

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE (HEADCORN) LIMITED

MONTESSORI NURSERY FOR CHILDREN AGED 1 TO 5 YEARS

Nursery unit open 9.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

Toddler unit open 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

CHILDCARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 1 TO 13 YEARS

8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.



PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Darrell King

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The Old School House (Headcorn) Limited offers a Montessori nursery education for children between the ages of 1 and 5 years from 9.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. in the nursery unit and 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. in the toddler unit each morning during term time. In addition, we offer a flexible service of childcare between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. for 50 weeks of the year for children aged 1 to 13 years. Parents/carers may register their child for a place in the nursery only or may take advantage of our extended hours choosing either part or whole day care (on a regular or an occasional basis, i.e. to cover appointments, etc.).

The nursery school originally opened in September 1990 and we have since expanded our facilities/services to accommodate the busy and demanding lives of many parents/carers and improve the facilities and consistency of care available to their children. We welcome children and adults from all cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups, with and without disability.

We offer your child a happy and safe learning environment, combining the Maria Montessori method of education with traditional nursery school activities, including art, craft, physical and cultural activities.

The Montessori method provides a carefully planned and structured environment in which a child can grow and learn at his or her own pace, achieving their maximum potential whilst developing independence, self discipline and self esteem. The Montessori apparatus is designed to encourage intrinsic motivation, with each apparatus or exercise having a specific purpose. Children are initially introduced to Practical Life exercises which encourage and improve concentration, co-ordination and develop manual dexterity. The Sensorial apparatus assists logical thinking and provides experience of seriation or matching, developing and refining all five senses equally, providing early preparation for subjects such as mathematics, reading and writing.

Through their indirect aims and transferable skills, the practical life and sensorial exercises prepare the child for listening, speaking, writing and reading, i.e. the development of language skills. Children are introduced to the phonetic alphabet by sight, sound and muscular impression using the Sandpaper Letters and use the Insets for Design, geometric shapes and frames to develop their pencil skills.

Mathematics is introduced through a physical impression of quantity, developing counting skills and an awareness of number sequence. The written symbols are then presented via the Sandpaper Numerals and the relationship between the two established, thereby developing one to one correspondence.

To broaden the children's Knowledge and Understanding of the World around them, we endeavour to explore as many subjects and areas as possible, either through the celebration of festivals both from home and abroad, or through our termly topic work; homes, planets, weather, transport, occupations, etc.

Children are introduced to early French conversation in small groups and greatly benefit from the skills of a visiting Music Teacher.

Art and music develops creativity and explores sound, colour, texture, shape, form and space in two and three dimensions. Children also respond to what they see, hear, smell, touch and taste, thereby refining their senses.

Physical development focuses on mobility, manipulative skills and awareness of space and physical control.

Personal and Social development is extremely important in encouraging children to work, play and co-operate with one another, developing self respect and self esteem and an understanding of others.

The nursery provides each child with a mid morning refreshment (cost of which is included in the standard termly fees) and a lightweight tabard to protect clothing. No formal uniform is required except for a pair of soft indoor shoes/slippers/plimsols to change into. Wellington boots are preferable for outdoor wear in the winter/wet weather. All items of clothing and personal belongings must be clearly marked with your child's name.

Children staying for lunch will need to bring a packed lunch from home on a daily basis or a cooked meal that staff will microwave. Children attending for a full day will be provided with a mid afternoon snack.

If your child is unable to attend for any reason, please inform us as soon as possible. If he/she is unwell, please do not bring him/her to school but if your child develops an infectious illness, please notify us at your earliest convenience.

Unfortunately, we are unable to refund fees in the event of sickness, holidays or general absence.

Medication may be administered whilst children are with us but parents must sign a consent form **prior** to administration and this must be obtained only from the Principal, Supervisor or Deputy.

It is understood that children will be delivered and collected by the same person each day, if this is not to be the case, we must receive prior notification in writing.

Leaving TOSH/Reducing morning sessions- An academic term's notice (i.e. a KCC double term) will be required in writing, prior to a child leaving TOSH, reducing mornings or once a position has been accepted (please see Registration Form for clarification of terms/double terms).

Thank you for your enquiry. We hope that you and your child will visit us to meet the children and staff to see what we can offer both of you.