

Bluebells Nursery

at Brooklands Primary School



@BrooklandsPS

Medebourne Close, Blackheath, London, SE3 9AB



@BrooklandsPS

www.brooklandsschool.org.uk

Welcome to Bluebells!

Bluebells Nursery is a nurturing and creative Nursery for 2-4 year olds, based at Brooklands Primary School in Blackheath. Our Nursery provides a warm and welcoming environment, where every child and parent is valued. At Bluebells, the classroom environment and activities are planned carefully to inspire and engage the children, and support the children to become enthusiastic and resilient learners. We have a dedicated space for our 2 year old littlest learners to help them get ready to transition to our 3-4 year class. We encourage every child to develop a real love of learning and thirst for knowledge, through a combination of play, exploration and adult-led learning, under the guidance of a qualified teacher.

We offer either full-time or part-time places. Our full-time hours are 8.45 - 3.30pm. We also offer part-time places which can be taken as 5 morning sessions (8.45-11.45am), or 5 afternoon sessions (12.30-3.30pm), as well as 6 hour per day places (with a 30 hour code) - more details are available on request.

We are very lucky with the beautiful grounds at Brooklands. Bluebells Nursery has a large outside area in which the children learn and play throughout the day, including a 'mud kitchen', climbing frame, sand pit, vegetable garden and other activities which are set up and changed each day. The Nursery also benefits from the wonderful Forest School at Brooklands, which they visit every week with a qualified Forest School teacher.

Bluebells Nursery is an integral part of the friendly and vibrant Brooklands community, and we want to welcome you as parents and carers to that community. We highly value the relationship we build with you, and your contributions to your child's learning journey are vital. We include you in this journey through regular meetings, school events and our online learning journal system called Tapestry. Through Tapestry we build up a learning journal of photos, videos and observations to record and share with you your child's experiences and achievements throughout their time at Bluebells. You will be able to access their learning journal online at all times, and add your own photos and comments as and when you would like to. This helps us to build up a holistic picture of your child, and creates strong links between home and Nursery, helping the child to feel secure and valued.



Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on the seven areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage (which encompasses both Nursery and Reception). These areas are communication and language; physical development; personal, social and emotional development; literacy; mathematics; understanding the world and expressive arts and design. We aim to ignite the children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning in all of these areas through engaging topics, real experiences and following the children's interests. Children build on and make progress with their learning over time, through the combination of a rich and carefully planned environment, child-centred play and exploration, and adult-led teaching and support.

Our curriculum is also focussed on developing the 'characteristics of effective learning' such as playing and exploring, active learning and thinking critically. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Through our curriculum and the guidance of the Nursery staff children learn to persevere when faced with a challenge, to be curious, and become independent and resilient learners.

Every child is allocated a key worker when they join Bluebells, whose role it is to ensure that every child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. Our team is made up of a qualified class teacher and an experienced Nursery Nurse, with other members of staff supporting alongside. Our two-year-old room is led by an experienced Early Years Practitioner, with guidance from the Early Years Lead. Bluebells Nursery is overseen by the strong and experienced Senior Leadership Team at Brooklands.

There are a range of benefits to being part of a school setting, such as a wide range of resources, specialist teaching in areas such as music and PE, and access to areas of the school such as the main playground, the Forest School, and the library. It also means the children are able to take part in events and activities such as assemblies, drama workshops, book fairs and exciting whole school projects.



Staff



Mrs Sally Lovett
Nursery Teacher
(Mon - Wed) and EYFS Lead



Miss Susie Grant
Nursery Teacher
(Thu - Fri)



Ms Jo Try
Nursery Teaching Assistant

Other adults your children will know



Mrs Emily McGrath
Co-Head Of School



Mrs Sarah Armstrong
Co-Head Of School

Getting ready to start at Bluebells

Parents and carers often ask us how they can help their child get ready for Nursery. We want you and your child to feel happy and confident when you join our Nursery. There are a few key skills to concentrate on which will help your child to settle in. If you have any concerns about your child starting school, please let us know. We are here to help and answer any questions you may have.

Using the toilet at nursery

We have full facilities for changing nappies in our two-year-old room, and can also support with toilet training when children are ready. When they are ready, we work with the children to develop skills and independence telling adults when they need to use the toilet or need some help, and gradually becoming independent with using the toilet, cleaning themselves afterwards, flushing the chain and washing their hands. By the time the children are getting ready to move into our 3-4 year old classroom, we would encourage parents to really focus on this at home and ensure you are supporting your child with developing these skills. The children are still young and an adult will still of course be on hand if they need help, but it is important that they develop independence in order to feel confident to use the toilet.

Singing songs & Nursery Rhymes

We sing songs and rhymes at Nursery as this is a great way to help children to develop their language and communication skills, as well as skills in music and other areas of learning. Try to listen to and sing rhymes and songs at home.

Asking for Help

Teach your child how to voice their needs and requests. Try to encourage them to use their words to tell you what they would like, or what is wrong. It is important that they are able to do this as confidently as possible with the adults at Nursery.

Settling in

We strive to ensure that every child has the best start at Bluebells, and that the settling in process means that they feel safe and secure throughout their first weeks with us. We plan home visits and "stay and play" sessions for every child, and then work with parents to tailor a settling in period to suit each individual child's needs. Some children will be immediately confident to start full time, and some parents may feel their child needs to gradually work up to this through shorter "settling in" sessions. This is something we will contact you to discuss as soon as your child's start date is confirmed.

Reading at Home

We love reading stories and sharing books at Nursery, and the enjoyment of stories at an early age helps the children to develop important literacy and communication skills, as well as stretching their vocabulary and imagination. Help your child get used to enjoying stories and holding books carefully by sharing books at home as much as possible - encourage them to turn the pages as you read! At Bluebells we have a lending library available for parents and children to borrow books from to share at home.

Napping at nursery

In our two-year-old room we have a dedicated cosy sleep area for our children who still need a daytime nap. Each child is provided with a soft sleep mat, and their own sheet and blanket. Please speak to us about how we can best support your child to feel safe and comfortable napping at Bluebells. Our 3-4 year old classroom does not have a dedicated sleep space but we have lots of cosy areas where many children like to have quiet time with a book or some music during the afternoon.

Becoming independent

Your child will, at times, change clothes or shoes to take part in different activities indoors and outside. To help your child feel more confident make sure their clothes are easy for them to take on or off, for example by dressing them in shoes with velcro, and teaching them how to put their coat on independently. [Try this trick to put on their coat](#)



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