TINKERS & TRIBE

Five Oak Green

Your Nursery Enquiry Pack

EXPLORE · DISCOVER · GROW

WELCOME TO OUR LITTLE TRIBE!



A note from our Founder:

When I created Tinkers & Tribe, I wanted to build the kind of nursery I would choose for my own children, somewhere that feels warm, exciting and full of possibility, while never losing sight of just how important these early years are.

What makes us different is that we genuinely see every child as an individual. Childhood isn't a race and children don't all follow the same path. We take the time to understand each child's personality, interests, strengths and needs, building strong relationships so that they feel safe enough to explore, take risks, make mistakes and grow in confidence. Our nurseries aren't about keeping children busy with endless adult-led activities. We create beautiful, engaging environments and give children the freedom to tinker, explore, question, discover and learn through real experiences. We spend lots of time outdoors, embrace muddy knees and big adventures, and believe some of the most powerful learning happens when children are deeply absorbed in something they have discovered for themselves.

Alongside that freedom sits a huge amount of professional knowledge and thought. Our educators understand child development and know when to step in, when to extend an idea and, just as importantly, when to stand back and let the magic happen. I also want families to feel that they belong here. You're not simply dropping your child at nursery each morning; you're becoming part of our Tribe. We want to know your family, celebrate your child's journey with you and create the sort of childhood memories that last long after they've left us for school.

Above everything, I want every child who comes through our doors to be known, loved, challenged and celebrated for exactly who they are. That's what Tinkers & Tribe means to me.

Alexandra
Founder, Tinkers & Tribe

MEET THE TRIBE



Emily Nazer - Manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead • Five Oak Green

Email: Tatlingbury@tinkersandtribe.co.uk

Phone: 07548 830 200

Address: Tatlingbury Oast, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, TN12 6RG



OUR UNIQUE APPROACH

The Tinkers & Tribe Curriculum

At Tinkers & Tribe, we believe children learn best when they are curious, connected, active and deeply involved in their play. Our curriculum is not something that sits separately from play, play is how our curriculum comes alive.

Our practitioners know the children, understand what they need to learn next and skilfully weave learning into the experiences, conversations, adventures and moments that naturally happen throughout their day. Our curriculum can be summarised into 6 Ts:

TINKER | *We learn by doing*

We give children time and freedom to explore, investigate, build, create, experiment and discover. Open-ended resources and real experiences encourage children to find out how their world works.

THINK | *We learn to wonder*

We nurture curious minds. Practitioners encourage children to question, predict, problem-solve, make connections and develop their own ideas rather than always giving them the answer.

TALK | *We learn through language*

Language is everywhere. Through conversations, stories, songs, modelling and meaningful interactions, we introduce children to rich vocabulary and give them the confidence to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas.

TRY | *We learn to have a go*

We don't rush in and do things for children. We give them the time, encouragement and appropriate challenge to try for themselves, make mistakes, take manageable risks, persevere and experience the pride that comes from succeeding independently.

TOGETHER | *We learn to belong*

Our Tribe is built on relationships. Children learn to cooperate, negotiate, empathise and care for others while developing a strong sense of themselves, their community and the wonderfully diverse world they belong to.

THRIVE | *We learn to become*

Everything ultimately leads here. We want children to leave our Tribe happy, secure, curious, resilient and independent with the confidence, knowledge and skills they need for their next adventure.

WEAVING OUR TRIBE CURRICULUM INTO PLAY

Our Tribe Curriculum identifies the important knowledge, skills, vocabulary and experiences we want our children to encounter. But we don't deliver it through lessons or interrupt meaningful play to complete predetermined activities.

We weave it into the child's world.

Practitioners observe what children are doing and what fascinates them. They notice the learning already happening and consider what the child needs next. They then respond, joining play sensitively, modelling language, introducing an idea, adding a resource, asking a thoughtful question, demonstrating a skill, creating an opportunity or sometimes simply knowing when to stand back.

The curriculum gives us direction.
The child gives us the starting point.
The practitioner makes the connection.
Play makes the learning meaningful.

