



Welcome to The Blue Strawberry @ Leamington

The Blue Strawberry is dedicated to providing the finest quality childcare and education for children aged six weeks to five years.

We hope that the information provided within this welcome pack will help you understand how we operate and how you, as parents and guardians, can be actively involved in Nursery life.

We offer a caring and secure environment where children enjoy the friendship of others within a rich and stimulating environment reaching their full learning potential through praise and encouragement.

We encourage enthusiasm, good manners, independence and consideration for others from the children in our care. Each child will receive the individual attention required in order to develop their learning and skills to reach their full potential.

We recognise that Nursery plays an important part in a child's development by laying down the foundations for a successful educational experience.

The Blue Strawberry at Leamington is registered with Ofsted for 144 children. We are open 52 weeks a year from 7.30am – 6.00pm, with a variety of sessions that can be tailored to suit the individual requirements of your family.

Opening Hours

The Nursery is open from 7.30am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, with the option of care from 7.00am until 6.30pm for those parents and guardians who have an earlier start to their day or a later finish. These will incur an additional charge to the daily rate.

If your child is unable to attend on a particular day we ask that you call to inform us by 9.30am. It is inevitable that at times, you may be delayed and not able to collect your child at the specified time and we ask that if this is the case, you inform us as soon as possible to ensure that there are practitioners available to care for your child. Late charges will apply to those parents who do not notify us in time unless it is an emergency. These are charged at £10 per 15 minutes or part 15 minutes. This charge is made due to the need to cover staff overtime. You should not worry if you are delayed, as your child's every need will be catered for through the duration of your delay.

We will be closed on all Bank Holidays except for Good Friday when a normal service is operated. We also close early on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Arrivals and Collection

We ask all parents to be aware that at specific times of the day Beauchamp Avenue will become busy. For the safety of all children and local residents we ask that during these busy times you be extra observant. We hope that you will be able to take advantage of the free on road parking outside the nursery but ask you kindly to be courteous to local residents.

Safety and Security

We provide the highest level of safety and security for the children in our care with their safety and welfare being paramount. There is a secure door entry system to ensure that anyone arriving at the Nursery are fully monitored, signed into the building and supervised throughout the duration of their visit.

Our equipment is carefully selected and maintained to ensure the complete safety of all children. The building is regularly inspected and maintained as appropriate.

Should anyone other than yourselves be collecting children from the Nursery then we ask that you set up a confidential password to be kept on record; we will then ask for this on their arrival to the Nursery. Without such information we will be unable to release the children into their care.



Personal Care

At The Blue Strawberry, for an additional daily cost we supply Pampers Baby-Dry Nappies and Formula Milk for all children. These services are an optional extra and should you wish to supply your own this can be arranged. We currently supply SMA Gold, Aptamil and the Cow & Gate Formulas; these appear to be the most popular and therefore if you are using an alternative we would ask that you supply the Formula. Once your child no longer requires Nappies and Formula we would ask that you inform us, to ensure that your daily rate is reverted to the original daily rate, without these additional provisions. The costing for Nappies and Formula are detailed below;

Nappies;

Per Full Day £1.20

Per Half Day £0.80

Formula Milk;

Per Full Day £0.90

Per Half Day £0.40

Formula Milk for Toddlers;

£0.40 per day

Administration of Medication

We appreciate that at times children are ill; we will endeavour to support you through these times as effectively as possible.

We are more than happy to administer any medication that has been prescribed by a GP. A child prescribed Antibiotics can return to Nursery once they have taken the medication for 48 hours providing that they are not poorly or had any adverse reactions. After this time we will continue to administer it on your behalf. Calpol or Nurofen cannot be administered to cover an illness or maintain a child at Nursery.

Calpol or Nurofen will only be administered to those children who are teething. If there is an emergency and the child has a temperature, it can be administered with prior consent from the parents and on the condition that someone will collect the child from Nursery.

