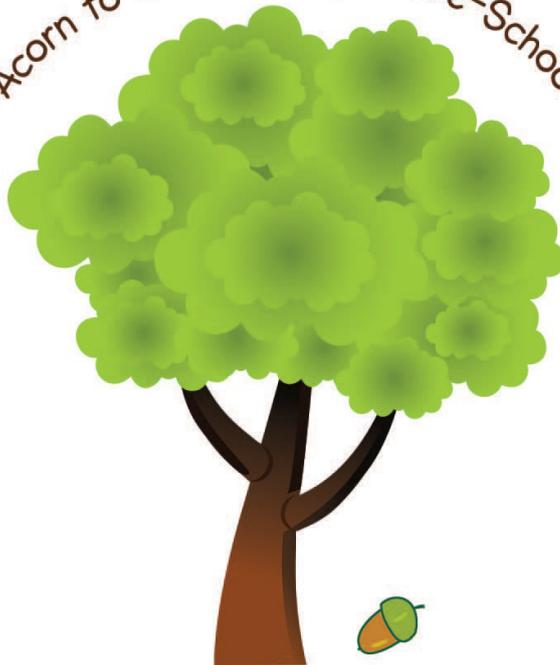


Acorn to Oak Nursery & Pre-School



Acres of Learning

**INFORMATION BROCHURE 2021**

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# Our Aim

We aim to provide an integrated model of services, delivering a wide range of high quality and responsive services for children, parents and carers



## OUR ETHOS

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

- To provide a rich and stimulating environment where all children and families feel included, secure and valued
- To celebrate and build on what children already know and can do
- To encourage a positive attitude and disposition to learn
- Establish trusting relationships to enable effective partnerships between staff, parents and carers to develop the child's full potential
- Provide a structured and effective early years curriculum that meets the needs of all children and encourage children to become independent learners
- Recognise that play is the most powerful medium for learning in the early years and to provide rich and stimulating first hand experiences
- To ensure that all practitioners are well qualified and have access to continued professional development in order that, through their knowledge of how children develop and learn, they can observe and respond appropriately to children.



# about

At Acorn to Oak Nursery and Preschool, we are dedicated to creating a nurturing, stimulating and welcoming environment for all children. Our unique programs incorporate a variety of educational theories, while always keeping the child's best interest in mind and allowing for hands-on, experiential learning.

We particularly stand out as the only nursery in the local area with our private 6 acres of outside playing space, allotment & outdoor learning classrooms.

We have our own chef on-site that cooks and prepares healthy meals as well as a qualified yoga instructor who comes to do yoga with all the different age groups. We offer cooking for the children, using the produce they plant and grow at the allotment. We have weekly music activities and scheduled outside sports classes to ensure we maximise the outside space. There are free, generous parking spaces making drop offs and pick-ups completely stress-free.

*A unique nursery with 6 acres of dedicated outside space including private allotment and outdoor classrooms*

*Children playing and learning in an outdoor environment appear more active, absorbed, motivated and purposeful, and develop a more positive attitude to learning. Secondly, the environment where we work and play affects our emotions.*



## OUTDOOR PLAY

At Acorn to Oak Nursery and Preschool, all ages of children have access to outdoor space in our private 6-acre grounds with time to play and learn new skills. With hands on experience outdoors, children will learn about nature and the natural world around them. Sharing and working together to solve problems and carry out tasks builds respectful bonds and solid relationships between the children and practitioners.

Outdoor play proceeds through all seasons with all the different weather conditions nature has planned. We play out in weather appropriate clothing. Children of all different ages spend time outside every day.



# Information

## NURSERY DAY

### Opening Hours

The Nursery and Preschool is open between 7.30am and 6.00pm for 50 weeks of the year. The school has an annual two-week closure in December over the period Christmas and New Year.

We also close for all bank holidays throughout the year.

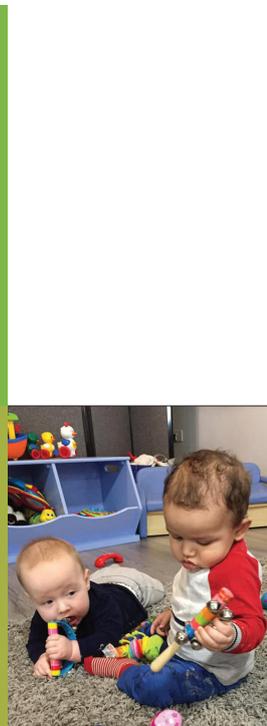
We run a number of different sessions available on a all year and term time only basis. Full details of all our sessions can be found in our fees section.

We have a large car park area which makes drop offs and collections easy and stress-free

### Staff

The Nursery and Preschool maintains a good ratio of qualified staff to children, and always meets the DFE (Department for Education) and OFSTED recommended ratios.

