- » If your child stays on at school in the afternoon, prepare a snack in a separate box.
- » Sweets, chocolate and chewing gum are not allowed at school.

Naptime for children in petite section

Your child is welcome bring a cuddly toy or dummy to use at naptime or for comfort if the need arises.

Please don't bring any other toys, however, as they can be a source of conflict and may get lost or broken.

Toilets

- » Your child must be able to go the toilet alone.
- » Nappies/diapers are not allowed, even for naptime. This applies from the first day of school.
- » Choose clothes that are easy to put on and take off. Avoid braces/suspenders, belts, tight clothing, and use trousers/pants with an elasticated waist.
- » Show your child the toilets on the first day.
- » To avoid any "accidents", ALWAYS make sure your child has just been to the toilet before starting school in the morning.



Clothes

- » Children should have comfortable clothes and be able to dress themselves.
- » Avoid delicate clothing that would prevent your child from painting, making collages etc.
- » Lace-up shoes are difficult to put on and children aged three or four can rarely tie their own laces. We recommend shoes with velcro.
- » Slippers are worn in the classroom and the gym. Please make sure they are the right size and are easy to put on, without laces.
- » In dry weather, children can wear their shoes in the classroom.
- » As we go outside at breaktime even if it's raining, rainwear is required and should hang on your child's coat hook from Monday to Friday.
- » It's best to use snowsuits in the winter as they are warmer.

What to bring to school

Everything that the children need for class will be available on the first day of school. All they need to bring is:

- » A backpack big enough to carry an A4 size library book.
- » Two lunchboxes, one containing a sandwich for lunch (the Norwegian matpakke) and one with an afternoon snack.
- » A bottle with a small spout.
- » A change of clothes (underwear, trousers, socks) in a plastic bag and placed in your child's cloakroom locker
- » A pair of well-fitting slippers with waterproof soles
- » Rainwear must be taken out of your child's bag and hung on the hook, where it must remain from Monday to Friday.

9. SOME MORE EXPLANATIONS

- **AVS:** An assistant who helps children with special needs. .
- **Staggered school start:** The first days of the school year are staggered so that families can be welcomed properly. Children starting in petite section will have half a day of adaptation. Teachers will have a meeting with parents when school starts.
- **The key stages**
 - » **Cycle 1** : early learning (maternelle – preschool)
 - » **Cycle 2** : basic learning (CP, CE1, CE2 – 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade)
 - » **Cycle 3** : consolidation (CM1, CM2, sixième – 4th, 5th, 6th grade)
 - » **Cycle 4** : further learning (cinquième, quatrième, troisième – 7th, 8th, 9th grade)
- **PAI:** An individual education plan (plan d'accueil individualisé) for children with special needs.



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