



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

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### Term dates

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

Easter holidays begin on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March and end on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Half term week is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May through to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

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

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018.**



### Parent Feedback Questionnaires

Through feedback from our parents we are really able to shape our practice to ensure that it meets the needs of those using our service. From the responses that we receive, we collate the feedback and this enables us to note trends and feed this into our setting improvement plans to make the changes that you want. For example, our opening hours were extended back in 2016 in response to parent survey feedback. From this year's surveys that we have received so far is that whilst we were delighted to see that they are overwhelmingly positive. However we have noted that we could improve on sharing with you how you the resources we have support your children to learn, and in sharing the activities your children participate in at nursery. We have made some immediate steps to improve this; you will now be receiving weekly update emails to explain our weekly planning, and also our menus. We also think our new configuration of the nursery will help, the changes we have made to end of day, and of course our new parent workshops. If you have any ideas, or feedback for us on any aspect of our care, please do share this. We would genuinely love to hear from you.

## *Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 19:30: Parent workshop*



Please join us for a 60 minute fun, engaging and informative session where you will:

- Deepen your understanding of our educator's role in the learning process.
- Become more knowledgeable about the purposeful use of materials and intentional teaching strategies that we use.
- Understand what it is like for your children in our setting.

And beyond this, enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles, meet other parents and ask your questions to our skilled and experienced management team in a relaxed atmosphere

We look forward to seeing you at this event.

### **Unlocking the learning potential of loose part play**

Through investment, research and reflection of our practice we are proud at KTB Kids to offer quality, natural and open ended nursery resources that offer a breadth of activities to the children in our care. On a daily basis our team of mature and skilled educators create an enriching and enabling environment to ensure that your children are able to make great progress in their individual learning. Keeping abreast of early years trends, and working in line with supporting theory, our ethos represents effective learning through play.

It is really important to us that our parents understand our ethos, and what this means in practice for our children. This is why we are delighted to be bringing to you our first interactive parent workshop to be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The theory of loose parts play was developed in the 1970's by architect Simon Nicholson. He found that if children have access to a range of materials which have no defined purpose, they will access a wider range of play types and be more inventive in the ways they play. This workshop will give our parents the opportunity to experience first-hand how loose parts capture children's curiosity, give free reign to their imagination, and motivate learning.

## Making changes to the logistics of the nursery space to improve practice

You may have noticed that over the past few weeks we have been busy at the weekends decorating our nursery, keeping it fresh and clean. However, beyond this, as part of a collaborative decision following observations of and discussions with staff, and seeking guidance from industry experts, we have made the decision to take our maintenance to the next level! We are therefore excited to share with you our plans for a building project that we are sure will provide big benefits for our educators, parents and most importantly the children.

The ultimate goal is to separate our two businesses KTB Rehabilitation and KTB Kids logistically so that the two can work completely separately from each other. Whilst our team are extremely skilled at managing the unusual logistics of our nursery, there is no denying that it does make some aspects of our day more difficult to organise. For example the changes that we propose will help us to support children in becoming even more independent, as they will be able to freely access the children's washrooms and a new cloakroom will make getting ready for our daily adventures smoother, with the children being able to take the lead. The project will take part in three phases, and making the most of the long Easter weekend, phases 1 and 2 will be complete by Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April! Phase 3 will be complete by the summer. All works will be completed at weekends and therefore will cause no disruption to families. Details of the three phases are below:

### **Phase 1: timescale – completion by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- a. To separate our coffee lounge into (1) a waiting area for physio and doctor patients and (2) 2 treatment rooms
- b. To separate the existing office by reception into 2 rooms (1) a treatment room and (2) an office and communication systems
- c. The physiotherapists and doctors that work within the building will then all move into the new dedicated space

### **Phase 2: timescale – completion by 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018**

- a. To add a door just before the classroom entrance and children's toilet. This will form the new nursery entrance.
- b. The preschool wall will be knocked through into the corridor giving the preschool children free secure access to the children's washrooms.
- c. A new children's cloakroom will be created from the rooms on the far side of the corridor which will form part of the new open plan nursery.
- d. The wall up to the second door in the middle space of the nursery will be knocked through into the corridor.
- e. A door will be added half way through the existing corridor separating the kitchen, staffroom, laundry and storage rooms and staff toilet.

### **Phase 3: timescale – completion by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

- a. The existing doctors consulting rooms to be knocking through into the current sleep to become new sleep room.
- b. The existing sleep room to become a soft play active zone.