Many staff members are highly experienced, a number having worked in the childcare for over 5 years. The Nursery is committed to offering all staff continuous professional development opportunities and has a programme of continuous staff training in place. All staff members are valued as early years' educators and are given opportunities to develop and enhance their skills and to attend courses. All our staff are vetted in line with safer recruitment to ensure the highest standards for your child.



## CHILD'S PLAY

The first five years of a child's life are of vital importance.

A child's experience and learning during these years is the foundation for the learning and development during the rest of his/her life.

The emphasis in the nursery is on enjoyment, exploration, discovery and participation in play activities.

Coming to nursery school is often the first step a child takes away from home and family. Our aim is to provide a safe, happy, caring environment in which your child can take the first steps towards independence.

The development of a friendly relationship between nursery staff and you, the parents, will help your child make the transition from home to school more easily.

In the nursery we provide materials, equipment and experiences which, with the help and guidance of experienced staff, enable each child to develop as a happy, confident and independent individual.

In the nursery our children learn through their play activities (both indoors and outdoors) and you will not see us engaged in "lessons". We provide a rich curriculum to develop the whole child by providing first hand experiences (touching, doing, seeing for themselves) in all areas of learning.

### PLAY IS THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF LEARNING FOR A CHILD OF NURSERY AGE. A CHILD'S PLAY IS THEIR WORK.

We plan our activities each half term with a theme as a link. The theme may be seasonal such as "Christmas" or "Holidays", or it may be something with which children are familiar with like "Stories and Rhymes", "Ourselves" or "People Who Help Us".

The skills, concepts and knowledge we want the children to develop can be learnt through many different activities, so do not worry if your child does not choose to join in one activity, they will have the opportunity to learn from other activities.

It is important that children choose their own activities. We all learn much more easily if we enjoy what we are doing. Children in nursery learn from everything they do, and their learning is not separated into individual subjects, as it will be later on in their school lives. Our planning, however, takes account of the individual areas of development.

Children have many different ways of exploring and learning so we make sure we provide an extensive range of activities and toys that are changed regularly to ensure children have the maximum opportunity to be stimulated



# activities

At Acorn to Oak Nursery and Preschool, we stand by our aim to offering stimulating childcare at an affordable cost.

We have fully vetted, qualified leaders who come in to our nursery for scheduled activities with the children of all age groups. Our popular music man engages the children with different songs and instruments. Everyone can choose their own instrument and play along as well as lots of singing, dancing and jumping around.

Yoga also takes place for all age groups and is a chance for children to try out their strength, flexibility and breathing. Yoga is taught through stories with an emphasis on fun and enjoyment and is a bit hit with all the children.

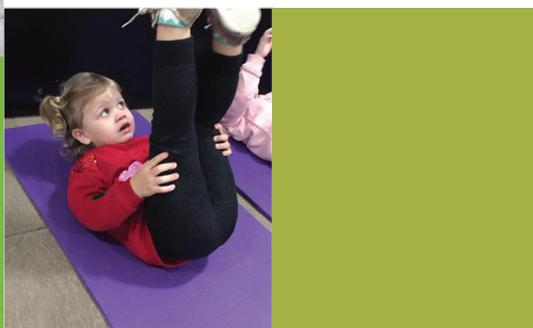
Fun sports is also on the agenda and gives the children a further chance to learn sporting skills whilst running around with their friends.

Not forgetting cooking and gardening too!

*Daily activities taking place each day - all included in the fees - no extra charges for anything*



Stories that stretch the mind & body



# costs

## ALL INCLUSIVE FEES

We believe that childcare costs should be simple and transparent. Our fees are charged daily and include EVERYTHING. There are no extra charges for anything at all - clubs, nappies, wipes, food or drink.

We offer flexible sessions that are available term time only or all year round. We accept 2 year and 3 year funding and we apply the funding to all of our available sessions without any minimum session requirements and with absolutely no top ups.

The [price schedule](#) you sign up with will remain the same the entire time your child stays with us so you can feel confident that you won't be subject to large price increases, allowing you to plan your costs for the whole duration.

Signing up is simple - fill out our [registration form](#).





At Acorn to Oak, we teach children about all aspects of food and nutrition. They have the opportunity to plant their own foods at our allotment, take care of the plants as they grow by watering and weeding the soil. When the produce is ready, we all get involved in picking, washing and preparing it so it is ready to be cooked and added to our dinner plates.

We celebrate cultural diversity by exploring dishes from different countries and our menu incorporates a varied range of meals each week, which provide us with the ability to reflect and celebrate ethnic communities.



# nutrition

## OUR KITCHEN

We have our own dedicated nursery cook who plans our dedicated [menu](#) with the nursery manager to ensure our children of all ages have the opportunity to eat a healthy, balanced diet with a range of options. The older children self serve to give them independence to make their own choices, whilst guided by our staff who oversee all mealtimes by sitting on the tables with the children.

We cater for different allergies as well as cultural dietary preferences to ensure that all children's needs are met.

*Children have fun cooking their own foods and learning about healthy eating and balanced nutrition*





# get in touch

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