

# KINDERGARTEN 2008 - 2009

Dear Parents,

## **Welcome to Kinder and thank you for joining us!**

Kindergarten is a 32 place unit that is split into 2 classes. Each class has a key adult (teacher). The children will go into these two groups at the beginning and the end of the day for circle times. Both Ms Philippa and Ms Lisa will have named groups. Ms Mahdi will assist with both groups. All the teachers will work with and be responsible for the all the children's learning, care and nurture. The child's class teacher will be responsible for following and developing the child's learning, collating observations and information from the other teachers, keeping records, ensuring parents are informed and writing reports.

### **The Kindergarten Day.**

- 1. We start the day at 8.45** - the children come into class, take out their folder, place it in the tray and check in using their name card. As we are working on skills of independence we ask that you aid and prompt your child to remember what to do rather than completing the activities for them. All of the children are in the garden until 9.00 and we ask for your arrival before this time in order to gain an accurate lunch count and to allow a prompt start to our day.
- 2. The children start the day by going into their groups for Circle Time at 9:00** - they say good morning, talk about how they feel, talk through the activities and timetable, sing and do a focus activity/game/story.
- 3. Free Flow and Activities** – They have access to **focused activities** and **continuous provision**. When the children are not doing a focused activity they will be able to move freely between the three following spaces:

The large room: role play, construction, creative workshop, small world, exploration and investigation area

The smaller room: reading corner, relaxing area, maths area, graphics area, malleable, ICT

Outdoor: large construction, painting, climbing and large physical play, exploration and investigation area, graphics (mark making, writing and drawing), reading and quiet area

**Focused activities** - There will always be one adult in each area. They will offer focused activities planned for following the children's needs and interests.

**Constant Provision** is provided through the constant access to the areas listed above. This consistency allows the children to: develop independence, make choices and decisions, explore, work collaboratively, embed their learning and extend their thinking. The adults will play alongside them in their child initiated play making the most of opportunities to extend their learning. The Constant Provision areas are enhanced as the children's play and their needs and interests change and to support new activities and topics of Inquiry. The focused activities are balanced with child initiated and self chosen play.

*We shall have a snack table available from 9.30 till 10. 15, the children will be supported with this to start with but eventually they will be able to help themselves to a glass of juice/water and one biscuit. If you prefer, a small snack may be sent in from home (please try and keep these healthy or low sugar snacks). Again, the children find their own cup and when finished clear away themselves.*

- 4. Specials:** The children will have extra lessons in Music, PE, Art and Library with specialist teachers (you can see the children's timetable for these in a later section of this letter)
- 5. Lunch** – The children eat together with the teachers in the classroom. If sending lunch from home please send in their own cutlery, put food in an easily accessible container and pre cut

food cut into bite size pieces. We are here to help and support the children but we want them to become as independent as possible.

**6. Quite story-time/relax (if needed)**

**7. Free Flow and Activities** - Continuation of activities and continuous provision in the three spaces

**8. Circlertime / Storytime** in separate groups

**9. Home time 3.25** - Please can all parents and carers wait outside the classrooms until the teacher comes to the door to call the children's names. The children do get very excited to see you but we need to keep a check on who has gone home and who is still in our care.

During the Year we will cover six units of Enquiry:

Our first term we will be looking at, 'How we express ourselves through nursery rhymes'. We will put up on the notice board what we are exploring each term together with information and pictures about any special projects we have done or going to do. Please talk with your children about their daily experiences at school and continue their learning at home. We would really appreciate your involvement if you feel you have any ideas that would support our units.

We will send out emails with any special events relating only to Kinder but please don't forget to read the Director's monthly newsletter!

## **Notes to Remember!**

### **Supplies**

Please send in at the beginning of term:

A change of clothes – with child's name clearly labeled.  
Box of tissues  
Pack of wipes  
Art smock

### **Specials**

Kindergarten will attend the following specialist lessons in two groups

#### **PE** 3 sessions per week

All students from Nursery to Grade 8 must arrive to class wearing appropriate P.E. attire:

- gym shoes
- T shirt
- gym shorts
- track suit (for colder weather)

Students will not be permitted to participate in P.E. if not dressed appropriately. The second time a student is not dressed appropriately a note will be sent to the homeroom teacher. The third time parents will be contacted. Participation will be calculated into the P.E. grade. Any student who feels ill during P.E. will be sent to the school nurse for evaluation.

#### **Art** 2 sessions per week

All children must have an art smock at school to be used when necessary.

#### **Music** 2 sessions per week

#### **Library** 1 session per week

### **Birthdays.**

We are happy to celebrate birthdays in school if parents wish to send in a cake but please let us know in advance.

We ask that if you are organizing a party outside of school for your child that you invite the whole class and we will happily pass out any invitations. If you find that this is not possible then we ask that you use the class list to phone parents and arrange the appropriate celebrations.

### **Discipline**

We focus on positive reinforcement, we praise appropriate behaviour and model for the children our expectations. We use visual reminders and the children will soon be learning 'The Rules Rap' as a way of reiterating how we behave in and out of the classroom. If a child displays inappropriate behaviour we talk to the child, highlight why their behaviour was inappropriate and reinforce the positive expectations.

Our school policy when a child hurts another child or our school is that they sit in time out. They are asked if they know why they are in time out and given time to reflect on their behaviour. We record all incidents of time out in our log.

### **Bus Changes**

If your child usually travels to and from school on the bus but they have a bus change or want to bring home a friend who does not usually travel on the bus, please complete a bus change form (copy enclosed) and return it to school or alternatively contact Ms Gigi via telephone or email.

### **Going Home Changes**

If your child is to go home on play date with another child from the class please fill in the form we will provide, write a note or send us an email. We cannot send your child home with another family without written notification.

### **Mystery Reader**

As the children enjoy stories we would like to ask you or any of your family members (grandparents, older siblings, aunts, uncles etc) to come in one afternoon (arranged at your convenience) to read the

children a story. We find that the children enjoy the mystery when we say we have a visitor and are very pleased when it turns out to be someone they know. It is a lovely way to share favourite family stories and include you all in our day. Our only stipulation is that you do not tell the children as it would spoil the surprise. If you would like to arrange a visit please send an e-mail, a note with your child's daily folder, or speak with us in person.

Please feel free to contact your child's teachers with any concerns or questions. We are looking forward to a fun year in Kindergarten and would like everyone to feel relaxed, happy and excited about coming to school.

Thank you,

Ms Philippa, Ms Lisa and Ms Mahdi

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## **CAN YOU HELP ?**

To help our creative thinking, imaginations, awareness of the world and its materials we do a lot of our play using natural and recycled materials

Please if you have any of the the below you could donate we would be very grateful

Shells

Pinecones

Unusual stone

Drift wood

Logs cut into pieces

Woven baskets

Empty cereal carton, tubes, boxes (not too big at the moment)

Story Time: Listening to a story (daily) read aloud presents the opportunity to:

- To develop their understanding of the concept of a story, including the characters and setting
- To increase attention span and develop listening skills
- To reinforce current topics and themes
- To introduce new topics
- To broaden and develop vocabulary
- To enhance their imaginative skills

Singing: Participation in a group sing along provides the opportunity to:

- Develop an appreciation for music.
- Enhances listening skills.
- Develop self expression
- Link language with physical movements.
- Practise a range of expressive movements.
- Broadens vocabulary.

Circle Time:

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