

# Welcome to Nursery

Information for parents  
and carers starting with  
us in September 2023



## Information Booklet



## Dear families,

**Welcome to Kingfisher Hall Nursery. We are delighted to have you and your child join us in our 'Diamond class' for 3-4-year-olds. Our dedicated team is committed to ensuring your child's time with us is filled with joy and valuable learning experiences.**

We are excited that you have chosen our nursery and are looking forward to getting to know you and your child in the coming months.

At Kingfisher Hall Nursery, we provide quality day care and early education for all the children. Our excellent provision begins with inclusive practice: all children have the right to feel welcomed; valued; listened to and to have endless opportunities to have fun whilst all the time learning and developing in a warm and loving environment.

In this booklet we have included some important information about starting in nursery which you might like to keep for reference. Please read it carefully before your child starts with us.

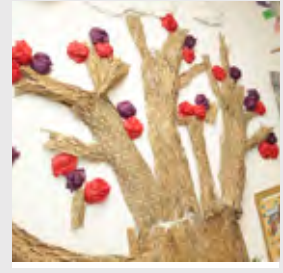
You can find more information about the nursery on our website **<https://www.kingfisherhallacademy.org.uk/nursery>** and stay in touch via our social media platforms, '**Kingfisher Hall Academy**'

We look forward to working with you and your child to make the time spent in nursery both happy and rewarding.

**Gemma Vincent**

*Headteacher*





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# Getting three-year-olds ready for nursery

The following would really help your child settle into nursery

## Social skills

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Are they able to do the following?

- Dress and undress themselves (coats and velcro shoes)
- Use the toilet by themselves
- Use a cup to drink from and be independent to eat a snack, e.g. a whole apple with the skin on
- Sit down and listening to a story (training concentration)
- Have a regular and early bedtime routine



## Communication skills

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Please make sure that you talk to your child every day about the world around them. Use your native language if English is not your home language. By talking and listening to your child, you are already giving them some of the best help there is to begin their education journey.

All children will need to develop strong oral skills - speaking, listening, and asking questions to get the very best out of learning. It is also important that you talk to your child about their day at the nursery and encourage them to talk to us about their needs as well throughout the day. Developing their oral skills now will also help to give them the confidence to make the big change from being at home all the time with the family to going to nursery school.

## Top tips

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- Listen to your child with interest
- Answer your child with care
- Consider his or her opinions
- Make time to enjoy talking together

## Other skills you can help your child develop

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- Encourage them to tidy up their toys and do some simple household chores. By giving them responsibilities you will help your child to become more independent
- Help them to recognise their name in writing and to consistently respond to it verbally
- Encourage them to clean well after using the toilet and to wash their hands thoroughly
- Take them to the library so that they have the experience of choosing their own books
- Have a bed time routine, e.g. bath and reading before they go to bed. Read Aloud is one of our reading initiatives, where we encourage every parent to read for 15 minutes to their child every day
- If you put them to bed early they will be able to get up early and be in a positive mood for Nursery school. If they go to bed late, they may be too tired to learn properly
- Nurture curiosity in your child through showing them how to ask questions and how to be interested in everyday and unusual topics
- Limit screen time for your child after 6pm so that they are calm and ready for bed
- Involve them in the daily tasks around the home: "Can you set the table so we all have a plate each?", "Tomorrow is Tuesday so can you bring your bin downstairs for the rubbish?", "Before 6pm put all the books away"
- Do turn-taking activities, such as playing with a toy - this helps them to get used to taking turns and also to understand the concept of sharing
- Lots of the learning in nursery happens through play. Get down onto the carpet so you are at their level and enjoy some play with your child. Follow their lead with what they are doing or how they are playing. Then, try to get them to follow your lead and also create games together. This will help them to get used to playing and engaging with other children



## Uniform

Please bring a full change of clothes in a drawstring bag for your child. This bag will stay at school.



Grey jumper/cardigan  
with school logo

Plain white  
polo shirt

Dark grey jogging bottoms,  
trousers or skirt

**Grey jumper/cardigan with school logo**

**Plain white polo shirt**

**Dark grey jogging bottoms, trousers or skirt**

**Black shoes**

## Dressing themselves

Can your child get dressed by themselves? They will be happier if they can dress and undress themselves. Help your child by practising:

• JUMPERS • ZIPS • BUCKLES • BUTTONS • SHOES • BUTTONS

Please encourage them to use both hands when putting on shoes and socks.



