

NOTES FOR NEW PARENTS 2022-2023
A WARM WELCOME TO KIRTLINGTON PRESCHOOL!



We are a small friendly preschool managed by a committed and enthusiastic committee of parents. We are fortunate to be situated in a countryside environment at the heart of a vibrant village community. We have been situated within Kirtlington School since 2004 and we share their Early Years outdoor space. We have a good relationship with the school and many of our children go on to join Reception with the benefit of a smooth and familiar transition.

We 'Think big, Walk tall' in our small 'family feel' preschool.

Our intention is to nurture **all** children to become confident, caring and respectful learners with a natural curiosity to enable them to reach their potential.

We aim for our children to feel safe, secure and valued with a good understanding of what makes them unique.

We aim to teach our children the necessary self-help skills to enable a smooth and confident transition to Reception.

We aim to support our children to develop their self-regulation and perseverance when faced with adversity, disappointment or challenges.

We aim for them to develop a positive attitude to life and learning with a love of books, language and storytelling.

Our vision is for our children to become independent, resilient and respectful members of their community with a desire to conserve their environment and the wider world.

We assist and guide all children, but as their skills develop so our expectations rise. For example, we encourage the children to 'have a go' at – changing their shoes, putting on and taking off their coat, hanging it up, tidying up the toys, washing their hands, toileting, and many other skills. We encourage the children to ask questions, take turns, look carefully, listen quietly, explore their environment, use their imagination and become helpful, respectful and responsible members of their class. We are grateful to parents for their support in helping children to gain these skills.

A typical day may include:

Children arrive 08.40 – 08.50am and hang up coats, change shoes and wash their hands. Then they freely access the activities out in the classroom until everyone has arrived. Then we take register and record what children are having for lunch.

We usually then sing a song or dance to music before exploring the activities indoors or outside with our friends. Snack and Chat is at 10am. The children have a cut up selection of fruit, vegetables, toast or cereals and are offered milk or water to drink. We encourage chatting and good manners.

After Snack & Chat we continue activities indoors and outside until lunchtime which is at 11.45am. We go to the Hall for lunch, joined later by the rest of the school. Again, good manners and social interaction are encouraged.

After lunch we usually have free play outside. In the afternoon the children move freely between activities indoors and outside. At 2.30pm children all help to tidy up and we finish the day with a story and/or song or game on the carpet.

We have brief focus sessions on Phase 1 phonics and Numeracy skills as well as playing tabletop games involving counting, turn taking, and observation. We have a weekly PE session in the hall.

FUNDING

Children all receive a Universal 15 hours of funded early education from the term after their third birthday. Working parents may also be eligible to receive an extra 15 hours Extended Entitlement which would give their child a total of 30 hours funded early education per week.

Please see www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for eligibility and to receive a code.

Parents will receive a form each large term (March, June, and November) requesting their choice of sessions for the next term.

Sessions are allocated firstly to children who have a place on Preschool roll IN AGE ORDER starting with the eldest, and secondly to children without a place attending preschool.

Working parents who depend upon specific hours may find that it is better to continue their present childcare arrangements for their 3 year olds (Rising 3's year group) until their child joins the 4 year olds (Rising 4's year group). This is because available hours are increasingly depleted throughout the academic year with little flexibility by the Summer term.

Early Education Funding Parent Declaration forms:

These forms will be given to you in the second week of term. **We cannot claim funding for your child without a completed form.** If you have a 30-hour code your

number will be required on the form as well as your National Insurance number. Please return the completed form promptly as we have a deadline for submission. If your child is new this term we have to check eligibility so please show us proof of identity and age (e.g. Passport, Birth certificate or Red Book)

Your child may be eligible for EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) or DAF (Disability Access Funding). Please complete sections 5 or 6 if applicable.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/early-years-pupil-premium-information-parents>

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/support-families-disabled-children-and-young-people>