We will require prior written consent in order to administer any medication for on going conditions. The list is not exhaustive although will include Asthma, Eczema and Nappy Rash Cream.

If you believe that your child is unwell, we ask that you carefully consider whether Nursery is the most suitable place for them. Please remember that Nursery is a busy place and a child who is unwell will have a much quicker recovery if they are resting at home and receiving the individual care and attention that they require.

With a contagious illness or condition children will be excluded from Nursery for the appropriate time, in line with Health Authority regulations. A sickness exclusion chart has been included for your information.

You can view our Operational Plan which is located in the Entrance Hall of the Nursery, for full copies of our policies and procedures.

Accidents

Active and developing children of all ages will have small accidents; in order for us to fully understand how these have occurred we have accident books for each age group; these are completed at the time of the accident, recording full details. You will be informed of this upon collection of your child and asked to sign the book. A copy of this will be issued for you to keep. You would of course be contacted immediately if the accident required medical intervention.

Should your child have had an accident at home we ask you to complete an Existing Injury form on arrival to the Nursery, ensuring that we are fully aware of your child's injury.



Parent Partnership

We actively encourage the involvement of parents in Nursery life, happily sharing with you the events of your child's day upon collection.

We recognise the importance of offering you as much information as possible regarding your child's development and will gladly answer any of your questions or queries.

We appreciate the stresses and strains of your busy lives and tailor our services to meet the needs of you and your children; if there is anything we can help you with please do not hesitate to ask.

We pride ourselves on our communication skills and have established sound methods in order to keep you fully informed about your child's time with us. However, if at any time you feel the need to discuss your child in more detail or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to us informally or arrange a meeting.

Progress Summaries are issued to all parents twice a year, based upon the information gathered in the Learning Journeys. Following this all parents are invited to make an appointment with their key person on designated Parents Evenings in order to discuss the progress summary and share your child's Learning Journey. This provides an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's progress at greater length and share any concerns that you or the key person may have.

Key Person Approach

Each practitioner based with a particular age group will assume responsibility for a group of children. Your child's key person will ensure that the settling in process is as smooth and easy as possible for both you and your child. Your key person will be available throughout the duration of your settling to answer any questions that you may have. They will be in a position to adjust the curriculum and routines in order to meet the individual needs of particular children.

The key person will develop an excellent relationship with the children in their care getting to know them very well. Occasionally the key person will observe situations where a child's development may not be where it should be. If concerns arise these will be discussed in detail with you and should further support for the child's needs be required then the key person can liaise with the Special Educational Needs Co-Coordinator (SENCO) who will work closely with the parents in order to identify specific needs and if necessary, with parents and guardians approval, contact outside agencies for further support and guidance.

Our Early Years Practitioners

We have a large team of early year's practitioners who are recruited on the basis of qualifications, professionalism and experience alongside their personal qualities. We look for enthusiasm, dedication and a genuine love of children. All practitioners employed must have relevant childcare qualifications or be in the process of training. We aim to ensure that all practitioners working at the Nursery have the ability to work and co-operate as a team to ensure best provision for all children.

Uniform

We actively encourage all children within Pre-School to wear a Blue Strawberry uniform. This fully prepares them for school life and gives them a sense of belonging. The uniform comprises of a Blue Strawberry Polo Shirt, Sweatshirts for winter wear and a Blue Strawberry fleece. The children wear these with either grey or navy blue skirts, trousers or shorts. Girls wear navy blue tights in the winter with white socks in the summer and both boys and girls are required to wear sensible school shoes. Girls may also wear red and white checked dresses during the summer months.

Pre-School children are also required to have a PE kit comprising of a white t-shirt, black shorts and black pumps. Blue Strawberry polo shirts, sweatshirts, and fleeces, pump bags and book bags are all available to purchase from the Office.