EVERY INTERACTION IS A CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITY

Know your children. Know your curriculum. Follow their curiosity. Recognise the learning. Then know when to Tinker, Think, Talk, Try, come Together and help every child Thrive.

YOUR CHILD'S JOURNEY

At Tinkers & Tribe, we know that every child follows their own trail.

Children don't develop in neat, identical steps, and we don't believe their childhood should feel like a checklist of milestones to complete. Instead, we observe, understand and celebrate how each child is building their knowledge, developing new skills and growing in confidence through our unique curriculum.

Our approach is captured in our Tribe Passport to create a meaningful picture of your child's individual journey.

Joining the Tribe

Once your child has settled into Tinkers & Tribe, their caregiver will spend time getting to know them, their interests, strengths, relationships, communication, experiences and the things that make them wonderfully unique.

For our youngest children, our observations have a particular focus on the prime areas of learning and development. As children grow, we build a broader picture across both the prime and specific areas of the EYFS.

Rather than measuring children against a rigid set of milestones, we use our professional knowledge of child development and the EYFS to understand where your child is now, what they are building upon and where their trail might lead next.

Your Child's Tribe Passport

Every child has their own Tribe Passport, which travels with them throughout their time at Tinkers & Tribe. The Passport brings together the different voices and experiences that tell the story of your child's learning.

Inside your child's passport you'll find:

Part 1: All About Me

Key information about your child

Part 2: My Stamp Collection

As children explore our curriculum, they collect Tribe Stamps in their Passport.
A stamp is awarded when an educator sees a child meaningfully demonstrating a skill, understanding, characteristic or value within our curriculum.
These aren't tests to pass or boxes to tick.
Children may encounter an idea many times, practise it in different ways and return to previous learning before confidently applying it independently.
That's exactly what learning should look like. The stamps help us celebrate those moments when learning comes to life.

Part 3 - My travel Journal – These are reflections from:

The Child– capturing what matters to your child: their thoughts, interests, ideas, questions and experiences.
Educator Insights – thoughtful reflections from the people who know your child at nursery, celebrating what we are noticing and considering how their learning is developing.
Parent Contributions – because some of the most important learning happens outside nursery. Your knowledge and observations help us build a richer picture of your child.

Part 4 - Tribe Milestones

Your child's milestones are tracked on our Totem poles. These are the visual tracking element of our Tribe Passport. The Totem Pole gives educators and parents a simple visual picture of how your child is progressing and thriving over time. As your child's knowledge, skills and understanding develop, their Totem Pole builds too.

Everyday Moments

Some of the most important learning happens in ordinary moments.
Our educators observe children naturally through their play rather than interrupting their experiences to assess them.
We use what we notice to provide thoughtful interactions, environments, resources and experiences that build upon children's existing knowledge and interests.
You'll continue to receive regular updates through the Ovivio app, including photos or short videos capturing moments from your child's day.
These aren't created simply to provide evidence of learning – they're a window into your child's nursery life and an opportunity for us to share some of their special moments with you.

Celebration Gatherings

Three times each year, you'll meet with your child's Key Educator to pause, reflect and celebrate their journey so far.
Together we'll explore their Tribe Passport, talk about what we're noticing at nursery, hear what you're seeing at home and consider what might come next.
Your contribution from these conversations becomes part of your child's Tribe Passport.
It means their story isn't written solely through the eyes of their educators – it includes your voice and, importantly, your child's voice too.

The Progress Check at Age Two

Between the ages of two and three, children will receive their statutory EYFS Progress Check at Age Two.
This provides a summary of your child's development in the prime areas of learning and identifies their strengths and any areas where additional support may be helpful.
We complete this in partnership with you and, where appropriate and with your consent, work alongside other professionals involved with your child.