## Starting the day and home time

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**Full time:** 8:30-3:00pm

**Part time AM:** 8:30-11:30am

**Part time PM:** 12:00-3:00pm

Please keep to the dropping off and collecting times. Your child has been looking forward to seeing you again and a late pick up may cause distress and upset. Always phone us if you are unavoidably delayed so that we are able to reassure your child that you are on your way. It also helps us to know if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.

Please tell the teacher if there is a change in your picking up arrangements or phone the school in advance to tell us of any alterations. We will not let a child leave with anyone other than named contacts unless the school has been informed.

## Marking clothes

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It is important that your child's clothes are clearly marked with their name. Children's clothes may not only look the same but may also be the same size. It is very upsetting for a child if they come home wearing somebody else's clothes. Labelling pens and woven labels may be purchased locally.

## Children need a good breakfast before they come into nursery school

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Research has shown that children who skip breakfast perform less well academically, socially and emotionally, whereas eating breakfast improves children's problem solving abilities, their memory, concentration levels, visual perception and creative thinking.

A hungry child is a sleepy child. Sometimes low blood sugar levels can make a child irritable. Give your child time to eat well in the morning.

## Fruit snacks and lunch

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Children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable every day as part of the National Fruit Scheme, to support healthy eating. We also offer milk everyday but please bring in a named water bottle from home to be available to the children during the session.

If your child is staying with us full time, please ensure they bring in a packed lunch. Please note that fizzy drinks and sweets/chocolates are not allowed to be brought in children's lunch boxes. Kingfisher Hall Nursery is NUT FREE at all times. Please do not include any items in lunch boxes that contain nuts, such as 'Nutella', peanut butter sandwiches or other nut items.

Children are encouraged to eat as much as they can. If your child experiences problems at lunchtime, we will let you know.

## Playtimes

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The children in our nursery share a separate play area with reception to the rest of the school as we want them to feel safe and secure. Many aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum are delivered outside and the children will spend time outside every day. Children are able to develop skills across all areas in both the indoor and outdoor environment.

## Health issues – let us know

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If your child has a medical problem or allergies which might affect them in nursery school, we need to know.

If your child uses an inhaler, we can supervise its use during the school day. Inhalers are kept in a medical room and children use them under the supervision of the school's welfare assistant. We must have a letter from your GP giving precise instructions of dosage. Please note that medication is not administered by staff unless it is part of an emergency care plan which has been agreed by the headteacher.

## Behaviour and Safety

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In order to minimize the likelihood of children hurting themselves or each other, each teacher will discuss ways of making school a safe, secure and happy environment. At Kingfisher Hall Nursery we believe in using positive reinforcement and setting good examples as a tool to support good behaviour and behaviours for learning. Teachers will talk to you frequently if there are any concerns regarding behaviour. For further information on the school's behaviour policy, please refer to the school's website.



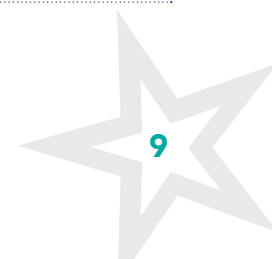




## Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is play-orientated and based on the premise that children learn from the first-hand experience. Learning is further enhanced through 'Focus Group' work with class teachers and Teaching Assistants (TAs).

THREE PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT:	FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT:
<b>Communication &amp; Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Listening, Attention &amp; Understanding</li> <li>- Speaking</li> </ul>	<b>Literacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehension</li> <li>- Word Reading</li> <li>- Writing</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gross Motor Skills</li> <li>- Fine Motor Skills</li> </ul>	<b>Mathematics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number</li> <li>- Numerical patterns</li> </ul>
<b>Personal, Social &amp; Emotional Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self-Regulation</li> <li>- Managing Self</li> <li>- Building Relationships</li> </ul>	<b>Understanding of the World</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Past and Present</li> <li>- People, Culture and Communities</li> <li>- The Natural World</li> </ul>
	<b>Expressive Arts &amp; Design</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating with Materials</li> <li>- Being Imaginative and Expressive</li> </ul>





## **TAPESTRY Learning Journal**

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You should have been given a consent form for Tapestry.

Tapestry is an important Online Learning Journal system where staff record your child's progress and activities using tablet devices (iPads) and PCs. Parents and carers can view their child's journal on mobile devices and on their home computers, and can make observations of their own using a secure login.

It creates two-way communication between us (the EYFS team), and you (the parents and carers).