KEYPERSON

Each child has a Keyperson with whom they and their family can form a close relationship. Although as we are a small team we work closely with all children. Cheryl's key children so far this year are: Millie, George, Myah, Amber M, Rosalie, Enis, Lucian, Pomeline, June and Amber B
Izzie's key children are: Luna, Abi, Camillo, Elizabeth, Piera, Isabella, Thomas, Henry, Lucy, Lola, Lyra and Wilfred

FAMILY PHOTOS

We would like to display a photograph of each child with their family on our Family display board, and also a close up of each child's face in the classroom. (They love going round spotting themselves!). If you are happy for me to do this please email me (ibri4302@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk) these pictures and I can print them for display. Thank you.

LUNCHES

KIRTLINGTON SCHOOL IS A NUT AND SESAME FREE ZONE PLEASE DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES

Children may bring their own packed lunch. We encourage healthy eating – please consider this when making up packed lunches. (No sweets or fizzy drinks)

Alternatively children may have a school lunch. This is a great way for children to improve their physical skills by learning how to use cutlery. It can also encourage picky eaters to try the foods their peers are eating. We encourage good table manners and conversation thus enhancing their social skills. Parents need to sign up to Parent Pay (Details available from the School Office. Email: office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk) where you choose and pay for your child's meal in advance.

FRUIT AND SNACK ROTA

We have a voluntary Fruit and Snack rota to which you may like to contribute. Parents sign up for a chosen week and bring in fruit and snacks for that week which we cut up and divide amongst the children. Examples are bananas, apples, pears, cucumber, raisins, cereals (Shreddies and Cheerios most popular), satsumas, grapes (which we will cut in half), melon, berries, breadsticks, fruit loaf, malt loaf, bread for toast. Contributions usually amount to perhaps a bunch of bananas, bag of apples, bag of pears for a week.

SICKNESS AND ABSENCES

Children with sickness and/or diarrhoea must stay off school for 48 hours after the last incidence.

In all cases of absence please email Izzie (ibri4302@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk) before 9am please.

Coronavirus and other viruses/illnesses

We will continue to keep the classroom well ventilated, even in cold weather and continue to make thorough, regular hand washing a priority. We also encourage children to cough or sneeze into their elbow. We always disinfect tables before and after eating.

If your child displays symptoms of Covid 19 or any other virus or has a temperature please don't send them to preschool. Please also note the information about symptoms of Scarlet fever below, cases of which are apparently increasing.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.

Infection control advice

In schools and nurseries it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. During periods of high incidence

of scarlet fever there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings.

As per national [Health Protection in Schools and Other Child Care Facilities guidance](#), **children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should be excluded from nursery / school / work for 24 hours after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment.** Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

If your child has vomited or has diarrhoea, please do not send them to preschool until 48 hours after the last episode.

WHAT DOES YOUR CHILD NEED?

A named water bottle

A spare change of clothes in case of accidents or messy play

Soft shoes for indoors (Can be left at Preschool)

Wellington boots for outdoors (Can be left at Preschool)

A waterproof coat all year round

In cold weather – warm coat, hat, gloves if you wish

In hot weather – Sunhat, suncream already applied

Preschool children do not need to wear school uniform. The most important thing is that children have clothing they can manage themselves to promote independence and self-esteem.

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING

PARENT MEETINGS

We hold informal parent meetings Oct/Nov, March and June, usually with your child's keyperson to discuss progress, development and wellbeing.

Please raise any queries you may have regarding your child at any time with the Supervisor, Izzie Brinkworth.

Email is best unless the matter is urgent, when you will be able to speak to me briefly at the start of the day.

Contact for Izzie: ibri4302@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk

Contact for Cheryl: ceva5382@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk

Contact for School Office: office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk

Curiosity Bowl:

If your child finds or sees something that sparks their curiosity, they can bring it in to put in the bowl. We can then use this to encourage discussion, learn new vocabulary and spark our imaginations!

We are looking forward to a fabulous year with your children!

Kind regards
Izzie and Cheryl