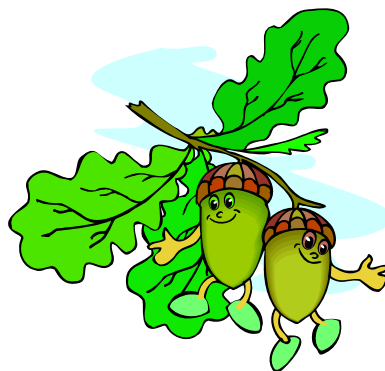
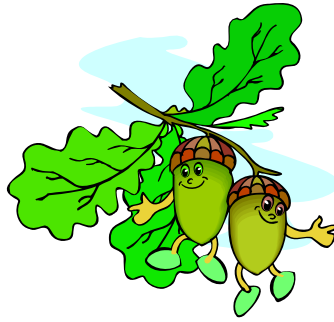




"Tomorrow's success begins today"

**Welcome
to
Kents Hill School
Nursery**





A warm welcome to Kents Hill School Nursery

The staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to the Nursery department of Kents Hill School, Acorns. The Nursery is the first year of the Foundation Stage of your child's education. Following this we hope they will move through into our Reception classes, Ash and Beech.

Here at Kents Hill we aim to provide a happy, secure, friendly, stimulating environment where children learn and have fun together, supported by an enthusiastic and professional staff team. Your children will arrive at Nursery as experienced learners, bringing from home a great deal of knowledge about themselves and their world. We hope to be able to work together to build on, and extend their developing interests, skills and experiences.

These are the people who work in the Nursery -

Mrs Shirley Faulkner, Nursery Teacher

Miss Vicky Eastaff, Nursery Nurse

Miss Helen Hayward, Nursery Nurse

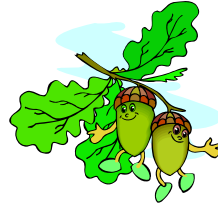
Mrs Helen Loftus, Nursery Nurse

Mrs Christie Oduro, Nursery Assistant (Kents Hill Care Club)

Mrs Hilary Edwards, Nursery Assistant (Kents Hill Care Club)

Mrs Linda McVicar, Nursery Assistant (Kents Hill Care Club)

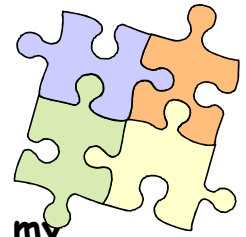
“Tomorrow's success begins today”



OUR AIMS

Whilst your child is in Kents Hill Nursery, we aim to: -

- Promote children's welfare as well as their intellectual, physical, social and aesthetic development.
- Create a safe, happy and stimulating environment where your child will feel wanted and excited about learning, through meaningful and constructive play.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers to establish positive home/school links.
- Encourage their self-confidence, self- discipline and independence.
- Develop their moral understanding and respect for themselves and others whatever their gender, ability, colour, religion or culture.
- Celebrate learning and achievement.
- Prepare them for the next step in their education.
- Have lots of fun!



Well, I've got all that information now, but what will my child actually do at nursery?

While attending Nursery your child will follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are six main areas of learning:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We encourage independence, confidence, making friends and getting on with other children and telling others how they feel and what they like.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We encourage development of listening skills, learning to enjoy stories and rhymes, experimenting with writing and having fun with words through familiar songs and rhymes. They will begin to learn about letter sounds using the Jolly Phonics scheme.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We encourage using their five senses to notice things in the world around them, finding out about people or places in the local community, designing and making things, learning about animals and plants, and how to look after them.

Creative Development

Children are given the opportunity to learn to express ideas and feelings through painting, drawing and modelling, acting out different situations, singing, making music and dancing.

Physical Development

We encourage enjoyment of active play and gaining confidence in movement, energetic activity indoors, outdoors and in the school hall, development of skills such as running, throwing, climbing, learning how to make delicate movements with fingers and hands, and finding out about health and fitness.

Mathematical Development

During play experiences and counting games, children will learn to identify and use numbers up to 10, with help from the Ten Town scheme. They will also learn to recognise familiar shapes and pattern, using play activities such as matching, sorting, grouping and measuring.

What time will my child start/finish?

Your child will be allocated either a morning or afternoon place, which is fully funded. We also offer wrap around sessions through Kents Hill Care Club, which you may wish your child to attend, but these must be paid for. Information about them is available at school.

Session times are as follows:



- Mornings:- 9.05 - 11.35
- Afternoons:- 12.20 - 2.50

How many days will my child attend?

Before your child starts you will meet with Nursery staff to discuss the most appropriate induction for your child. We ask parents/carers to attend with their child for the first couple of sessions. If your child has not left you before, it may be best for them to start attending only two sessions each week but we hope that within a term they will be attending five sessions each week.

What happens about dropping off/collecting my child?

- Adults over 16 must bring and collect your child to and from Nursery. You must inform us of who that person will be.
- If someone else is collecting your child for any reason, you must let us know either in person/by telephone. The person collecting will be asked for a password that will have previously been agreed by you.

- If you are going to be late you must also let us know so we can reassure your child and avoid them becoming too upset.

Do Nursery children wear uniform?

We encourage children attending the nursery to wear a school sweatshirt or T shirt. It is very important that children should be suitably dressed for indoor and outdoor play. All their clothing should be clearly named. School items are available from the school office.

