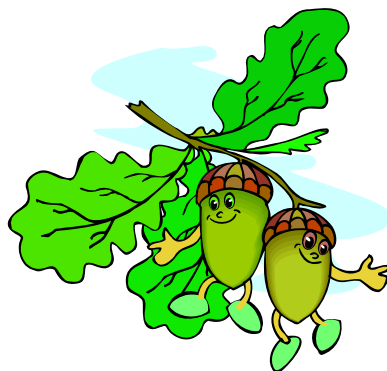
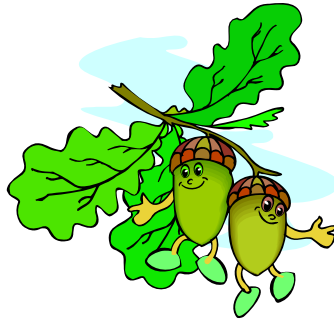




"Tomorrow's success begins today"

**Welcome
to
Kents Hill School
Nursery**





A warm welcome to Kents Hill School Nursery

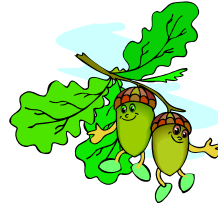
The staff and governors would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to the Nursery of Kents Hill School, Acorns. The Nursery is the first year of the Early Years Foundation Stage of your child's education. Following this we hope they continue this stage of their education in our 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.

The Nursery is led by a qualified teacher and she is supported by other qualified nursery nurses. Each member of staff is a key person with special responsibility for a small group of children, giving them the reassurance to feel safe and cared for. They will also work to build relationships with each of their parents.

As some children attending the Nursery are in day care they are supported by a member of staff from Kents Hill Care Club.

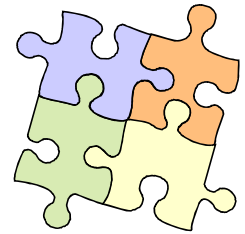
“Tomorrow’s success begins today”



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 Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The principles which guide the work of all the early years practitioners are grouped into four themes:

A Unique Child - every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships - children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or key person.

Enabling Environments - the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development - children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

There are six main areas of learning:

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We provide experiences and support which will help the children to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others; social skills; and a positive disposition to learn. We provide support for children's emotional well-being to help them know themselves and what they can do.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We encourage development of the children's learning and competence in communicating and speaking and listening skills. We provide the children with opportunities and encouragement to use these skills in a range of

situations so they are able to learn to enjoy stories and rhymes, experiment with writing and have fun with words through familiar songs and rhymes. They will begin to learn about letter names, sounds and formation using the THRASS scheme.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

We provide a broad range of contexts in which the children can explore, enjoy, learn and practise and talk about their understanding of problem solving, reasoning and numeracy. The children will learn to recognise, name and form numbers up to 10, with help from the Ten Town scheme. They will also learn to recognise familiar shapes and patterns, using play activities such as matching, sorting, grouping and measuring.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We encourage the children to explore and investigate and support them in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Their learning will be supported with opportunities for them to use a range of tools safely; encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environment and in real-life situations; undertake practical 'experiments'; work with a range of materials; and work with a range of ICT equipment including cameras and programmable toys.

Creative Development

We provide opportunities for children to extend their creativity and explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings, for example, through a variety of art, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role-play activities, mathematics and design and technology.

Physical Development

The physical development of the children will be encouraged through the provision of opportunities for them to be active and interactive and to improve their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movements, indoors, outdoors and in the school hall. We support them in developing their understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food.

All these aspects of development and learning in young children are interlinked and in September we will be providing a broad, balanced and rich nursery education through a range of Core Experiences within both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. The environment itself will be carefully structured and rarely changed (unless for a very good reason) as this promotes security and continuity for the children. Children are able to come into the nursery, decide what they will do, know that it will be there and where it will be situated.

The curriculum offer for children comprises the following experiences:

Book corner	Sand (wet and dry)
Malleable materials	Sewing and threading
Cookery	Small world
Dressing up	Water
Gardening	Workshop
Craft area	Block play
Home corner	Role play
Mark making area	Outdoor play
Painting and colour mixing	Treasure Bags
Music, movement and dance	Nature corner
Puzzles and games	

The Core Experiences we will be offering will provide a rich and stimulating curriculum for our children. Each experience has at least one element of each of the 6 areas of learning.