When a Child Needs Some Extra Support

Every child is different, and occasionally a child may benefit from some additional help along the way.
Our graduated approach allows us to identify needs early and put appropriate support in place.
Where additional support is required, your child's Key person and our SENCo will work closely with you and your child. This may include a Support Plan with smaller, individualised steps that are regularly reviewed.
Where specialist support is beneficial, we can work alongside external professionals and make appropriate referrals with your involvement and consent.
For children undergoing an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessment, or where an EHCP is already in place, individual progress and provision will continue to be carefully monitored and reviewed in partnership with families and professionals.

Every Child. Their Own Trail.

Our approach to tracking progress isn't about racing towards the next milestone. It's about knowing your child deeply enough to recognise the significance of the little moments.
Through their Tribe Passport, Celebration Gatherings and Daily updates we capture those moments and build a picture of how your child is developing their knowledge, understanding and confidence.

FOOD, NUTRITION & MEAL TIMES







For children over 12 months, we provide a morning and afternoon snack, with snacks, milk and formula included within our consumables charge. Our lunches and teas are supplied by Zebedees, specialist early-years caterers who can accommodate almost every allergy, intolerance, dietary requirement and religious observance. Their seasonal summer and winter menus rotate over three weeks, giving children a varied and balanced range of meals throughout the year.

We recognise that every child's food and weaning journey is individual. We work closely with families to understand where each child is in their journey and ensure that food is offered at stage-appropriate textures and consistencies. Progression is led by the child and moves at their pace, in partnership with their family. Each child's current stage is clearly documented, with systems in place to ensure they are only served foods, textures and consistencies that are appropriate for them at that point in their weaning journey.

We also understand that food and mealtimes can be challenging for some children. Eating is about much more than nutrition, and children may experience sensory differences, food aversions, limited diets or need additional time and support to feel comfortable exploring new foods. We work sensitively alongside families to understand and support each child's individual dietary and sensory needs, creating positive, relaxed mealtime experiences without pressure.

Keeping children safe around food is incredibly important to us. All of our team complete allergy-awareness training, with senior team members undertaking advanced allergy training and acting as our designated Food Champions. Food Champions are responsible for carefully cross-checking dietary requirements and overseeing the safe serving of food. All team members

responsible for serving food also hold a Level 2 Food Hygiene qualification, ensuring food is handled, prepared and served safely.

Each Tinkers & Tribe setting is inspected by Environmental Health and has achieved the highest possible 5/5 Food Hygiene Rating, reflecting the high standards of food safety and hygiene we maintain across our nurseries. We also have emergency anaphylaxis medication and anti-choking devices on site, and our team is trained in their emergency use. Alongside our robust food-safety procedures, this gives us additional safeguards should a serious allergic reaction or choking emergency occur.

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR FUNDING

— ♥ —

At Tinkers & Tribe we offer "stretched funding": a maximum of 6 hours FEE (Free Early Education) per day, and up to 24 hours per week of stretched funded childcare over 47 weeks of the year. This is the same entitlement as the “15” and “30” hours you may see at term-time, unstretched settings.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the Working Parent Entitlement, each parent needs to be working and earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at National Minimum or Living Wage, and have an adjusted net income below £100,000 per year. Therefore, if one parent is not working, or if either parent has an adjusted net income of £100,000 or more, the family will not normally be eligible for the Working Parent Entitlement.

If you are not eligible for the Working Parent Entitlement, you will need to wait until the term after your child’s 3rd birthday to access the universal entitlement, which is available to all eligible 3- and 4-year-olds.

APPLY & CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

Review your childcare options and apply: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Check your eligibility: www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare

Fee and Funding Guide

2026/27

At Tinkers and Tribe, we believe in open communication with all of our parents, carers and staff. Therefore, this structure will assist everyone to understand our fees.

Opening times: We operate for 51 weeks per year, closing on bank holidays and over the Christmas period. We are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

Pricing: Fees are payable monthly in arrears and increased annually in the month of April. Any changes to current rates will be advised in writing, at least one month in advance. Our fees do not include our optional forest school sessions. Optional early starts and extra sessions should be booked via Ovivio and will be added onto your monthly invoice.

