

We instil a joy of learning
in those important
early years



A view from The Nursery...

A competition was held during the production of this prospectus to find out the best and worst things about being at The Nursery – what follows are the selected winning answers.



EMILY
AGE 3

The best thing about nursery is...

Painting and singing, and playing with my friends and Mrs Wilding and Mrs Carney. I liked being a rabbit in our Christmas play

And the worst thing about nursery is...

My Mummy will not let me come to school every day.



LAUREN
AGE 3½

The best thing about nursery is...

I have lots of fun with my Friends, we have to play all day and listen to stories, my most enjoyable thing to do is paint or make things and get messy. And I love my Teachers they are the best in the world

And the worst thing about nursery is...

I keep having to wash my hands after dirty activities and such. Also I have to sit still long enough to eat my dinner when I cannot wait to get on and play.



SAM
AGE 3½

The best thing about nursery is...

Mrs Allaway, Mrs Smith and Mrs Challis did piano and painting and Father Christmas he got stuck.

And the worst thing about nursery is...

When a big, big, big bee came in my class and did some painting.

THE NURSERY
GIRLS & BOYS AGE 3-4 YEARS

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Welcome to The Nursery



Since we first opened our Nursery doors at The College, we have built up an excellent reputation for the quality of the education and childcare we provide.

Our children deserve the best start in life and that is what we offer.

Our modern purpose-built site is light, airy, spacious and well-equipped with plenty of room to play – both inside and out.

Our staff is fully qualified and experienced. More importantly they are caring and committed to responding to the often very different needs of all the children in their care.

Children join us – usually around the time they are 3 – at a crucial stage in their development.

Over the next two years they will acquire and develop a wide range of physical, intellectual, emotional and social skills.

Our role as educators and carers is to help our children achieve their full potential in all these areas, and to instil a joy of learning in these important early years.

Many of our children will stay within the Claires Court family – boys moving on to Ridgeway, girls up to Reception within The College.



Others will move to schools elsewhere – their

parents confident that they have given their child the best start possible.

We hope you enjoy this prospectus and that it gives you a taste of life in our Nursery.

The best way to experience our caring, child-centred atmosphere is to come and visit us during our working day.

Please contact our School Secretary on (01628) 411480 to arrange an appointment to visit.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child soon.



Sheena Wilding, Head of Nursery

Information given in this prospectus is believed to be correct at the time of printing. The prospectus does not form part of any agreement between the School and current or prospective parents and no reliance should be placed upon the content. Those parents requiring information on specific matters should seek written confirmation from the School.



Our commitment to your child

Children are born with a zest for life and learning – they thrive on exploration, creativity and encouragement.

At The Nursery we strive to provide the opportunities children need to meet their full potential academically, socially and physically.

Our Aims

- ◆ *To instil a joy of learning*
- ◆ *To build children's confidence and self-esteem*
- ◆ *To improve language and communication skills*
- ◆ *To encourage independence*
- ◆ *To teach children to show consideration for others*
- ◆ *To help prepare children for starting school*

We never lose sight of the fact that our children are individuals and we work closely with parents to achieve each child's individual potential.

Most of all, we know Nursery should be fun.



The Zest for Learning starts here



First steps

Children join one of our three Nursery classes – Honeycomb, Beehive or Busy Bees – from the age of 3 (and when they are toilet-trained).

Morning sessions start at

9am and end at 12 noon with a break for milk and biscuits.

How often

Some children start off with two or three mornings a week and increase their sessions gradually. Others will spend considerably more time with us right from the start – perhaps including some lunchtime and afternoon sessions.

A particular feature of the Nursery is our afternoon programme of activities. Depending on the day chosen these can include: Ballet, Communication Skills, Cookery, Early Clay, Fun with French and Kindermusic.

Early Learning Goals

This is a time for our children to have fun in a stimulating caring environment.

At the same time, we have developed a wide ranging curriculum to ensure our children meet the early learning goals set out by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

These cover:

- ◆ *personal, social and emotional development*
- ◆ *communication, language and literacy*
- ◆ *mathematical development*
- ◆ *knowledge and understanding of the world*
- ◆ *physical development*
- ◆ *creative development*

Our varied Nursery programme includes painting, drawing, model making, developing motor control and recognition of colour, shape, phonic sounds and numbers.



Children do not make a distinction between work and play. Singing songs, listening to stories and playing make-believe are fun; they also aid children's understanding of language and the world around them.

Counting games, matching, sorting and measuring help build mathematical skills.

We spend time each day working with each child individually, and we also work with children in groups.

There is plenty of space

outside to run, jump, skip and use tricycles and other ride-on toys.

We ensure there is time and space for our children to focus on the activities they enjoy.

Children are encouraged to speak – they learn that their opinions are valued and also that sometimes it is important to listen.



Stepping up

Shortly after their fourth birthday, children move on to one of our Transition classes.

Here there is a more formal approach to learning and children are expected to attend five mornings a week.

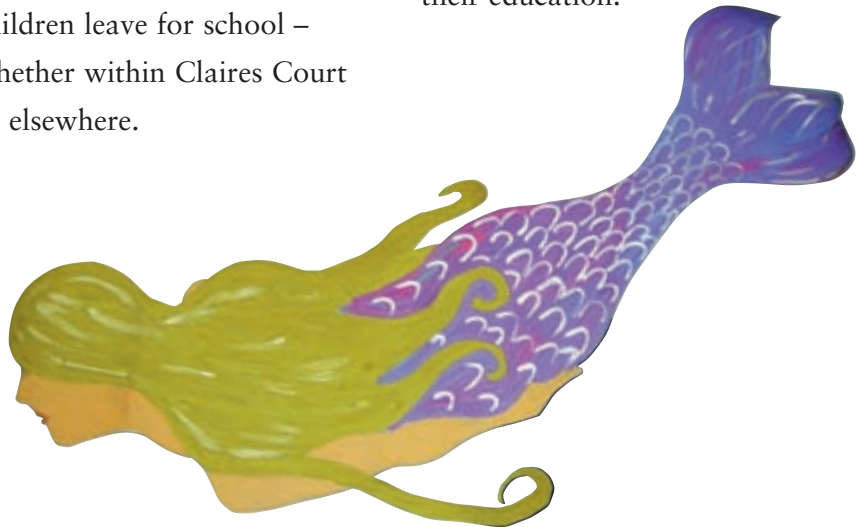


may enjoy more work with numbers or perhaps even be ready to take home their first reading books.

Moving on

We are always sad to see our children leave for school – whether within Claires Court or elsewhere.

But we are proud of the part we have played in these crucial formative years. Children leave us happy, confident, caring and keen to take the next step in their education.



All children develop differently and our Transition staff will work with each child at his or her own pace – for example, some children

