



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

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Term dates – terms 5 and 6

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

Term 5 started on 20.4.15 & finished on 22.5.15

Term 6 started on 1.6.15 & finishes on 24.7.15

Summer holidays are between 27.7.15 and 2.9.15

Children return to nursery on Thursday 3rd September 2015.

All parents should be aware that the nursery will be closed on the following bank holiday: Monday 31st August 2015



Charity Food Festival Sunday September 27th 12:00 – 16:00

Between 12:00 and 16:00 on Sunday 27th September 2015 the directors of KTB are hosting a charity event to 'give back' for the care, attention and lifesaving treatment that they have received over the past five years for their son Benjamin at the Evelina London Children's Hospital. In keeping with our ethos at the nursery of promoting fresh, home cooked food from quality ingredients the event is a Food Festival. We will have cooking demonstrations with our special guest celebrity chef Tony Tobin, a charity bar and an organic BBQ alongside our tea and homemade cake tent. We have some fantastic live music lined up all throughout the afternoon and free entertainment for the kids including unlimited inflatable fun, the opportunity to meet the farm animals and fun with our guests from the fire service who are bringing a working fire engine.

This really does promise to be a fun filled foodie family day out! Tickets for only £5 per person including children are on sale now from reception at the nursery. Our previous events from which we have raised over £20,000 for the charity have been hugely successful and great fun for the whole family. The ethos behind the organisation is that we raise money through our guests enjoying themselves. So every penny that you spend eating, drinking and on your ticket goes directly to the charity. Please share this with your friends and family and buy your tickets from us all in aid of a very worthy

cause. We hope to see as many of you on the 27th as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Summer picnic 2015

Following from the success of our summer picnic last year we are repeating the event that we expect to become our nursery 'tradition'. Once again we will be joined by our special guest Paul who will perform for us a selection of well-known children's songs that we can all dance and sing along together to. The event will be held in Dartford Park on Tuesday 21st July.

We will corner off an area with bunting from 10:30 and have asked parents to join us from 10:45. After the music the children will enjoy a picnic tea and then we will head off back to the nursery for the afternoon session to begin as normal at 13:30. We welcome parents to join us at this event and so if you would like to come and haven't yet let us know if you could do so as soon as possible that would be fantastic.



Documentation review

Upon registration for a place in KTB Kids an array of paperwork is completed. The personal profile has proved itself to be invaluable during the settling-in process whereby practitioners can understand the likes, dislikes and characteristics of the child whilst they spend time getting to know them. The health questionnaire is equally valuable in giving practitioners detailed information on any health conditions that the child has had, or any information that practitioners need to know. Finally the registration form contains important information including authorised individuals who can collect the child and emergency contact numbers. From next term we are introducing a new 'annual personal documentation review'. This will be a combined form that incorporates the information that is most likely to change within the year. We will ask for this to be completed by September for every child, even if the child joined recently. This exercise will then be repeated every August to ensure that we have the most up to date information on your child. We ask parents to take particular attention when completing the personal profile form again. Your child's likes dislikes and personality will all change over time so it is very helpful, especially for when we are inducting new staff members to have this information up to date. In this section the question 'what my parents feel is important for me' is asked. Here it is important to document what is important from your perspective that is carried out in the nursery. This could be to encourage healthy eating, to promote quality sleep or to encourage independence or sharing. Your aspirations will change for your child within a year and so we would expect this section to change too. If we know your expectations of us then we can ensure that we are working together to achieve these goals. These new forms will be sent out to all parents in the next month so please look out for these and return at your earliest convenience.

Focus on: Montessori inspired teaching

At KTB Kids it is important that every child reaches their full potential with a love of learning. To achieve this activities and interactions within the nursery are inspired by several approaches to early years development. We are using the opportunity of the Newsletter to introduce one of the approaches that our practice is inspired by, the Montessori approach. Maria Montessori believed that children are natural learners and little teachers and the Montessori approach is about encouraging and enabling children to think independently via their own exploration and problem-solving abilities. This is reflected in the practice at KTB Kids. Activities are provided to encourage each child to investigate and explore, to gain confidence, independence and language development. Children are seen to work for the joy of the process rather than for the end result, and are excited and energized through work, often repeating activities over and over just because they want to. Nursery practitioners direct the child towards learning opportunities and teach them to think deeply, to think for themselves and to think about others. They sensitively guide rather than control the children's activities and are always responsive to the needs of individual children. Consistent with the Montessori approach practitioners at KTB Kids assume that children are born intelligent, curious, creative and are ripe to develop a sense of wonder and imagination.



