



THE LITTLE RED HEN NURSERY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

2023/2024

Christchurch Hall

Cabul Road

London

SW11 2PN

(020) 7738 0321

Headmistress

Miss Zara Stocker

Montessori Dip., NNEB

Appointed Autumn 1997

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The Little Red Hen Limited, No 09147334, Director Miss Zara Stocker

www.thelittleredhennursery.co.uk

About us

The Little Red Hen is a private nursery school where we are registered to take children aged from 2-5 years. However, we would generally recommend that the best age for a child to join us would be from approximately 2.5 years as we find that children tend to settle in more happily and with greater enthusiasm when they are just a little bit older.

The Nursery provides weekday morning sessions, term time only, from Monday to Friday from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Depending on their age, children generally join us for 3 consecutive mornings for their first term and then automatically move on to 5 mornings a week from their second term onwards.

The Nursery also operates an additional two 'Afternoon School' sessions on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12.30 - 3pm. Children who attend the afternoon sessions do so for a full day and parents are asked to bring in a named packed lunch for their child. Afternoon sessions are entirely optional, but we do require parents to commit to them on a termly basis.

The school year consists of three terms; Spring, Summer and Autumn, each term being approximately twelve weeks long with one week's half-term. We have two entries throughout each academic year, both in the Autumn (September) and Spring (January) terms.

Education is a partnership with parents. This small Nursery, established in 1989, offers a happy, safe and stimulating introduction to schooling. It provides traditional teaching, combined with carefully selected elements of the Montessori Method for learning and play, in which academic and social skills, individual talents and consideration and sensitivity to the needs of others are developed. A secure garden allows outside play in fine weather.

The Little Red Hen Nursery School Aims:

- To provide a safe, happy and fun educational environment
- To promote individual aptitudes and team achievement at work, play and games in a friendly, motivating atmosphere
- To develop a moral understanding, good manners and self-discipline
- To prepare children for their next school and to take a confident and active part in their future lives
- To teach the importance of a healthy diet, fruit is always offered at break time. We ask parents to bring in a piece of fruit each day and a named water bottle for their child.

Staff ratios

The ratio of children to teachers is as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The syllabus

The syllabus includes: Teaching and developing an understanding of phonics and phonemes, number work, nature study, gardening activities, daily discussions on a broad variety of topic related subjects, weekly music, ballet, cookery and science lessons as well as customary nursery school activities such as role play and experimenting in the sand and water trays.

The Little Red Hen follows The Early Years Foundation Stage set out by Ofsted for children to achieve by the time they enter compulsory education at five years old.

The Little Red Hen offers a broad and balanced curriculum, based around the Early Years Foundation Stage as compiled by the DfES.

At the core of our educational policy are the seven early learning goals: the three Prime Areas being **Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development**; The four Specific Areas are: **Understanding of the World, Literacy, Expressive Art and Design and Mathematics**.

Within the curriculum, we aim to use the best of both traditional and Montessori teaching methods. This gives the children the opportunity to experience some of the more structured, teacher led play combined with lots of free play, both of which form an important part of their early learning experiences. We also have a ballet teacher, 'Miss Alice' who comes in to teach ballet with the children every Thursday morning throughout the term.

Children naturally progress at different rates and individual achievement varies. For this reason, the curriculum is flexibly structured so that children can learn at their own pace and their next steps planned accordingly.

As they approach the end of their time at The Little Red Hen at four plus, we find that the children are generally very well prepared for their next schools, ready and, in most cases, very excited about the new challenges that await them.

Progress and achievement

Care is taken to assess the progress and achievement of each child in order to ascertain their next steps. A 'two-year check' progress report' is sent to parents, usually in a child's second term at the Nursery before they become three. We also provide a written 'leavers report' at the end of the Summer Term and hold parent's evenings in both the Autumn and Spring terms.

We are always very happy to discuss individual children's progress with their parents but would ask that unless urgent, parents email the Nursery secretary to arrange a meeting with either the Headmistress or their child's key worker.

The teaching staff are fully qualified; DBS checked and know each other well.

Settling in and induction morning

The term before a child joins us at the Nursery, we invite them to come in for an induction morning on their own to meet the teachers and the other children. This is a chance for us to spend time with a child, without their parents to see how they settle in. Parents are then asked to collect their child at the slightly earlier time of 12.00 noon.

The intention of the induction morning is that when a child joins us on their official start date, they will see some familiar faces and will hopefully remember having had a lovely time. We generally find (despite a few initial tears) that this system works well and that the children leave us having had a good experience. The teachers are very competent in settling new children into the Nursery and are confident that they can engage a child in an activity of interest throughout their induction morning.