For example, cookery has:

Several language elements: reading recipe books, following instructions, talking, discussing and describing different states, e.g. sticky, hard, soft, language of colour etc.

Several maths elements: weighing and measuring, counting, estimating, concepts and language of more and less, concepts and ideas of time.

Knowledge and understanding elements: changes of state before and after cooking, consistency, using recipes/modifying recipes, e.g. how do we make currant cake? - add currants to basic cake recipes, selecting appropriate tools for the task.

Creativity elements: making a cake, icing it, choosing colours, designs for biscuits, pizza toppings etc.

Physical elements: cutting, chopping, manipulating, stirring, rolling etc.

Personal and social elements: developing increasing independence in doing an adult task, sharing. Working as part of a small group, considering others, developing skills and also confidence and self esteem.

Children of all abilities and stages of development can access these activities. Progression is made against each individual child's previous level of skills and not in competition with other children. The nature of our Core Experiences make them very accessible to all children in the nursery. This process model of curriculum enhances children's confidence and self esteem. As they gain mastery over their environment, children become increasingly independent which in turn enhances their confidence and self esteem. Our curriculum is delivered through play as play is the medium through which children of nursery age learn best.

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:



For children attending a morning Nursery place, their session will begin with a 'Learning Together Time' from 8:30-8:50am. This is a very flexible time during which you are welcome to leave your child with us from 8:30am or stay for a while until Circle Time at 8:50am.

The same 'Learning Together Time' will also take place at the end of the afternoon Nursery session from 3-3:30pm. Again this is a very flexible time during which you are welcome to collect your child at 3pm or stay for a while with your child in Nursery until the close of session at 3:30pm.

How many days will my child attend?

Before your child starts Nursery, practitioners, one of whom will be your child's key person, will visit you at home 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. They must wear footwear that is suitable for outdoor and indoor activity - preferably without shoe laces.

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 Practitioners observe 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. Through observing the children and making notes when necessary, practitioners can then make professional judgements about children's achievements and decide on the next steps in learning. These records are all kept as a Foundation Stage Record of Achievement in Nursery and are always available for you to look through to see the progression your child is making and actually 'learning through play'.

There is also an opportunity for you to meet your child's key person 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 or Slapped Cheek, 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 sign 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

Chicken Pox, German Measles,
Measles, Mumps

Keep at home for 5 days from onset of the rash.

Colds

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

Conjunctivitis

Exclusion is unnecessary although infection should be treated so the child can return to nursery.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea	Children should be kept at home for a <u>MINIMUM of 24 hours</u> after the child has been free of symptoms (although the Health Protection Authority recommendation is 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.
Parvovirus (slapped cheek)	Children can attend school if they feel well but please inform school of the diagnosis as it can be a risk to pregnant women.
Whooping cough	Children may return 5 days after commencing antibiotics.
Scarlet fever	Children may return 5 days after commencing antibiotics.
Scabies	Children may return the day after treatment.

Medical Needs

If your child has an ongoing medical need which requires either treatment or monitoring, please discuss it 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 key person 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 independently put on and take off their coat, socks and shoes. This will enable them to manage their own coat as they go in and out of the learning areas in Nursery and take part quickly and easily in our P.E. and movement and music sessions in the main school hall.
- Make sure they can manage the toilet on their own and can ask clearly when they need to go.
- After your visits to Nursery during the previous Summer Term please talk and discuss with your child about nursery routines such as Circle time, snack time, washing hands and Practitioners names.
- Every Nursery child will receive their own individual photograph album to record their learning journey through Nursery. Over the summer holidays could you please help your child to begin their album by inserting a photograph of themselves and their family. They will then be able to share this with their key person at our Home Visit and, hopefully, these will help to support your child as they settle into Nursery by sharing the photographs with their friends.

Your child's key person will then be responsible for inserting photographs of their key learning experiences throughout the year. The albums will be available for you to share with your child in Nursery and we would welcome any photographs you may have from home, sharing any special occasions, family events or achievements such as birthdays, riding a bike without stabilizers etc.

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. Please note that to be able to help in school you will need to possess a current CRB police clearance that has been obtained through school.

Every Tuesday morning we have a Parents Sharing coffee morning from 9-10am in the Activity Room. On Tuesday afternoons we have another session which we hold in the Meeting Room in Nursery from 12:20pm. All members of your child's family including Grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings are very welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat!