



# Little Leopards Nursery

Information for new parents and carers



# Welcome to Little Leopards Nursery

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Knaphill Lower School and look forward to your child joining our Little Leopards Nursery.

You may have questions and possibly some worries about your child starting nursery. We would like to assure you that the transition to our Nursery Class is of the utmost importance to the Early Years Team at Knaphill.

Here is some information you may find helpful to prepare for your child's transition into nursery.



# Nursery Checklist

When your child starts, they will need:

A nursery uniform (ideally with easy to put on items)

A named lunchbox filled with a healthy packed lunch (no nuts or sesame)

A named bag of spare clothes (to stay at nursery)

A named water bottle

Ideally a pair of Wellie boots that can be left at nursery for outdoor play too





# Settling In Sessions

In the first week, your child will be offered 3 settling in sessions.

We ask for you to stay for the whole of the first session so you can both explore our nursery together, and have some time to discuss your child and answer any questions you may have in more detail.

Then, for the following sessions, we encourage you to start to leave your child during the session, so that your child becomes accustomed to a small amount of separation, before starting at nursery for longer sessions.

Please be assured that if your child is struggling to settle, we will give you a call and discuss an individual plan as further settling in sessions can be agreed if needed.





# Start Times and Morning Routines



The gates for the nursery are open between 8:45am and 9:00am. When you arrive at nursery, encourage your child hang their belongings on their peg, place their lunchbox and water bottle on the lunchbox trolley, and to find their picture to add to their key person board so we know who is here.

An adult will be positioned outside/in the entrance area to welcome you, and to enable you to pass on any information we many need for the day.

We have a window looking out onto the path which many children like to use to wave a final goodbye to parents as they leave. Often children settle quickly once you are out of sight, but please be assured we would contact you if your child was really unhappy at nursery or struggling to settle.





# Home time

Gates are reopened for pick up time at 2:45pm. Please remember to take home your child's lunchbox and water bottle. We have a 'Going Home Box' in which every child has space for any work or letters that can be taken home, so please check this regularly.

If you wish for anyone different to collect your child, please tell us in advance and they need to give us the password to help us identify them. We will not release children to anyone who we have not seen, have a photo of, or have a password for in any circumstance.







# Absences

Please call the school office on **01483 473282** before 9:30am if your child will be absent from nursery, informing us of the reason for this.

Please also inform us in advance of dates of when you are planning to be away on holiday etc.

Although it is not a statutory requirement for children to attend a nursery, there are implications for periods of absences which we need to report for safeguarding and auditing purposes.





# Food and Drink

## ***Snack Time***

We offer a choice of water or milk, and different fruit daily in our snack area. This is currently provided by the school.

## ***Lunch time***

We eat lunch together in the Nursery at 11:45am, and ask that you provide a healthy packed lunch (including drink) in a named lunchbox .

We are a **nut and sesame free school**, and can have children with **severe life threatening nut allergies** attending the Nursery, so please check ingredient lists thoroughly before sending items such as chocolate spread and health bars in your child's lunchbox.

## ***Water***

We have individual cups and fresh drinking water available to all children throughout the day. You can also provide a water bottle for children to access independently.

**Please make sure you constantly inform us of any allergies or food intolerances your child may have so that we can ensure the correct procedures are followed.**

If your child has any additional needs with regard to food, please discuss this with your key person.







# Nursery uniform

Nursery children are able to choose from a selection of different uniform styles to wear.

Please see our website for supplier details and uniform requirements.

<https://kfos.co.uk/about/uniform/>

We recommend the green joggers, as the elasticated waistband means they can easily take themselves to the toilet.

When choosing a green Knaphill school sweatshirt, we suggest selecting one that has sleeves which can be easily pushed up, to help the children to be independent when washing their hands.

Black shoes with a velcro strap are ideal as children can take them on and off with less support from an adult.





# Dressed for play and learning

Please ensure **ALL** clothing and footwear are marked with your child's name. Children often remove jumpers or cardigans and socks and shoes, and these are not always easily identifiable.

In winter in particular, it is important that all gloves, hats and wellies are named, as these are often misplaced.

## *Changes of clothes*

Children often need to change, for example if they have an accident or after enthusiastic water play.

Please send in a named bag with several changes of spare underwear and clothes for your child to change into if needed (these spare clothes do not need to be school uniform).

This bag can be kept on your child's peg throughout the week, and will only be sent home if your child has needed to change their clothes.

**My name is ...**



# Learning Can Be Messy

Playing outside is so important. I run and jump and get lots of fresh air. Sometimes I might get grass or mud on my clothes.



Using a knife and fork at lunchtime is tricky! Sometimes I get food on my clothes!