Nursery Education Grant Funding

Children are eligible for the Nursery Education Funding (5 free sessions per week at 3 hours in length) from the term after their 3rd birthday. Wrap around charges apply for the hours falling outside of these sessions amounting to either a full morning or full afternoon's childcare. The Nursery Education Funding is subject to Government changes.

All Nursery Education Funding claims are made at the beginning of each term and therefore children starting part way through the term will not be eligible for the Funding until the following term. If Funding has been granted to an alternative setting then it will be non-transferable and therefore normal daily charges will apply. Unfortunately you will be unable to increase the number of Grant Funded sessions after the Headcount Day; any additional sessions required will again be charged at the normal Nursery rates.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

This is a combined curriculum catering for children from 0 – 5 years. It is divided into 6 main learning areas with specific aspects of learning identified within them. All children will develop and progress at their own pace and through the implementation of The Early Years Foundation Stage learning intentions can be tailored to meet the individual needs of all children – an underlying principle of its implementation.

It is designed to offer all children a rich and stimulating environment through a play based approach, which provides opportunities for both child, and adult initiated learning experiences – another key element to its implementation.

The Early Years Foundation Stage will be supported across the Nursery with each child having their own Learning Journey to include observations and photographs of how the children are achieving and progressing, which can be shared with you at any time. Children's overall progress is continually tracked to ensure they are achieving outcomes, and these form the basis of writing progress summaries for all children across the Nursery.

The 6 identified learning areas are as follows;

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Within a secure and stable environment children are able to develop a clear sense of belonging and are supported in developing skills for confidence, autonomy, respect for themselves and others. They can form relationships with familiar practitioners through the key person approach and develop positive relationships within their peer group. Children are encouraged to express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings as a means of communicating their response to challenging or new situations.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Within this learning area children are encouraged to use communication, speaking and listening in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes. It supports children in establishing their individuality and personalities. Activities provided can encourage language development including music, dance and songs. Through the development of these skills the foundation for literacy can be firmly put into place. The introduction of Letters and Sounds, an initiative to support this, will enhance these skills through specific adult initiated learning. Interaction with peers creates a language rich environment and through opportunities for mark making, drawing and reading this can be supported.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Through child-initiated experiences, children are provided with opportunities to discover and learn simple mathematical ideas and concepts to include sorting, matching, sequencing and counting activities. These form the basis for children to use mathematical language in relation to real life experiences describing shape, size, quantity and position. Children will have the opportunity to solve problems and ask relevant mathematical questions in small group situations, for example, deciding how many cups will be needed for snack time.



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Within this learning area children explore and discover the world in which they live through a variety of sources ranging from families and friends and through situations observed. It provides children with opportunities to share in and discover the cultures, beliefs and religions of others valuing their individuality. Children often question how things happen and why things work through the use of construction materials. Through the use of ICT equipment – computer software, digital cameras, programmable toys and listening centres, learning experiences can be enhanced.

Physical Development

Physical development is cross-curricular and can be accessed within all areas of learning and development to include both gross and fine motor skills. A range of equipment, both indoors and outdoors can support children in developing confidence in their own skills. The equipment will develop children's spatial awareness, co-ordination and balance. It enables them to be positive towards the benefits of being healthy and active and promotes a sense of well-being. Through well planned activities children can develop healthy habits in relation to food and physical activity.

Creative Development

Children are actively encouraged to respond to and develop their own ideas and express their creativity through a variety of resources and materials, including crayons, paints, glue, scissors, music and movement, and imaginative props within role play. In being creative children will have the opportunity to respond to experiences through the use of their senses, make choices and informed decisions and to be unique in their learning.

And Finally

We hope that this information has supported you in making an informed choice regarding the selection of appropriate childcare to suit the needs of your family. We actively encourage you to come and have a look around at the facilities we offer. Please do not hesitate to ask any other questions that you may have.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and if there is anything you feel has been omitted please forward your comments to us. The website is available to view at www.thebluestrawberry.com

We welcome both you and your family to The Blue Strawberry and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

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