



A professional day nursery where happy, settled children flourish in a caring environment.

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Term dates – terms 3 and 4

For our term time only children please take note of the following dates:

Term 3 started on 5.1.15 & finished on 13.2.15

Term 4 started on Monday 23.2.15 & finishes on 1.4.15

Easter holidays are between 2.4.15 and 17.4.15

All parents should be aware that the nursery will be closed on the following bank holidays:

Friday 3rd April and Monday 6th April 2015



Important notice of urgent leave for Katie Ballard – nursery owner

As some of our parents may be aware Katie's eldest son Benjamin has a syndrome called CFC and with this has some complicated medical issues. At a recent cardiology review it was explained that urgent open heart surgery would be necessary to repair a worsening blockage from the outflow tract of the heart. This major surgery has been booked for Monday 13th April 2015. The procedure will take around 8 hours and the recovery time is anticipated to be up to 3 months with hospital admission for around 2 weeks if things run smoothly. During Benjamin's time in hospital Katie will obviously not be working and during his convalescing period she will be working from home. Hayley Grayston our nursery manager will be covering the later shift during this period so that she is available to parents who have any general queries although Katie will be contactable by email through May. The surgery will be performed at the Evelina children's hospital in London which is where Benjamin receives all of his care. Just for your information there is a link to the charity work that KTB conducts on behalf of this hospital on the bottom of the homepage of our website along with more information on the good work that is performed at the Evelina.



Termly topics

Each term we change our topics and themes according to the season and forthcoming festivals. These topics give us inspiration for creative opportunities and different themed activities and games. Keep an eye on our nursery display boards to see the children's work that has been completed this term.



The themes, festivals & special days this term are:

Themes	Festivals	Special days
People who help us The farm Shapes and colours Outer space Books and fairy tales Nursery rhymes and poems	Chinese new year Easter	Mother's day St Patrick's day World book day

Team updates - leavers, starters and promotions

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed four new starters and said goodbye to one. Jade and Naomi have officially been appointed as team leaders now and Emma has passed her probation as nursery deputy. These three girls work closely together under the guidance of Hayley to ensure the smooth running of the nursery on a daily basis. Charlotte Trudgill sadly left the nursery in December to return to work in a special needs school. Sara Quinlan also left in December for her maternity leave. Sara and her husband had a beautiful baby boy called Isaac in January, and we looking forwards to welcoming both Sara and baby Isaac back to the nursery in September. New starters to the nursery are Linda Ellis, Sarah Ginn, Charlotte Mattin and Sophia Andrews. Sophia joins us in April. Our website has the profiles of all practitioners and they are also available on our nursery parent's board. The table below explains at a glance which practitioners work with which age group of children.

Baby room – for babies and toddlers under 18 months			
Room lead	Level III Practitioners		Room support
Naomi Knight	Emma Seffens	Sophia Andrews	Georgia Berrow
	Level II Practitioner		
	Charlotte Mattin		
Developmental zones and preschool classroom			
Room lead	Level III Practitioners		Room support
Jade Kinsella	Hannah Farmer	Jennifer Ali	Hayley McConnell
	Level II Practitioner	Apprentice	
	Sarah Ginn	Linda Ellis	

A brief explanation on the food we supply the children at KTB Kids

At KTB Kids we are committed to producing ethical and environmentally sustainable food, championing local food producers and making healthy eating easy. In short we are proud to serve fresh food you can trust. We incorporate organic ingredients into our menus. Specifically all our milk and where available all other dairy products that we use are Organic. We only serve food that meets or exceeds UK Welfare standards, sourcing solely Organic or free range meat wherever possible.



We are in the process of formalising these standards with recognition from Food for Life in their award scheme. Our inspection will be in the summer so we will be able to update you on this fairly soon.

Our menus are based on a 16 week cycle which means that we do not repeat main meals within this time. Our menus are always displayed on our notice board and we hope to add them to our website soon in response to the feedback questionnaires that were kindly returned.



Facebook

KTB Kids has an active Facebook page that follows the progress of the nursery and links to articles and information that we think our parents would be interested in. If you are on Facebook then please give us a like. You may also want to follow our other companies **KTB Contractors** - qualified arboriculture (tree surgery) and grounds work and **KTB Pilates and Physiotherapy** on Facebook.



Testimonials

We are looking to re vamp our website and as part of this we would like to include some testimonials from parents. If you would be willing to write a testimonial then we would be very grateful to receive these. Similarly although we never like to receive negative feedback we can only improve if we are made aware of any concerns. So if you do have any worries please never hesitate to contact us and we will do all we can to resolve matters and make thorough explanations and investigations if necessary.

Preschool updates – Rising 5 programme within KTB Kids

The forthcoming term is an important one for our older 3 and 4 year olds as they will be preparing to leave our nursery to start reception in various local primary schools. We will be introducing some new activities and routines into our classroom to ensure that all the children who leave our nursery are ready for school. We will be looking to work on all of the 'characteristics of school readiness' which are basically the attributes that children need to be able to competently manage emotionally at school and be ready to progress their learning. Our 'rising fives' programme within KTB Kids that will be introduced in the summer term will be exclusively for children starting school in September. Over 16 weeks we will take 2 x 30 minute sessions weekly which will be led by our nursery manager who is an Early Years Professional having achieved post graduate degree in early years studies. In addition to focussed group activities the children will be encouraged to write their names and put on their own coat/ clothes on a regular basis. Parents of pre-school children at our nursery will notice that we have changed the format of our 'daily diaries' for this age group. These have been replaced with 'learning journals' which will have more focus on what we are teaching and what parents can do at home to reinforce these teaching practices.