I sometimes get pen and paint on my clothes! This is because I am developing creative skills and exploring lots of different ways of making amazing art!



Our mud kitchen is so much fun! I use all my senses, which is so important for my development. It also helps me use my imagination and practise playing with my friends nicely!

Exploring in the water tray is giving me lots of maths and scientific skills! I love pouring, filling and emptying! I usually wear an apron but sometimes my clothes get wet!



twinkl

visit [twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)

Exploring with playdough and other messy play resources like foam or food, helps me to develop fine motor control and build up muscles and coordination in my hands and fingers.

I will need these when I learn to write.



When I get messy, I have been showing curiosity, determination, persistence, imagination and confidence!





# Toilet Training

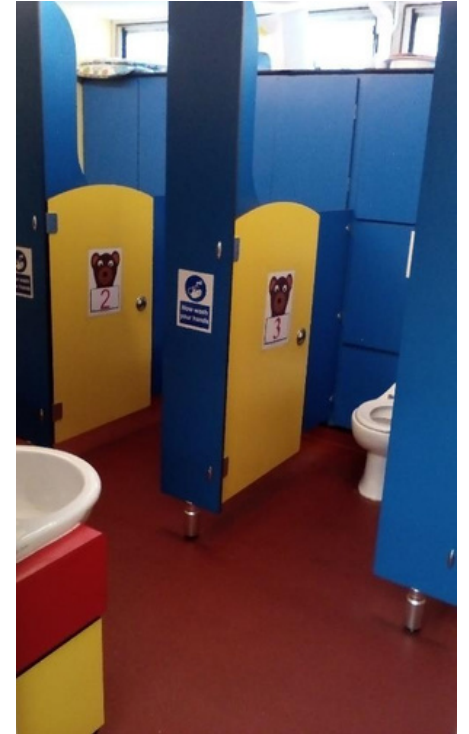
We hope that all children will have started toilet training by the time they start nursery. If you have not begun this process yet, some helpful information and advice can be found at [www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

If your child has begun toilet training, please don't think you need to put them back into nappies to come to nursery, as this can give mixed messages and can be very confusing for them.

Children will still have accidents sometimes, and may take a step back with toilet training when they first start nursery. This may be because they were engrossed in play, left it too late, or had clothing that was difficult to manage. It is nothing to worry about, and we will support your child through this transition.

If your child is in the beginning stages of toilet training, please supply plenty of additional underwear and clothes in their bag as they may need more changes at this time.

If your child is still in nappies, please ensure you supply us regularly (in bulk) with nappies, wipes and cream which we will store in our changing area.





# How do I get involved?

We encourage our parents to become part of the Knaphill family by getting involved in Nursery life. You can do this in a number of ways:

Attend parent meetings offered throughout the year -these are a great opportunity to discuss your child's development in more detail, but please feel free to ask for a meeting with your key person at any time if needed.

Throughout the year, we provide opportunities for family members to attend themed events, days and weeks run in nursery by staff to share what the children have been learning and about areas of children's development.

Become a class representative and/or offer any support to the school PTA Join us for part of a session to talk to the children about your job or demonstrate an interesting hobby.





# Over the coming weeks, please try to encourage your child to:



Do as much of their own self-care as possible, i.e. feed themselves with a fork, knife and spoon, drink from an open cup, put on their coats and shoes by themselves, wipe themselves when going to the toilet.

Wait or share your attention. At home, children get most adult's attention immediately, but at nursery, they may have to wait or share adults attention with others while dealing with other children.

Spend time alongside other children whether at home, at the park or at playgroups.

The biggest difference between a nursery and home is the amount of other children around them.







# Over the coming weeks, please try to:



Talk positively about nursery, and explain that they will have lots of fun and then you will come and get them at the end of the session. Children can pick up on your behaviour so if you talk positively, they will too.

Practice the routine of coming to nursery at home a week or so before so there are less changes happening all at the same time i.e. waking up so it's not a shock when they need to do this when they start nursery.

Leave your child with other adults or in other places (i.e. with other family members or friends, attending playgroups or crèche's) for short periods of time, so they are used to being away from you.





# When your child starts, please prepare to:

Trust staff when they suggest when to leave and when to collect. We only want the best for both of you and we have had lots of experience when settling in new children so will try to work out the best for each child.

Know that your child may need you or someone familiar to stay with them or collect earlier for their first few weeks. Most children do not stay for their full session during the first week or so however confident they seem.

Feel emotional when leaving your child for the first time. Often it is harder for parents than the children and it is understandable to feel guilty. Try to remember that you are giving your child the chance to make new friends and have fun.





If you have any further questions, please  
get in touch with the Nursery team at  
[office@knaphill-lower.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@knaphill-lower.surrey.sch.uk)