



Preschool Manager (Grade 8) for New school-led Preschool opening 25th August 2026
32.5 hours per week 39 weeks per year - Start date 1st June 2026
Happy Hive Preschool at Ellistown Primary School

Where every child is known, every voice matters, and learning begins with belonging

The Opportunity

Are you passionate about giving children the very best start — and excited by the chance to build something special within a supportive, caring school community?

Ellistown Primary School is proud to be opening **Happy Hive Preschool**, a nurturing, inclusive and school-led early years provision for children aged **2–4**. We are seeking an experienced and inspirational Preschool Manager to lead this new venture from its very beginnings, shaping a high-quality provision where every child is known and valued as an individual, and where staff wellbeing, teamwork and a strong sense of belonging sit at the heart of daily practice.

This is a rare opportunity to **create a Preschool from the ground up**, within a school that truly values early years education and the people who deliver it.

About Ellistown Primary School

Ellistown Primary School is more than a place of learning — it is a community. We pride ourselves on being a school where children, families and staff feel welcomed, supported and respected.

Our ethos is rooted in:

- Seeing **each child as an individual** with their own story, strengths and needs
- Building **strong, trusting relationships** with families
- Creating calm, nurturing environments where children feel safe to explore and learn
- A deep commitment to **inclusion and equity**
- Valuing **staff wellbeing**, collaboration and professional trust

Outdoor learning is central to life at Ellistown. We are proud that **Forest School is embedded across all classes**, supporting resilience, curiosity and emotional wellbeing. This approach will be a key feature of our Preschool provision, ensuring young children have rich opportunities to learn through play, nature and exploration.

Our school community is united through our bee-themed classes, reflecting teamwork, growth and belonging. The Preschool will be the very first step into this shared journey.

About the Preschool

The Preschool is being launched as a **fully school-led early years provision**, to provide high-quality care and education firmly rooted in the **EYFS** and Ellistown's values. The new manager will collaborate closely with our EYFS Lead to uphold shared values and ethos, ensuring clear progression and smooth, seamless transitions that put children at the heart of practice.

Our vision for the Preschool is a place where:

- Children aged **2–4** feel safe, secure and excited to learn
- Relationships come first
- Learning is shaped around the **needs, interests and identities** of each child
- Play, talk, exploration and outdoor learning are valued every day
- Families are true partners in their child's early learning journey
- Children experience a smooth, confident transition into Reception and beyond

The Role

As Nursery Manager, you will take **day-to-day responsibility for the leadership and organisation of the Preschool**, working closely with the Headteacher, senior leaders and EYFS lead.

We aim to appoint **before the summer term**, enabling the successful candidate to:

- Be fully involved in the **initial setup and development** of the Preschool
- Shape the learning environment, routines, policies and culture
- Lead, support and inspire a staff team through clear, values-led leadership
- Ensure high standards of care, safeguarding and learning
- Build strong, positive relationships with children, families and colleagues
- Create a warm, purposeful environment where both children and adults thrive

This is a role for a leader who wants to **make a difference**, who values people as much as practice, and who is excited by the opportunity to grow something meaningful within a supportive school.

We Are Looking For Someone Who:

- Holds a **minimum NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent)** in childcare or early years
- Has strong experience within early years provision, including **Ofsted requirements**
- Has a secure understanding of **child development from 0–5**, particularly for 2-year-olds
- Has experience leading or managing a team in an early years setting
- Believes in inclusive practice and adapting provision to meet individual needs
- Values relationships, wellbeing and teamwork
- Is reflective, organised and committed to continuous improvement
- Is excited by the opportunity to **lead within a school community**, not in isolation

What We Offer

- The chance to **establish and lead a brand-new Preschool**
 - Real professional autonomy within a supportive leadership structure
 - A collaborative school team that values early years expertise
 - A strong commitment to **staff wellbeing, mutual respect and work-life balance**
 - Alignment with a whole-school Forest School and outdoor learning approach
 - Local Authority **Grade 8** terms and conditions
 - Ongoing professional development and support
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Visits and Applications

We warmly welcome informal conversations and visits from potential applicants who would like to learn more about Ellistown Primary School and our plans for the Preschool.

If you are an experienced early years professional who is passionate about children, values relationships and wellbeing, and is excited by the opportunity to build something special within a caring school community, **we would love to hear from you.**

Ellistown School is committed to Safeguarding and the successful applicant will need to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service application.

To apply, please complete the attached application form and return along with an expression of interest letter detailing your suitability for this post in line with the personnel specification.

Ellistown Community Primary School, Whitehill Road, Ellistown, Leicestershire, LE67 1EN

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Closing date for applications is **12pm Friday 1st May 2026**

Interviews will be held week commencing **Monday 4th May 2026**