



# Oaktree Nursery School

Balham, London

The principle aim at Oaktree Nursery is to make sure your child has the happiest start on their educational journey and to ensure that when they leave us they have gained a sense of independence, self-confidence and a real desire to learn.

Oaktree provides a safe, happy and warm atmosphere in which children can explore and discover that learning is fun. We particularly value the importance of learning in the outdoors and collaborating as a team whilst promoting responsibility. Throughout their day, whether at play, doing art and craft or any other activity, they will be learning a variety of social and communicative skills – sharing and caring for others, expressing their opinions, coping with their emotions, natural inquisitiveness and growing awareness of all that is around them.

Our curriculum is as broad as possible – offering the children a taste of innumerable experiences whilst covering The Early Years Foundation Stage as compiled by the DFES. We select topics which reflect the children's interests and base our learning and art projects around them. The children's results are always on view around the school and they take great pride in showing everyone what they have produced.

At the centre of the Early Years Foundation Stage are 3 prime areas, Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. There are 4 further specific areas; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. All areas are important and inter-linked.

At the core of our planning is the child as an individual. We adapt our teaching to suit the way each child learns and to meet their particular needs. We believe that the key to successful learning is underpinned by having good critical thinking skills, the ability to listen, retain and apply the information and skills they have gained. Children need to have the confidence to predict outcomes, work collaboratively and challenge situations.

We also place great importance on all forms of music and have a resident music teacher. We have peripatetic teachers for Sport, Yoga and Spanish. The Squirrels (3 to 4 year olds) perform a musical Nativity Play, End of Term Play and mini concerts throughout the year. Our Kits (2 to 3 year olds) perform a concert at Christmas; we have a Sports Day in the Summer and an annual topic related trip each Spring. We also invite a variety of local people to visit Oaktree during the school year, for example the police, fire brigade, nurses and doctors. We have science and music workshops, informal concerts for Mothers and Grandparents Days and Bring your Daddy to School Day. In addition we arrange trips to the theatre, art galleries and museums. The highlight, however, of the Squirrels week, is their outdoor learning day on Wandsworth Common where they engage in Forest School activities.

We believe it is important to incorporate life skills into the children's learning and foster a sense of community. Regular trips to Balham Library and play and learning sessions with the pensioners who attend the "Dew Drop Inn" lunch club in the church building help the children to have a sense of belonging in the wider community. Trips to the supermarket to buy ingredients for cookery sessions, plants for the outdoor area from the local market or simply looking for words and numbers in the environment inspire weekly Community Walks and help the children to make connections between different aspects of their life.

We operate Oaktree with a structured morning combining Montessori and traditional methods of education, giving the children a sense of security in the familiar pattern of each day. The children work individually and in groups, learning through play, exploration and investigation, and are introduced to letters and numbers at an early stage.

Children have the opportunity to stay for a packed lunch and join in the Afternoon Clubs until 3.00pm from Monday to Friday.

All our teachers are trained whether as full primary teachers, Montessori or Early Years practitioners or have Degrees in Early Years; we have additional assistants to ensure we maintain a high ratio of staff to children.

Parents have a vital role to play and are very much valued as part of our team. We believe in instilling strong family values which embrace our diverse community. To this end we like to keep in very close contact with parents throughout the time their children are with us. We organise Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms at which teachers and parents can discuss progress and we write reports at the end of the Summer Term. Informally, we are always available to discuss any aspect of a child's development. We strongly believe that school plays only one part in this and that we are here to help the children, in any way we can, to reach their highest potential by the time they leave us. The school also has a good and active PTA.

We have excellent relationships with all the primary schools in the area and are happy to assist parents in making the important choice of where to send their children after Oaktree.

We hope this gives you an insight into life at Oaktree but do please come and see for yourself. We very much look forward to having your children here with us at Oaktree.

Jill Pearce  
*Joint Principal*  
*BA. Hons Early Years Childcare and Education, EYPS, Mont. Dip.*



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- TIMETABLE:** Mornings: 9.00 – 9.15 am – 12.15 pm.  
Afternoon Clubs: 12.15pm – 3.00 pm.
- TERMS:** There are three school terms each with a half term.
- AGES:** Children come to Oaktree from 2 years old.
- FEES (2020/21):** £1995 per term (five mornings)  
£1157 per term (five mornings when eligible for the government childcare funding the term following a child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday)  
£1450 per term (three mornings- first term only)  
Fees are inclusive of all extra curriculum activities.  
Government funding is applied to fees when children are 3 years old.
- EXTRAS:** We have school smocks and book bags available when you start.
- REGISTRATION:** A non-refundable registration fee of £40 is required.  
PLEASE NOTE: this does NOT guarantee a place.
- EARLY BIRD CLUB:** We have an Early Bird Club for parents wishing to drop off their children from 8.30 am.  
THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR THIS.
- LUNCH CLUB:** This option extends the morning session for parents wishing to collect their children after lunch at 1.15pm. Children bring a packed lunch to school. There is a small charge for this.
- AFTERNOON CLUB:** This popular option runs Monday to Friday until 3.00 pm (Children bring a packed lunch).  
Themes include Music, Drama, Multi-sports, Science, Cookery, Coding and Games. There is a charge for this.

Application correspondence to:  
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