## **Equal opportunities**

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We work hard to ensure that every child, regardless of race, religion, culture or class has an equal chance to develop fully. We value a child's home language and encourage the use of it in spoken and written forms in our school. All the children are equal in our esteem and affection. We are totally opposed to racism or discrimination in any form. We avoid sexual or racial stereotyping and encourage every child to have a positive image of themselves and respect for others. Children may only call each other by their given names.

We see the rich variety of cultures in our community as a positive asset to your child's education. We celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Eid and Hanukkah.



## Community Outreach team

Our Community Outreach team work with families and outside relevant agencies to help children's learning and to support families during their time at the school.

With the help of teachers and staff, the Outreach team can help our families by offering support in parenting skills, and understanding the school curriculum; as well as in learning English or simply providing you with opportunities to meet other parents and carers. They have liaised with major food companies like Tesco, Farmfoods, Greggs, Waitrose and the Felix Project who kindly provide weekly food donations for families.



## Arbor – paying for things

Arbor is a simple, safe and secure system that allows you to make payments for trips, clubs and school meals. It also enables you to receive and respond to messages from the school and to update information we hold about you and your child. It has the added advantage of coming with an App that you can download onto your phone for ease of use from the App store or Google Play store. You can also use Arbor from a PC or tablet as well. If you are new to the school, you will receive an email for this once your child starts Nursery.



# Frequently Asked Questions



## **Q: WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED ON THEIR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL?**

**A:** Please ensure your child is wearing their school uniform or comfortable clothes that they can manage themselves (no shoe laced shoes please). They will also need a water bottle. Everything needs to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

## **Q: WHEN CAN I SPEAK WITH THE TEACHER?**

**A:** You can make an appointment to meet with the class teacher before or after the nursery school day. Please remember that in the mornings and at the end of the day the teacher's priority is to get the children into class safely and then release them to their parent or carer at the end of the day.

## **Q: HOW DO I LET THE SCHOOL KNOW SOMEONE ELSE IS PICKING UP MY CHILD?**

**A:** If you are running late you can call the school with the details of who will collect your child and the office staff will pass the message on to the teacher.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q: WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD IS SICK?

**A:** Please call the school office before 9am and speak to the office staff. Your child may still want to come to school even if they are unwell but please ensure that you keep them at home if you think that they could infect other children. If your child has vomited they must not return to school until 48 hours after their last bout of sickness in order to avoid spreading infection.

## Q: WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD HAS A MEDICAL APPOINTMENT?

**A:** We ask that wherever possible medical appointments are arranged outside of the school day. If you do need to take your child to a medical appointment during the day, please bring your letter to the office who will take a photocopy of it. Ensure that you sign your child in and out of school.

## Q: CAN MY CHILD WEAR JEWELLERY?

**A:** For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school other than small, stud earrings.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: CAN MY CHILD BRING THEIR OWN WATER TO SCHOOL?**

**A:** Yes, we encourage children to drink water during the school day. Please clearly label your child's water bottle.

## **Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD HURTS THEMSELVES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?**

**A:** Our staff are trained to attend to the children. If a child has bumped their head they will have a note in their book bag and you will receive a call from a member of staff to make you aware. The children will also wear a green coloured wrist band as a visual reminder that they have been to the medical room.

## **Q: HOW DO I PAY FOR TRIPS AND EVENTS?**

**A:** You can pay using Arbor. We do not take any cash or cheques. Arbor is a secure online payment system that every parent/carer will now be using in the school. If you are new to the school, you will receive an email for this once your child starts Reception. The email will have an activation link and instructions on how to set up your Arbor pay account. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

## **Q: CAN MY CHILD BRING A SNACK TO NURSERY?**

**A:** The government supplies free fruit for all nursery pupils which they are given during the morning or/and afternoon break , so it is not necessary for them to bring a snack to school.





## Our mission, vision, values and culture

Our school is part of North Star Community Trust, an educational charity that manages a family of 4 academies in North London, educating some 2,600 pupils from 2-years of age to 16. As partners in our community, our vision is to help as many children as possible to succeed at school and in life.

To summarise our mission, we use three words for everyone to remember on a daily basis: Education, Community and Opportunity (ECO). By being 'Stronger Together' in our educational quality, our parental and community engagement, our investment in our people and our sustainability, we can meet our specific pledges to all of our children, communities and staff.



STAY  
IN CONTACT

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ACADEMY

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Kingfisher Hall Academy



Kingfisher



Kingfisher Hall Academy



North Star Community Trust



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Member of  
North Star  
Community  
Trust

  
**NORTH STAR**  
COMMUNITY TRUST