The Montessori method of education places importance on grouping the children in mixed age ranges, being outdoors and promoting positive social behavior. All of which are central to the KTB Kids philosophy. The high level of academic achievement so common in Montessori schools is a natural outcome of experience in a supportive environment. At KTB Kids, like with Montessori based learning, focus is placed on enabling children to develop a general foundation for learning and development that includes:

- Developing a positive attitude.
- Working with a sense of order.
- Taking pride in their environment.
- Developing concentration and self-discipline.
- The ability to make decisions.
- Developing a sense of responsibility and good manners.



At KTB Kids children have the freedom to select activities, think for themselves, to solve problems on their own and with others and develop confidence in their abilities. As in a Montessori classroom, everything within the nursery at KTB Kids is made to be easily accessible to the children, with everything having its place and with all materials being kept as neatly as possible. Children are offered activities that are based upon real activities in the real world, such as spooning and pouring exercises, stirring, whisking and grating trays, cutting and threading activities. Practical life activities also include helping children do other important tasks such as opening and closing doors, carrying trays and chairs, washing and drying hands, caring for books and blowing noses!

Bertie our Diversity Bear

This term we introduced the children to a new nursery friend – Bertie our diversity bear. Through spending fun filled weekends at each child's family home we can expose the children to an informal and fun discovery into other communities and cultures within our world. Bertie bear has been very busy exploring various events, activities and everyday routines with his new friends and we have filled our first scrap book of his adventures. Bertie has travelled to Scotland, been on a high speed train to the south coast, helped to cook a range of family meals and just be part of each child's normal routine. To all our parents who have contributed to Bertie's journey – thank you. If you haven't had the opportunity yet, we are sure you soon will! If you have a specific celebration or event that you feel your child would like to share with the nursery through Bertie bear, you can of course request to take him for that particular weekend. Please speak with your key worker, Hayley or Katie.

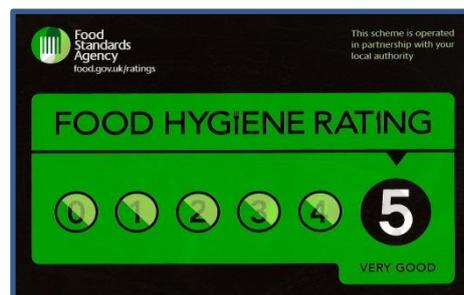


Questionnaire and feedback

At KTB Kids we work tirelessly to ensure that we are working to the highest standards to exceed your expectations of us. We will shortly be sending out our annual feedback questionnaire so that we receive the feedback on how you think our service meets your needs. If you would like to see something done better or perhaps just differently, if we are informed then we can discuss this and see how in reality it is practicable. When we receive the completed questionnaires we can look for trends and then as a team we will reflect upon our performance in order to make any required changes. Equally if you are particularly happy with any specific aspect of our care then we are always grateful to hear this. Constructive feedback enables us to prioritise certain aspects of our routine and care and ensure that children and parents are happy within the nursery. We would like to remind all parents that our doors are always open and we welcome feedback, either positive or negative at any time.

Food Hygiene

In April our nursery received a visit from the council's environmental health inspection officer. We are pleased to report that our nursery was awarded the highest grade for compliance with hygiene legislation. Specifically this relates to our food hygiene procedures, the structure and cleanliness of our kitchen and their confidence in our management.



Compliance with legislation – understanding the regulations

Within a nursery there are strict compliances to be met relating to staff to children ratios. These ratios do not only reflect numbers but also qualifications. We thought that we would use this opportunity to explain the legal requirements and how this works in practice at KTB Kids.