Parents of children who will be leaving us in September are more than welcome to come in at a planned time to discuss in more detail the activities that we will be incorporating to encourage school readiness.

Sickness policy

At KTB Kids we do have a realistic expectation of the stresses that working parents face, and we acknowledge that juggling a child that is unwell with the demands of a job is stressful. As a nursery however we do have to consider the needs of all the children attending and when children attend the nursery who are unwell it does place unrealistic strain on our nursery practitioners as well as leading to the spread of infection to other children. We thought that this newsletter would be a good opportunity to remind all parents of our sickness policy. This is also published on our website. KTB Kids asks for parents to follow good practice and if their child is unwell asks for them to be kept at home until a doctor confirms that any risks of infection have disappeared. These include sickness and/or diarrhoea, a fever with a temperature of 101F/38C or above, chickenpox, measles, mumps, meningitis, hepatitis, a virus or any unexplained rash. Should any child develop such symptoms while the child is at the nursery, the named contact person will be contacted so that the child can be taken home. The Department of Public Health guidelines state that 48 hours must have passed since the final episode of diarrhoea or vomiting before children return to a childcare facility and KTB Kids enforce this. Whilst a child is waiting for collection they will be looked after but kept away from the other children where possible. Unfortunately KTB Kids are unable to issue a refund for periods where a child's nursery place is unfilled due to sickness. Staff suffering from sickness and diarrhoea are excluded from the premises and are unable to return within 48 hours.

Focus on: Interactive story time

At KTB Kids we strongly believe that oral storytelling is one of the most important things you can do with a child. We understand that it is comforting being read to, or simply being told a story. We also recognise that storytelling can have a huge impact on so many aspects of a child's development. "Listening," for example is a skill that we must be careful not to take for granted. Verbal communication is the same and the less we do it, the less confidence we become about doing it. Sharing stories and *being heard* help children become who they are. If someone will listen to a child, they have the confidence to speak – to tell us their story, or someone else's story.

We now incorporate story sacks or 'interactive story time' into our nursery day formally at circle time twice a day and before meal times. The children all come together at this time and enjoy participating in the story. During free play the children can of course read with any of our nursery practitioners or can simply flick through one of our picture books at their leisure.



Focus on: Block play

At KTB Kids we have a large block play area with a wide range of unit blocks that can be put together with larger hollow blocks and accessorised with props. We have dedicated space and funds to develop this area as we can identify the benefits of block play, which include fostering the development of children's mathematical, language, social, and spatial reasoning skills. At KTB Kids we have practitioners that are both passionate in and enthusiastic about engaging in this area of play. We encourage our children to enjoy extended time in the block zone to contemplate complex designs like bridges or towers and we observe that they do not become frustrated or limited in their imagination.



Enrolment updates

We are delighted to see the organic growth of our nursery which now has 61 children registered. As always we are constantly reviewing our practice and ensuring that our policies and routine are appropriate for the changes in our numbers.

Labelling clothing & personal items

We are aware that on occasion children may go home without all of their belongings and that on the rare incidence children may have been sent home not in their own clothing. We acknowledge that this is not acceptable and we are looking at measures to put in place to rectify it. What we would like to ask parents though is where possible if they could label their children's clothing it would help to alleviate any confusion. On our part we are going to be more careful in checking labels. We are also finding that children are bringing in toys from home and these can cause upset if misplaced or 'borrowed' by other children. Whilst we understand the need for comforters could we ask parents not to encourage children to bring in toys from home wherever possible. A final point is that could parents please ensure that we have a spare change of clothes for children in case of accidents. Hopefully by working together on this we will eliminate any problems that parents have experienced.

Discount on physiotherapy at KTB

Did you know that as a parent of a child attending KTB Kids you are entitled to our club rate of physiotherapy which is a 15% discount. We have daily physiotherapy at our 2 locations Dartford and Bexley Village. Check out

website www.pilatesandtherapy.co.uk if you haven't already or follow our facebook page KTB Pilates and Physiotherapy.

Filming at KTB Kids

A promotional video for KTB Kids was shot on Monday 23rd March from the nursery and from Monday 30th March we will be able to share with parents the finished piece. We feel that it was a successful morning of filming and we managed to capture a typical session at our nursery. We hope you like it.

Buggies and the downstairs entrance

We would like to thank all parents for their co-operation with bringing buggies upstairs whilst their children are at nursery. As you are aware it was becoming a fire risk to leave the buggies and even our big prams come upstairs when they are not being used now. The good news is that our landlord has promised a renovation of the entrance and stairwell which will be most welcomed.

Sainsburys vouchers for Active Kids

We would like to thank all our parents who have been very kindly donating active kids vouchers to date. Sainsburys stores and garages will be giving these vouchers out to customers up to the 5th May so if you do shop in Sainsburys please collect these vouchers for us and drop them into the box on the reception desk. We are looking to get some outside equipment for the children with the vouchers we redeem.

"Let's get collecting."