Clothes need to be easily removable to help your child become more independent especially when going to the toilet. Aprons are provided for painting etc but clothes may get a bit messy from time to time due to the nature of nursery activities. Practical, comfortable clothes are better than your child's best outfit.

Voluntary Fund

Free milk and daily snacks are provided for all children. They also have free access to a chilled water dispenser. However a voluntary fund of £1 per week, per child would enable us to provide extras - such as cooking and special interest activities so if you can afford to make a contribution it would be appreciated.

How can I find out about my child's progress?

In the Nursery the staff observe our children learning through play. We build up a record of each child's progress that includes examples of work, photographs and written comments on children's interests and strengths. There will also be an opportunity for you to meet your child's key worker each term to discuss progress. If you or we have any concerns regarding your child in between, we hope a discussion will take place at a mutually convenient time.

Health Matters

What if my child is still in nappies?

We hope that most children will be toilet trained before they start in Nursery. However, if your child is still in nappies we do have changing facilities but you will be expected to supply pull-ups or disposable nappies. Please discuss this with staff at your induction meeting.

...Or if they are toilet trained but have an 'accident'?

You are asked to provide a change of clothes for your child in case this situation occurs. The staff will help them to change into their fresh clothes. Any soiled clothes will be rinsed and put in a carrier bag and hung on the child's peg.

What happens if my child is ill at Nursery?

We will get in contact with you to explain the situation and ask you to collect your child as soon as you can.

If you are at all doubtful about the health of your child, please keep him/her at home. Please phone us to let us know if they are not coming in. We will always let you know if there are any bugs or infections, such as Chicken Pox or head lice going around. Please let us know if your child has German Measles, as we would want to notify any mums-to-be.

If your child has had a bump to the head or a scrape, we will apply simple first aid and note it in our Accident book. You will be given a slip to make sure you are aware of what has taken place. If your child has an accident requiring a doctor's attention or becomes unwell, we will contact you immediately.



How will you get in contact with me?

At the start of the year we will ask for emergency contact details for yourself and someone else with whom we can get in touch in case of an emergency.

It is very important that you notify us immediately of any changes to your contact details so that we always have an up-to-date telephone number.

Illness

Recommended exclusion times from Nursery.

Chicken Pox, German Measles, Measles, Mumps

Keep at home for 5 days from onset of rash

Colds

It is only necessary to exclude children with a temperature or a severe cough or sore throat

Conjunctivitis

Exclusion is unnecessary unless there is a lot of pus being produced, in which case keep at home until 3 days of treatment has been completed. This condition spreads and must be treated.

Vomiting and/or
Diarrhoea

Keep at home until there have been no symptoms for 48 hours

Impetigo

Children should be excluded until the lesions have crusted over, or until they have been receiving antibiotics for 48 hours

Head Lice Children may return after treatment

Threadworm Children may return after treatment

Medical Needs

If your child has an ongoing medical need which requires either treatment or monitoring, please let us know discuss with staff at induction. If possible, parents should administer all medication.

If staff are required to supervise a child taking medication, for example - an asthma inhaler, we will need prior written authority and full written instructions. Please ask your keyworker for a form.

Health and Safety

We regularly check all areas of the Nursery and all equipment to ensure a safe environment. If you notice anything that may be a hazard please bring it to the attention of a member of staff. All staff have first aid training.

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Parents are children's most important educators in their earliest years and continue to play a major role in their young child's learning when they enter the Foundation Stage setting.

We value your role and look forward to working in partnership with you in the Nursery setting. Here are some of the ways you can become more involved with your child's learning experiences and help build a unique link between home and school:

- Provide opportunity for your child to play imaginatively at home.
- Read to your child every day, talk about books, read familiar words to them. For example, labels on their favourite foods, family names.
- Encourage your child to listen to songs, music, stories and rhymes and retell or sing them back to you.
- Talking to your child is very important - but so is listening to them. Try to answer their questions if at all possible.
- Encourage them to count and use numbers in everyday situations and in nursery rhymes.
- Help them to match and sort things, e.g. putting knives and forks, cups and saucers and socks into pairs, or sorting out big and little tins and putting packets into order of size.
- Give them the chance to use their fingers and hands, e.g. building with bricks, cutting out with scissors, helping with baking or food preparation and fastening zips and buttons.
- Encourage them to express their own ideas and feelings through using crayons, pens, pencils, paint, music and dance and play.
- Encourage them to explore their own environment.
- Encourage them to take turns with siblings and friends.

How can I help prepare my child for Nursery?

Preparing your child for Nursery is very important. Here are some suggestions of things you can do to help.

- Before they start try to get them used to other people. Encourage them to spend some time with a trusted adult away from home. Also encourage other children to come and play and let your child go to other children's homes.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves. Be patient and give them plenty of time. Get them used to being dressed early in the mornings so they have that as part of their routine before starting school.
- Make sure they can manage the toilet on their own and can ask clearly when they need to go.

Parental involvement

We welcome parents in Nursery. In order to make our Nursery a happy and successful learning environment for children, we need your support!!

All Nursery activities can be enriched and extended by the involvement of parents. We will invite parents into Nursery to share time with the children and involve them in activities such as baking, artwork and sharing special skills.

We will send home a curriculum newsletter each half term, which will outline the learning that will be taking place. It will give you some more suggestions of things you can do at home with your child. You will also receive regular school newsletters. We hope that you will be able to attend school and Nursery events.

We often request parents bring items to Nursery relevant to our current theme. We also request parents help to escort us when we go on outings and trips.