The legal requirements that are regulated through Ofsted state that all early years providers must:

- Have at least one member of staff for every three children under 2.
- Have at least one member of staff for every four children over 2.
- Have at least one member of staff for every 8 children over 3.
- Working with babies at least one member of staff must hold a full and relevant level III qualification, and must be suitably experienced in working with this age group.
- There must be at least one member of staff that holds a full and relevant level III qualification working alongside the 2 year olds and another with the preschoolers within the nursery.
- At least half of all the other members of the team must hold a full and relevant level II qualification.

Our nursery manager holds an EYPS qualification which means that she is an early years professional. Legally this means that when she is working directly with the children over 3 years of age the ratio can actually be at 1:13. In practice however at KTB Kids we only ever work to the ratio of 1:4 including with the over threes. This means that we are always far exceeding any legal requirements of us in order to provide only the very best care for the children in our nursery.

To cover lunch breaks at KTB Kids we employ floating staff who are not actually included in ratio and we have the capacity to ensure that sleeping children are always consistently monitored without impacting negatively upon the awake children in our ratio's. Our shifts are organised to ensure that these ratios and requirements are maintained at all times the nursery are open.

The KTB Kids team	
Nursery manager Hayley Grayston - Early Years Professional Status qualification & SENCO	
Under two's	Over two's
Room leads & level III practitioners	
Emma Seffens	Jade Kinsella
Level III practitioners	
Sophia Andrews Lucy Henson Sara Quinlan	Jennifer Ali Hannah Farmer
Level II practitioners	
Charlotte Mattin	Sarah Ginn
Room Supports and Apprentice	
Georgia Berrow	Hayley McConnell Imene Boudjellab Linda Ellis
Nursery Housekeeper - Mrs Murphy	

Explaining our practitioner titles

At KTB Kids teamwork is promoted at all times and every member of our team is respected and valued for the positive contribution that they make to our nursery. The childcare industry is however based on grades of practitioners and grades are reflective of practical experience and relevant academic achievement. Below is a breakdown of the brief job description and responsibilities of each of the banded grades of practitioner.

Nursery Manager

Our nursery manager is a highly qualified and very experienced nursery practitioner. She has overall responsibility for the safety, quality and standards of care that is received. She is jointly responsible alongside the nursery owner for the strategic planning of services that they lead within the nursery. The nursery manager leads the nursery team encouraging them to be responsible for ensuring that KTB Kids delivers high standards of nursery care that is efficient, safe and child focussed. The nursery manager works closely with the nursery owner on the operational management delivering changes to improve services, to ensure that the children and their families receive the best care and experience from the nursery.

Room Leads

Our room leads are very experienced senior practitioners who act as positive role models for the entire team. They lead within their room and support the nursery team to ensure they deliver a high quality service without exception. Team leads are responsible for monitoring and promoting a high quality of service liaising with the nursery manager regarding barriers to successful operation. They are responsible and accountable for supporting the nursery manager in ensuring the entire team are monitoring and maintaining safety in care by upholding policies and high standards of service delivery.

Level III and level II Practitioners

Both level III and level II practitioners are responsible for the direct care of children within the nursery. They are responsible for ensuring that the care they deliver is safe and of a high quality. They act as a role model for staff with less industry experience. They ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children at all times and work within the boundaries of legislation and company policy. Level III practitioners typically have more practical experience and they hold a higher level of qualification.

Nursery Apprentice and Room Supports

Our nursery apprentice and room support are responsible for working alongside the qualified staff to provide and support in the delivery of high quality care for all children. They will be working towards a recognised qualification in childcare either through an apprenticeship or via an alternative route.

SENCO

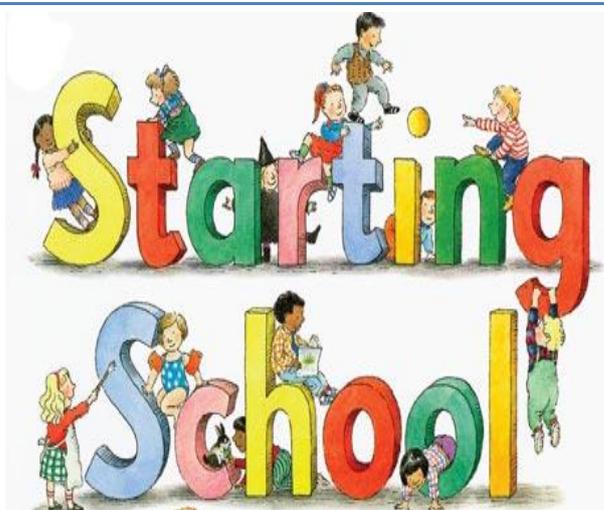
The nursery SENCO is a highly qualified practitioner with the advanced knowledge and skills within the specific speciality of special educational needs.

