



Welcome to College Fields Montessori Nursery School

We asked our children what was important to them when they came to nursery and what new children might like to see before they start nursery....



When you arrive...



We have a big private parking area for easy drop offs and pick ups



You will come through big blue doors and hang up your coat.



We choose our name and post it in the red box



After saying goodbye to your grown up you can come and feed Speckles, the fish



SOPHIE



AMANDA



TORI



DEIRDRE

You can meet your Teachers who will help you to choose what you would like to do first.

We are a small group so our Keyworker responsibilities are shared. We tend to let your child choose which Teacher they prefer and go from there...

All of the Teachers at College Fields are Mothers and or Grandmothers. All have worked here for years and we are all highly qualified. All of this means that you can feel secure in the knowledge that we know what we are doing, between us have a wealth of experience – and that your child gets continuity every time they come to nursery.

Inside The School Room



All our toys are of excellent quality and predominantly made from natural material. They are all on low shelves so we can choose what we like to play with. We always offer a combination of adult led group activities, small group or one to one games or conversations and free-play.

Painting and drawing equipment is always available for when we feel creative.



We have traditional Montessori equipment all around us on the sensorial and practical life shelves. These are self-correcting which builds independence and curiosity and develops fine motor skills and spatial awareness.

We have a large carpeted area where we can do yoga or enjoy a sensory music session with Krazy Kanga who visits every Friday. It is also where we come together for Circle Time and The Quiet Game

Our aim is to observe the children and only step in to guide when necessary. We encourage the older children to help the younger ones.

Free Play



Free Play is essential for building confidence, curiosity and creativity. The best way to find out what your 'next steps' are – is to sit or play next to someone who is already doing them.

Our school room is always an even mix of 2 – 5 year olds. We encourage, caring behaviour for each other and our environment. Our role as Teachers is to observe and direct children to ensure; they are socially conscious and making friends, to support them when they are struggling and to extend their knowledge at every opportunity. We never interrupt when a child is working or engaged.

If a child needs more support we can offer visual cards, speech and language referrals and Makaton. If we believe a referral is necessary we will discuss them with parents immediately and require their support so we can seek advice to support their child.

Eating, Drinking & Going to the Toilet



Food and Drink..

At 1030 we have snack time which consists of fruit, crackers with cream cheese and a drink of water. We encourage children to serve themselves, help each other, cut their own fruit and spread their own crackers. They also take turns to lay the table and are free to pour their own water. We encourage children to drink from open cups.

At 1215 we all sit down to eat our packed lunches together. When it is warm we have a picnic. We expect packed lunches to be healthy and colourful. We are here to help with ideas and portion control advice.

Water is always available and we will encourage children to drink throughout the day. We can cater for any allergies or intolerances. <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/nutrition>



Potty Learning..Potty Training!

We believe that to successfully potty train we need to introduce the potty or toilet early on. When we change nappies we talk about what the potty is for and we ask children to wash hands after a nappy change to embed good hygiene habits. We have two toilets with steps, seats and a potty available. We also have a changing mat, although we prefer to do a stand up change for wet nappies from 2 years. We encourage and support independent toilet going, wiping, flushing and hand-washing.

Toilet training and nappy changes will always be discussed with parents every session. We can advise and support the process at every stage. We encourage children and Parents to support toilet training in or before the child's 3rd year so they are confident and able by school time.

<https://eric.org.uk/potty-training/>



Garden Play



We are so lucky to have the best nursery school garden around. We can play outside everyday, rain or shine. which is great for physical development, botany and big creative projects and messy play that we cannot do in our own homes. We learn to grow and care for plants and hunt for bugs. We have lots of balance bikes, tractors and trikes and a climbing dome. We also love to get creative in the mud kitchen, water table and sand pit. We all help to care for the garden especially in the Summer when we need to mow the lawn and we enjoy lots of water play and picnics. We have a pond where we collect frogs spawn each Spring and we have a herb garden where we taste and learn the names of different herbs. Our outdoor play is constructed to be open-ended so children can use their imaginations to create, build and play in every way.



Life Around Us



Our nursery is surrounded by nature. We have grass under our feet, a pond filled with life, A Bug World habitat and shady trees on hot afternoons.



Our garden has an open fence to the roadside so we can see friends and family walking by. We all have great fun at waving at our friendly bin lorry and race to the fence when we hear the ice-cream van! We welcome visitors and extended family members.



Our garden is surrounded by Halls of residence, owned by Marlborough College so the security is great and children never play outside without a Teacher.



Outdoor play is daily and an essential part of our curriculum. We grow vegetables and flowers every year, we cook on fire and promote mindfulness with outdoor yoga when it's fine.



Activities

We have a general theme each term which gives our adult-led activities and learning some structure, but we always follow each child's personal interests which can take us in interesting directions. We take every opportunity to encourage and answer questions, we repeat to embed their understanding and expand their knowledge.

Every term we do lots of creative arts and crafts, music and drama, baking and messy play.

Themes can include anything from 'The Beginning of Time and the Dinosaurs, Space and the Planets, Art and Artists, Under The Sea, Farm to Fork, 999 Heroes, Metamorphosis, Weather, Endangered Animals and in the Summer Term: Holidays, with a focus on a particular country- when we try the food, music and language.

Every theme will include group led activities tailored to the different levels of development and covering all the areas of the EYFS curriculum. Along the way we include life lessons on things such as: Fire safety, teeth brushing, getting dressed, staying safe and stranger danger.



Our Teachers AKA The Dream Team!



SOPHIE SHEPARD

Sophie is the Owner and Manager of College Fields and has been working at College Fields for 15 years. She is a qualified Early Years Teacher level 6 from Open University and NDNA 2010. Sophie holds a BA honours degree in English Literature from the University of Southampton and a level 5 Diploma from the Institute of Leadership and Management and Montessori Education. Sophie is qualified in Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding Level 3. Sophie has travelled round the world and used to work on Tall Ships for Sail Training international. Sophie has two children, one at University of Falmouth and one at St John's secondary school ..and a cockapoo called Jaspar.



AMANDA SOLLIS

Amanda holds NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education and is our Deputy Manager. Amanda has worked in childcare for many years including working for the local Children's Centre where she supported parenting classes. Amanda is qualified in Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding level 2 and Food Hygiene. Amanda always ensures the nursery environment is beautifully set up and is a calm place ready for learning. Amanda has 2 grown up boys and twin grandsons whom she looks after on her days away from nursery...and a Jack Russell called Alfie.



VICTORIA RILEY

Tori holds Level 3 in Childcare and Education and is our Curriculum Lead and Mindfulness Coach. Tori has worked in Further Education, teaching Computer Science and has been working at College Fields for over a year. She is qualified in Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding level 3, Montessori Education and Allergy awareness. Tori has 5 children, grew up in Indonesia and Texas. She is an expert at Yoga and is happiest creating and crafting...and she has a hamster called Noodles.



DEIRDRE BOOTH

Deirdre has been working at College Fields for 10 years. Deirdre has a level 2 in Childcare and Education and is qualified in Food Hygiene, Safeguarding and FGM. Deirdre has travelled to some exciting places including Mount Everest Base Camp and canoeing on African rivers with hippos. Deirdre has 3 grown up children and one grandson.. and her beloved chocolate Labrador, Barney.