How we calculate our fees

At Tinkers and Tribe we use an “actuals” method of calculating fees. This means you’ll be billed each month based on the actual days of attendance, rather than the fixed monthly fee used by other settings. Your invoice will be itemised so you can easily see how your bill has been calculated.

With the “actuals” method, your invoice amount will vary each month depending on the number of bank holidays, closure days and the number of days your child attended the setting that month. While some months may be more expensive than others, the total amount paid over the course of the year will remain consistent with the annual billing approach used by some other settings.

Please note that if your child increases their sessions mid-term, any additional days will be charged at our private rate, as we are unable to adjust or claim funding until the start of the

next term.

Illness/absence: No refund will be given in the event of a child's absence due to illness, holiday, or any other reason.

Christmas Closure: We are closed for our Christmas break and staff training from 1pm on 24th December 2026. We reopen on Monday 4th January 2027. You will not be charged during this Christmas closure period, however, will be charged for a full day on the 24th.

Unplanned closures: Should the setting be unable to open due to bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances, parents will not be charged for the session. Should closure need to take place part way through a session, a refund will not be given in this instance.

Bank Holidays: You will not be charged for bank holiday closures.

May 2026 Adjustment: Due to how funding is allocated in the Summer Term 2026, we will receive funding for Monday 4th May (This is a Bank Holiday and we are closed). Children who usually attend on this Monday if we were open will be offered a funded make-up session between 8am and 2pm on Tuesday 25th August 2026.

Capped Funding: Funded childcare is available for 48 weeks of the year. Funded days can be viewed here. https://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/excel_doc/0015/200760/2025-26-Stretched-Sample-Calendar_Updated-March-2025.xlsx

There are days in the year we are not able to offer funded care on. Families will be charged privately for these days. See package 5 for our private care fee. The days are as follows:

April 2026:

- Tuesday 7th
- Wednesday 8th
- Thursday 9th

August 2026:

- Tuesday 25th
- Wednesday 26th
- Thursday 27th
- Friday 28th

December 2026:

- Tuesday 22nd
- Wednesday 23rd
- Thursday 24th

August 2027:

- Friday 20th
- Monday 23rd
- Tuesday 24th
- Wednesday 25th
- Thursday 26th
- Friday 27th

Late pick up: Children must be collected promptly at the end of a session/day. Should a parent fail to collect their child within 15 minutes of the session/day end, a late collection fee of £25 will be charged. After this, an additional £25 will be charged every 30 minutes.

Late Payments: Fees are due by the 5th of each month. If payment has not been received by the 10th of the month, a late payment fee of £50 will be applied. An additional charge of £100 will be added on the 10th of each subsequent month while any outstanding balance remains, along with applicable interest, until fees are paid in full. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please speak in confidence with our Head Office staff at info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk so that alternative payment arrangements can be discussed. If fees remain unpaid without prior negotiation, we may be left with no alternative but to withdraw your child's place in line with our Fee Agreement. Children in receipt of Free Early Education will continue to access their funded hours only.

Deposits: When securing a space for your child, we ask for a deposit equivalent to the cost of one weeks' private care fees upon acceptance of your child's place. Deposit amounts are capped at £200 and are refundable when your child leaves Tinkers and Tribe.

If you choose to withdraw your child's space, then the deposit will be kept by *Tribe Incorporated Ltd.* For families accessing funded care hours only your deposit will be credited to your account within a month of your child's start date.

Retainer fees: A retainer will be charged if a childcare place is available, but the child's parent does not want to take the place until sometime into the future. If this period exceeds 4 weeks, then a retainer will be paid to reserve the space until the desired start date. This retainer will be charged 50% of the private daily charge. This retainer is for *Tribe Incorporated Ltd* to keep. Our registers run from September to September, thus a September start date will only require a deposit.

Discounts: A 5% sibling discount will be applied to the invoice of the youngest child's fees, provided both children are privately enrolled and not receiving any government funded hours.

Meals, snacks, formula, and nappies: Please see package options for details.

Notice Periods & End Dates: A full terms notice period is required. Here is a list of dates for your reference.