[For more information please speak with Katie.](#)

## Extending active play opportunities inside at KTB Kids

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We are proud of our daily trips outside with all children which is firmly embedded into our practice, and we appreciate that this provides great opportunities for physical play. We also recognise however that active play should not be limited to the time that children are outside. This is why the open plan nature of our setting is so important. Children have the space to spin, jump, climb and run as part of controlled activities inside every day too. We are always looking to improve though, and the new building project will really enable us to develop this further. Phase three of the proposal enables us to introduce a new dedicated soft play space within our setting. The soft play area will be freely accessed by the under 2's with all children having sessional access. Beyond this, opening out the preschool and development zone area will give more floor space for our existing active activities that include ribbon dancing, yoga, parachute games and large hollow block obstacle courses.



## 30 hours updates and funding reminder

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All children from the term after their child's third birthday are eligible for 15 hours of local authority funding. In our setting the 30 hours is offered as 6 hours per day, and the 15 hours as 5 hours per day. To access the 30 hours funding you are required to confirm your eligibility, and this has to be reviewed every 3 months for those who have already received confirmation. This is done through the child care choices website (below), please be aware that not doing so could lead to a delay in accessing funding.

If you are eligible and wish to claim the 30 hours as part of your child's care with us, please do come back to me with confirmation. If you think you would like to claim your funding with us when your child has reached the age where they are eligible for 15 funded hours please speak to us about our availability as far in advance as possible as we do have limited availability for some of our most popular sessions.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

## Introducing Makaton throughout the setting

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In March Naomi attended a Makaton training course and we are really excited that this will soon form part of our everyday practice at KTB Kids. So what is Makaton? Makaton is the sign and symbol language. Makaton is designed to support spoken language – signs are used with speech, in spoken word order to help children and adults to communicate. Using signs can help children who have no speech (either because they have communication difficulties or are very young) or whose speech is unclear.

Many children's understanding develops ahead of their speech. This can leave them feeling frustrated as they might know what they want but not be able to express it, which can lead to tantrums.

Using signing can help empower them to express what they want to say and alleviate frustration.

Symbols can be used to support communication in many different ways. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

The use of Makaton signing is becoming more commonplace in pre-school and Early Years settings as a way of helping young children develop their communication skills. Makaton is a visual way to develop communication skills, which helps stimulate sounds and words. This visual way of communicating in turn helps to encourage language development, i.e. putting words together. Makaton helps understanding, giving the child or adult an extra visual clue.

In order for Naomi to be able to disseminate the information she has learned, to produce resources for the nursery and to ensure competence in its use Naomi has handed her key-person responsibilities to Hayley, who will take over the support of these children. Naomi will then work more closely with the under two's and within the development zone. Once we have this fully embedded in our nursery we will offer parents the opportunity to learn the signs in a parent workshop – so watch this space.



## Team Updates

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In March we said farewell to Linda, who has left our company to take care of her father, who has sadly become quite unwell. Linda has been with the company since 2014, changing to part time hours when her son went to school last September. We wish Linda all the very best.

To replace Linda we were delighted to welcome back Emma P, who left our company in December 2015 after a year of service to pursue an early years degree. Emma returns to us term time only with day release on a Thursday to complete her degree in Early Years studies.

## Learning Book – an issue we have found

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We hope that you are enjoying sharing your child's learning through our new learning book. We wanted to bring to your attention that it seems that the learning book works much more compatibly with a pc rather than with a mobile device. Some observations seem to be missing when opening on a phone. We will of course raise this with the learning book technical support team but in the meantime, we advise that wherever possible please use a pc to observe the full content of your child's learning journey with us.

Please remember that you can share images and achievements of your child at home too, this helps us to ensure that your child's planning is relevant and reflective of their actual development stage. Some children do things at home that they haven't yet achieved at nursery – so it's great for us to be able to see these 😊

## Developing our outside adventures - an update

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We have not forgotten about the development plans for our outside adventures as we informed you in our last newsletter. This included extending the scope of the community trips our children enjoy and developing the idea of starting a KTB Kids allotment and accessing our own private garden by minibus. This remains on our setting improvement plan and we hope to progress with it through the summer. For more information please see our previous newsletter on the website.

## New Massage therapy from KTB Rehabilitation – treat yourself 😊

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All physiotherapists use massage within their repertoire of treatment modalities to manage many different conditions however, we are lucky at KTB to have within our team, physiotherapists who are trained remedial massage therapists in addition to qualified physiotherapists. This means that they are exceptionally well equipped to use remedial massage therapy as a medical art and modality on its own with the aim to rehabilitate an injured body part, pain or discomfort. However you do not need to be injured or experiencing pain to book a session for a remedial massage. When sessions are booked regularly, the benefits on overall health and wellness are tremendous for the long term, and now these sessions are even more affordable at KTB. We have two ways to benefit from remedial massage at KTB, both available in Dartford and Bexley:

1. Our same day massage offer at £25 for thirty minutes. These sessions can be with any of our Chartered physiotherapists but can only be booked on the day of treatment.
2. An appointment in our massage clinic £30 for 30 minutes and £50 for an hour. These sessions can be booked only with our Physiotherapists who offer remedial massage but can be booked in advance.



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