



March 2021

WELCOME

Welcome back to all of our families and thank you for all of the support this past half term. It wasn't quite the start to the new year we anticipated. We think the children have coped incredibly well with the blended offer and we are excited that we can welcome everyone back to Nursery from next week.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and their families starting this term. Our newsletter is sent out at the start of each term and hopefully keeps you informed of events that are happening in the nursery. Each newsletter will include a list of forthcoming dates. We are planning some exciting events for this term and will keep you updated via the website and Tapestry.

It is lovely to see this outstanding nursery school full of children who are curious and eager to learn. All of the children are making such good progress even with the strains of the lockdown and the uncertainty during the pandemic.

We are all very proud of the children's achievements. Thank you also for your lovely updates, responses and comments via Tapestry they are incredibly heart-warming to read.

A new term brings another group of students to gain experience from the experts here in our nursery. We welcome a student from Kingston University, and we are also part of a very exciting international project linking with Spain, Norway and Sweden. We hope to be able to work with them over the year ahead even if it is still being completed remotely.

We also welcome back one of our teachers Lily Badea to the school; after an extended time of sickness she has been able to return this term and will be based in the Den. Olatz will remain with us for the rest of this term and will now be based in Ladybirds.

We will continue with our three bubbles this term and hope to return to a mixed bubble after the Easter holidays as long as the cases continue to fall.

We follow the most up to date guidance on safe reopening for the school and so there will be some restrictions, however we strive to create the very best and most exciting environment we can for the children so that they continue to thrive and learn through play!

As you may know, Maintained Nursery Schools like ours, as well as many early years settings across the country, are struggling to survive because of chronic underfunding. Our challenges have been made so much worse with the pandemic and the impact it has had on our budgets. Many schools now face closure and many more are facing devastating cuts.

We know just how important it is to keep going, to stay open and to continue to offer high quality early years provision to our communities. We have all heard the government say how valued and essential we are, but these words mean nothing if we are not given enough funding to stay open. Please support the campaign #saveournurseries and help us raise awareness of this both locally and nationally!

Best wishes

Esther



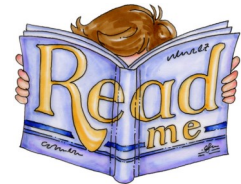
Learning through Play



Forest School

We hope to start up more visits to Fishponds once restrictions are lifted. In the meantime we still ensure our curriculum in the school has the forest school approach and the children will be looking at the changing of the season of winter into spring. Watching the bulbs we planted in autumn start to bloom and look at habitats for animals. The children are happiest outside and this is where lots of exciting learning and discovery takes place.

Library and Reading Skills

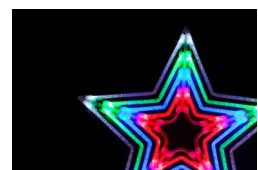
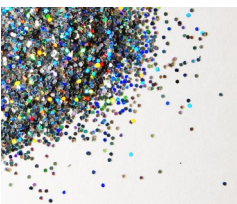


We know that good reading skills develop when children are read to on a daily basis. Did you know that if you read just one book a day to your child from birth that by the time they are five you will have read them **1825** books!

We have an exciting selection of books for you to borrow from the library. We are opening up a library service at the gates from March. Please come and choose a book with your child to enjoy together at home. If you need any help please ask your key person.

The Curiosity Approach

At Surbiton we have been exploring different approaches for the past 3 years and looking at how young children learn. We know that children will learn best when they are happy and motivated. They have a natural sense of awe and wonder and we harness this through our environment and skilled practitioners and their playful and thoughtful response to the children and their interests.



Celebrations and events



50 years of Nursery

Surbiton Children's Centre Nursery will have been open for 50 years in September 2021! Surbiton Hill Infants was officially closed on 24 April 1969 and the children and staff (with the exception of the nursery children and staff) transferred to a new school named Kingsdowne, 186-188 Ewell Road, on 28 April 1969. It was proposed that the nursery school, housed in a separate building, should continue to function under the jurisdiction of Miss G C Brown, headmistress. So that Nursery was opened in 1971 on the Alpha Road Estate and was called Surbiton Hill Nursery school. Over the years the school has undergone lots of changes and adaptations, including the entrance changing from The Retreat to Alpha Road. It also changed to the new name of Surbiton Children's Centre Nursery when the centre was opened in Alpha road. There have been many families (and staff) who have either attended the nursery themselves or their children have attended and it is a very integral part of the community!

We are hoping to celebrate turning fifty (if Covid-19 restrictions allow) in the summer/early autumn.

We will also be changing the name of the school back to Surbiton Hill Nursery as sadly the Children's Centre has closed and we are no longer part of that service on site. With a new name we will need a new "brand" ! We will be launching a competition to design a new logo for the school, and would love for the children to take part. It can be linked to the hill part of the name or just something special about the Nursery. This will be managed through Tapestry after Easter. All details of how we celebrate will also be shared in the summer term. If any of you have any special memories or stories about the nursery we would like to put together a special book. We are also planning to do a time capsule with the children as well.

If you have any skills or ideas please get in touch as we would love to involve as many of the families as possible in our planning

Easter Celebrations 2021

We will be holding an Easter raffle with lots of eggciting prizes! The children will be learning some lovely Easter songs which we will film and share on tapestry.



Diary Dates

March 2021-April 2021

Thursday 4th March– World Book Day (Virtual)

Friday 5th March - Deadline for Nursery applications

Week of 8th March– Remaining children return to Nursery

Tuesday 9th March—Raffle tickets on sale for Easter Raffle

Friday 19th March Red Nose Day! (details to follow)

Tuesday 30th March - Virtual Sing and sign

Wednesday 31st March - Easter fun and last day of term

End of Term

Friday 16th April– Reception places announced

Extended Daycare

Thursday 1st April - Extended Daycare will be open for those children attending Year Round

Friday 2nd April & Monday 5th April CLOSED for bank holidays

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April 2021 - Full Day Closure for Staff Training

(School will be closed to ALL children)

Tuesday 20th April - school reopens