End date: 19th April 2026 – notice must be given before 1st January 2026
End date: 31st August 2026 – notice must be given before 1st April 2026
End date: 31st December 2026 – notice must be given before 1st September 2026

Funding and fees will continue until the end of the relevant term. If notice is given late, families will be charged privately for the following term. Exceptions can be made if the space is filled by another child.

Payment methods: At Tinkers and Tribe, we charge for items that are not included in the government funded scheme. Invoices can be settled by BACS payment or the government tax free childcare account. Please include either the invoice number or your child's surname in the reference of every payment. We can also accept payments via an employer's benefit scheme. Please contact info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk for more information.

Bank details: Tribe Incorporated Ltd
40-40-32 11674781

info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk | 01732 247 728

Government Funded Childcare

Understanding childcare funding can be tricky, but we're here to make it easier. We offer our funded care over 47 weeks of the year, providing eligible families with up to 24 hours of funded childcare per week, capped at 6 hours a day. Eligibility will depend on whether you're working, your income and your immigration status. If you claim certain benefits and your child is over 2 years of age, you may be eligible for funded childcare under a separate scheme.

Our Funding Packages

At Tinkers and Tribe, you can choose a childcare package that suits your family's needs. Funded childcare hours can be used on any day of the week. We offer our funded childcare between the hours of 8am -2pm. Childcare used after 2pm is not covered by the Government scheme and is privately charged. Families can use their tax free childcare account to pay for any private childcare they access and for their elected fee. It's important to note that government funding is not intended to cover the full cost of childcare. For example, it does not cover the cost of consumables such as food and nappies. We ask parents to pay for these consumables and this is called an elected fee.

What is an Elected Fee? This is a voluntary cost that a parent pays for the consumable items a child uses during government funded hours (8am-2pm). The fee covers items such as nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, snacks and hot meals. Our daily consumable fee is £8.94 for 0-24 months and £7.51 for 25months+. If you do choose to opt out from the elected fee, please understand that your child will not benefit from the consumables listed.

What is a Privately Funded Fee? This fee is charged for the hours between 2pm-6pm, this covers our settings operational expenses, staffing and consumables.



Package Options

Package 1:

Childcare between the hours of 8-2pm only. This is subject to a daily elected fee for consumables. See breakdown below. With this package, families will benefit from all consumables, including unlimited nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, three nutritious and balanced meals per day (NHS Startwell and Nutritionist accredited menus), and a range of snacks and drinks.

Package 2:

Childcare between the hours of 8-2pm only. Parents opting for this package, will not pay an elective fee, but must provide their child with consumables, including nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, snacks and hot meals. We regret to inform you that we cannot allow pack lunches and only home-prepared hot meals will be permitted. This decision has been made after careful consideration and is based on several important factors. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Package 3:

Childcare between the hours of 8am-6pm using a combination of government funded hours and privately funded hour. In this package, children will receive government funded childcare between the hours of 8-2pm. After 2pm, the cost of childcare is privately funded. Fees for the privately funded hours are tiered to reflect the higher staff-to-child ratios required for younger children. With this package, families will pay the elected fee and benefit from all consumables, including unlimited nappies, wipes, creams, milk, formula, disposable aprons, gloves, three nutritious and balanced meals per day (NHS Startwell and Nutritionist accredited menus), and a range of snacks and drinks.

Package 4:

Childcare between the hours of 8am-6pm using a combination of government funded hours and privately funded hours. In this package, children will receive government funded childcare between the hours of 8-2pm. After 2pm, the cost of childcare is privately funded. Fees for the privately funded hours are tiered to reflect the higher staff-to-child ratios required for younger children. With this package, families will not pay the elected fee and will not benefit from any consumables. If you chose this package, we regret to inform you that we cannot allow

pack lunches and only home prepared hot meals will be permitted. This decision has been made after careful consideration and is based on several important factors. Please contact us if you wish to discuss this further.

Package 5:

Childcare between the hours of 8am-6pm for those who are not eligible for funding. This is charged at a flat fee for 0-4 year olds.

Full Day 8am to 6pm	£102.95
Breakfast Session 7am -8am	£16.93

Funding & Fee Breakdown

9–23 Months

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year, accessed from the term after your child turns 9 months)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours
(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) £8.94

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.99
- Non Food Consumables £1.95

Private Hours
(2pm–6pm) Care Fee £56.33

Total Daily Cost *(Including elected consumables and private care)* £65.27

Notes:

- Elected Fee is optional but supports meals, nappies, and other consumables during funded hours.
- Government funding covers childcare only; meals and consumables are not included.
- Private care costs apply after 2pm when funding ends for the day.



Funding & Fee Breakdown

2–3 Year Olds

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year, accessed from the term after your child's 2nd birthday)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours
(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) £7.51

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.99

1. Non Food Consumables £0.52

Private Hours
(2pm–6pm) Care Fee £49.56

Total Daily Cost *(Including elected consumables and private care)* £57.07

Notes:

- Elected Fee is optional but supports meals, nappies, and other consumables during funded hours.
- Government funding covers childcare only; meals and consumables are not included.
- Private care costs apply after 2pm when funding ends for the day.

Funding & Fee Breakdown

3 & 4 Year Olds

(Up to 24 hours government funding per week over 48 weeks of the year accessed from the term after your child's 3rd birthday)

Time Period Fee Description Cost

Funded Hours
(8am–2pm) Elected Fee (Optional Contribution) £7.51

- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch) £6.99
- Non food consumables £0.52

Private Hours
(2pm–6pm) Care Fee £38.88

Total Daily Cost (*Including elected consumables and private care*) £46.39

Notes:

- The Elected Fee is optional but supports daily consumables and meals during funded hours (8am–2pm).
- Government funding does not cover food, nappies, or enrichment activities. •

Private care is charged from 2pm–6pm.

Important Limitations & Compliance

Funding Limits and Availability

Funded days are subject to the annual funded hour cap and the stretched funding calendar. There are specific days each year where funding cannot be claimed, and these days will be charged privately where applicable.

All funded places are offered in line with local authority guidance and may be withdrawn or adjusted if eligibility is not reconfirmed on time or if funding is reclaimed by the local authority.

Funding confirmation and audits

All government funded places are subject to local authority audit and compliance checks. If funding is withdrawn, reduced, or reclaimed due to ineligibility, late reconfirmation, inconsistent attendance or incorrect information provided by parents, families will be liable for any childcare costs not covered by funding.

Reconfirmation responsibility

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to reconfirm their funding eligibility every three months. Failure to reconfirm by the required deadline may result in funded hours being lost. In these circumstances, childcare access will be charged at the private daily rate until funding is reinstated.

Non-Payment of Fees

Where a fee has been agreed, failure to pay this fee may result in a termination of your child's place, and we will be required to collect this via small claims court.

Absences on funded days

No refunds or make up sessions will be provided for absences. Please note that the days and hours agreed for your child's attendance are the hours for which funding will be claimed. These hours cannot be reduced.

Late collection and additional services

Government funding does not cover late collection fees, optional early start sessions, enrichment activities, or additional services. You will be charged separately for these.

Steps to apply for funding:

1. Visit the government website: gov.uk/apply-30- hours-free-childcare

2. Provide your supporting documents, like your child's passport.

3. Apply for your eligibility code. You'll need your National Insurance number too.

4. Remember to reconfirm your eligibility every three months.

5. Submit your completed parent declaration form, including the eligibility code to info@tinkersandtribe.co.uk so head office can submit your eligibility code.

6. Wait for a decision. It might be instant but can take up to seven days.

7. Families can assess their eligibility for funding and the application process by visiting the Government Childcare Choices website.

8. To set up your tax free childcare account and pay for your elected fee and private childcare, click here: Apply for Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK

For more information about available funding, please watch this useful video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0B7F3eMG0Y

Term dates can be found:
https://www.kelsi.org.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0005/119777/Sample-38-Weeks.pdf