We would ask that parents have a little chat to prepare their child two days before their induction morning and to let their child know what they (the parent) will be doing whilst their child is at the Nursery (preferably something that the child doesn't enjoy i.e. shopping).

We find it enormously helpful if parents leave their child swiftly, with a kiss at the door, so that we can endeavor to engage the child quickly and keep them busy to make the most of the morning. It is important to let your child know that you will be coming back to collect them at lunch time and are looking forward to hearing what they've been doing.

Nursery Education Grant

The Little Red Hen is registered to provide the 15 Hour Nursery Education Grant. Children are eligible for the grant the term following their third birthday on the proviso that they are attending the nursery for a minimum of 15 hours per week. By the time a child becomes eligible to receive funding, they will automatically be attending the nursery for five mornings a week (as they will have spent their first term attending for three mornings only whilst they are still under 3 years old). The grant will be deducted from your invoice from the term that your child becomes eligible.

Visiting the Nursery

You are most welcome to come and see the Nursery in action and to discuss any questions that you may have with Jess Webb who conducts the Nursery tours. Please email the Nursery secretary, Charlotte Bliss at admin@thelittleredhennursery.co.uk to make an appointment and we shall very much look forward to meeting you.

Testimonials

Below are testimonials given by former parents about the Nursery, the teaching and the staff;

"Little Red Hen is a special place, led by the wonderful Miss Zara and supported by great teachers. They give little ones the best possible start and provide the happiest

environment which is evident each day. My three girls have loved every moment and have always looked forward to going each day."

"If you're looking for an environment of love, kindness and nourishment I cannot recommend this nursery highly enough."

"I couldn't ask for a better start to my children's school life. Little Red Hen is cosy and warm and full of fun and yet, without knowing it, they all start school so well prepared and ahead of the game".

"All three of my children have felt stimulated, encouraged and loved at Little Red Hen and it is exactly the sort of nursery experience I had envisaged for them: local, nurturing and utterly down-to-earth. On top of this they learn a huge amount and leave with heavy hearts but equipped, confident and ready for the next stage."

"Happy, creative and inquisitive 'Hen's' leave nursery having been given the best building blocks on which to build. It is one of Battersea's best kept secrets."

"We could not have wished for a better start to our children's education. It has been a joy to witness them grow in confidence and flourish under the nurturing eye of Miss Zara and her wonderful and enthusiastic team who encourage a keen sense of curiosity and love of learning."

"I can't imagine a more wonderful nursery than 'The Little Red Hen'. Miss Zara is the foundation of that nursery, her kind, positive and energetic nature warms both children and parents alike. My son and my daughter have both been there and had the happiest time. They have made great friendships and would skip in with big smiles on their faces every morning. All the teachers are so kind and friendly, and you know that they genuinely enjoy being with the children. I couldn't have asked for a better start to my children's education."

The Little Red Hen is a Registered Nursery Education Provider. This enables children between the ages of 3-5, subject to Local Authorities prevailing conditions, to receive a grant to help with the cost of their nursery education at the school.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. REGISTERING A CHILD ON OUR WAITING LIST

The fee to register your child on the Nursery's waiting list is £80 and a transfer for this amount is payable to -

The Little Red Hen Nursery School
Account no. 65176669
Sort code. 51 50 02

Please ensure that you use your child's full name as a reference.

The registration form should be completed and signed and then a paper copy posted to:

THE LITTLE RED HEN, c/o 11a Tremaine Road, London SE20 7UA.

Please note that we do require the registration form to be signed and returned as a paper copy before we can register a child and put them on our waiting list. You should also be aware that by signing the registration form, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of the prospectus. Once your child is registered and placed on our waiting list, the registration fee is non-refundable.

We strongly advise parents to contact the school secretary, Charlotte Bliss, at admin@thelittleredhennursery.co.uk to check how full our waiting lists are before completing a registration form and paying the fee. If our waiting lists are completely full and it would therefore be unlikely that we could offer a child a place, we would advise the parent accordingly so that they can then decide whether to continue with the registration process or not.

2. ENTRY INTO THE NURSERY

Entry into the Nursery normally happens at the start of either the Autumn or Spring terms although children may be accepted at the start of the Summer term or, in exceptional circumstances, during a term.

If we consider that a child is a little bit too young to start at the Nursery on a proposed entry term, we will write to parents and suggest a waiting list place for a later entry date, generally a term later than the requested entry term.