The KTB Kids new practitioners

This term we have welcomed three new members to our team, Imene, Sophia and Lucy. Imene impressed during her time volunteering for the company and as a result was offered an apprenticeship within the nursery. Sophia and Lucy are both experienced level III practitioners who have joined KTB Kids as our number of children has increased. Sara returns to us in September from her maternity leave to work in the baby room.

Our school leavers

This is a sad term as we will be saying goodbye to our first school leavers. Six children will be going on to reception year at school. At our nursery we have prepared the children to be as emotionally and academically ready as possible. This has been helped by the addition of our 'rising fives' program throughout this term which we explained in our last newsletter. All leavers will receive a scrap book of their journey at our nursery and we hope to give them all a special mention at our summer picnic.



Food for life update

KTB Kids is committed to endorsing ethical and environmentally sustainable food, championing local food producers and making healthy eating easy. When preparing meals for the children in our care we source whole foods in their natural state avoiding all processed foods. By cooking all our meals from scratch we can control exactly what is going into it, including the amount of added salt or sugar. Parents can be reassured that all our food is free from controversial additives, trans-fats and genetically modified ingredients and that we only purchase food from suppliers that exceed UK welfare standards. At KTB Kids we incorporate organic ingredients into every meal and specifically where available all dairy and meat products are organic. We take great pride in the menus we have produced and in order to gain formal recognition we are working towards our Food for Life Partnership Gold Award <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>. We were hoping to have had our inspection this term but due to the situation with Katie's son we have postponed until the autumn term. We hope to bring you further updates of this soon.



A sad goodbye

This term we said farewell to a very well respected and popular member of our team. Naomi, our baby room team lead left us for the lights of the city and is now working for a recruitment company in London. Naomi will be very much missed by us all however we wish her a successful career in this new industry. She has promised to keep in touch and so we hope to see her very soon.

Benjamin Ballard

Katie would like to send her appreciation to all those who have sent best wishes for the quick recovery of her son Benjamin following his open heart surgery in April. We can report that Benjamin's surgery was a resounding success and the obstruction of his heart has been hugely reduced. Since this operation he has had to return to the Evelina children's hospital for further surgery to remove his adenoids and tonsils and again has further surgery planned for October to correct his squint. However from a health perspective he is now much more stable and from the middle of October we shouldn't be expecting any further stays in hospital. Thank you too for your patience whilst Katie has been away from the nursery to care for her son this term.

Reaching capacity

It has been a very busy term with many new children joining us. We have now reached capacity for certain sessions and we no longer have capacity for new preschoolers to join our nursery. As our numbers have increased we have made subtle changes to our practice and we have invested in new play equipment in order to ensure that the children are always occupied. Our dining area now doubles up as an extension to our discovery

zone where additional craft, messy play and focussed activities have been added to the daily planning to ensure that the children can access a wide range of activities throughout the day.

Nursery video

It seems a long time ago now but it in March our promotional film for the nursery was shot in one of our sessions. Whilst it was undeniably a busy morning, we were pleased with the outcome and grateful that the children were unaffected by our guest and that the result captured a true reflection of what happens within our nursery. The video is available to watch on our website homepage, just scroll to the bottom to find it.

New website

We have been busy re designing our website which we are delighted to say is now live. The website has been created to reflect our vision, the philosophies that we follow and real images of everyday life at our nursery. The content pages explain our teachings and approach to childcare and throughout we have used real life images of the happy children in our care. Take a look if you haven't already at www.ktbkids.co.uk.

Sainsburys vouchers for Active Kids

This term we asked our parents to help us to collect Active Kids vouchers from Sainsburys. We were overwhelmed with the support we received, the final total amounting to over 4000! We used the vouchers to purchase a range of things to help make our outside adventures even more diverse and fun including magnifying glasses for our bug hunts, a new parachute, a tunnel, balance beam and some dancing ribbons and silks. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who collected for us.