3. WAITING LIST

The waiting list, which carries no certainty of a place, operates on a first come first served basis. Independent nurseries are strictly regulated in relation to numbers. An excess of demand for places means that we are in the position of having to cause disappointments. This is regrettable but inevitable. We only have a certain number of places available each term and we believe that our method for dealing with the waiting list is entirely fair and transparent.

Generally, the Nursery likes to confirm numbers for each entry term one year in advance. Once we have an idea of how many spaces are available for a given entry term, the Nursery secretary will systematically work down the waiting list and contact parents by email accordingly.

If, having worked our way down the waiting list and allocated the spare spaces for an entry term, we are unable to offer your child a place, the waiting list will still assure your child priority for the proposed term if a place were then to become available. We would of course, let you know in advance if this were to be the case.

There tends to be a little movement each term as people's circumstances change. We always endeavour to accommodate as many children as possible whilst still maintaining the Nursery's small and friendly atmosphere.

4. ACCEPTANCE AND DEPOSIT

We generally send out offer letters a year in advance of the proposed term of entry, so that parents have plenty of advanced notice of the certainty of a place for their child.

The offer letters are sent out giving parents 3 weeks' notice from the date of their offer letter, to respond to the offer of a place at The Little Red Hen. Acceptance of an offered place must be done in writing.

Upon written acceptance of a child's place, parents are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £800 and will be given 6 weeks' notice, from the date of the offer letter, to pay the deposit. Unfortunately, the deposit cannot be paid in nursery vouchers. Once paid, a letter will be sent confirming receipt of the deposit. The deposit is returned to parents prior to their child leaving the Nursery, having paid their fees in full.

If, however, a parent changes their mind for whatever reason having secured the place and the child does not attend the Nursery, the deposit will be non-refundable. The Nursery also requires one full term's written notice of the withdrawal of a child from the Nursery, failing which, you are contracted to pay the fees for the proposed entry term even if your child does not attend.

In the event that parents have either not accepted an offered place within the 3 week notice period, or failed to pay the deposit within the 6 week deadline, the Nursery will no longer guarantee that child's place and reserve the right to offer the place to another parent from our waiting list.

5. STARTING AT THE NURSERY

Please note, depending on their age, children generally join us for 3 consecutive mornings for their first term and then automatically move onto 5 morning sessions a week from their second term and thereafter.

6. NURSERY SMOCK AND BAG

Each child will need a smock and a bag which are available from the school for £25.00 and £7.00 respectively, they will be itemised and added to your child's first term's invoice.

7. FEES

Fees per term as from Spring 2024 are:

- £2310.00 per term for 5 morning sessions a week
- £1785.00 for 3 morning sessions a week

Afternoon sessions are charged termly at £32.00 per session (the cost per term depends on the length of the term). You must commit on a termly basis for afternoon sessions.

Please note:

Fees are regularly reviewed and a term's notice of any changes will be given.

Fees are due in full on or before the first day of term.

The school reserves the right to make a late payment charge of £50 on all accounts not settled by this time unless previously agreed.

8. HEALTH

Parents must immediately disclose to the Nursery any communicable disease or condition, which may affect the child's own health or that of other children. In the event of illness or injury requiring emergency medical treatment and the parents cannot be contacted in time, the parents' consent to the child undergoing such treatment deemed necessary from certified medical staff.

9. WITHDRAWING YOUR CHILD FROM THE NURSERY

A complete term's written notice of withdrawal of your child is required, failing which a term's fees will become due and payable by the first day of the term that the child is withdrawn.

10. REVIEWING AND UPDATING THE PROSPECTUS AND THE NURSERY'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Nursery's prospectus and its 'Terms and Conditions' are reviewed on a regular basis. Any amendments or updates to the prospectus and/or the 'Terms and Conditions' will be communicated with parents.

REGISTRATION FORM & WAITING LIST

Kindly complete, **sign and return a paper copy** to: THE LITTLE RED HEN, c/o 11a
Tremaine Road, London SE20 7UA.

Child's name Date of birth

Mother's name Father's name

Occupation Occupation

Address

Telephone: (Home) (Work)

Mobile:

Email address:

Child's doctor's name:

Address:

Telephone

Proposed entry term Sept/Jan and year No. of Morning sessions:.....

Special information about your child (if any):

.....

(Please tick):

I have read and accept the terms and conditions of the prospectus.

I have paid the £80 registration fee.

Signature of Mother

Signature of Father

.....

.....

Date:

School use only:

Registration fee:

Deposit:

Place accepted: