



La Maternelle Information



About us

La Maternelle was established by my husband and myself in January 2000. I am a fully qualified teacher of French, P.E and R.E with thirty years of experience in the nursery, primary and secondary sectors of education. As a working parent of four children I am dedicated to providing high quality childcare within a homely setting

Previously, I was employed by Cheshire County Council as a part time teacher of French at St Thomas More Roman Catholic High School. I was also employed by five local primary school Head Teachers and the Head of a local nursery as a teacher of French, promoting and delivering fun French lessons for children aged three to eleven years, thus teaching and organising a curriculum/scheme of work for up to 500 children each week.

In 2002, following the success of the opening of a breakfast and after school club at Haslington we were approached by several Head Teachers who saw the benefits of the facility we were offering and the quality of care provided. My son Will and I then set up and registered two further clubs at Wybunbury Delves Primary School and Stapeley Broad Lane Primary School.

In 2003 we were successful in our application to provide a Day Nursery/Pre School together with Out of School Care at Wistaston Church Lane Primary School. This was an opportunity for us to expand the service we were providing into the Early Years Sector.

My son Peter and his wife Victoria supported us in the registration of our Day Nursery/Pre School and Out of School Care at Wistaston Church Lane Primary School. The day to day running and organisation of this facility is the responsibility of myself, Peter and Victoria who is a fully qualified Early Years primary school teacher.

In February 2006 we were delighted to open an out of school care facility at Pear Tree School in Stapeley. This is now the location for one of our holiday clubs.

We are registered with OFSTED who carry out regular inspections. We are members of the Out of School Care Association and are supported by Cheshire East Council. Facilities are staffed by qualified and screened personnel with a ratio of one staff member to eight children (under eight years of age) and one staff member to four children (under three years of age).

Claire Brown

La Maternelle Day Nursery & Pre School – Wistaston

General Background & Information

La Maternelle Day Nursery, Pre School & Out of School Care Club is set within the grounds of Wistaston Church Lane School, Wistaston, Crewe. It is just a short drive from Crewe, Nantwich & all the major road links including the A500 & M6.

The setting is enhanced by a safely enclosed outdoor learning environment & also makes full use of the surrounding fields & woods which give the children the space to explore the environment.

La Maternelle Day Nursery & Pre School was opened in September 2004. I, Victoria Brown manage the setting and lead the Early Years Practice within the setting. I am a fully qualified Early Years Teacher, Early Years Professional & Early Years Professional Status Assessor.

La Maternelle was recognised as an 'outstanding setting' by Ofsted in July 2007. We were also awarded 2nd place in National Setting of the Year in September 2007. We continue to develop the day nursery in order to maintain outstanding care & education for the children & families in our care. We continually reflect upon our practice & invite feedback from parents to further improve our service questioning ourselves 'what is it really like for a child here



Parent comment from our annual questionnaire

"We have been exceptionally pleased with the care provided particularly the child centred approach & focus on play based learning. It is a relief that Alex is outside learning about the world."



The Team of Early Years Practitioner

You will always receive a warm welcome to La Maternelle. Practitioners develop warm, caring, friendly & professional relationships with children & their families.

I am very proud to be part of a highly dedicated & professional team of Early Years Practitioners. I believe that the team at La Maternelle Day Nursery & Pre School makes it a very special place. All practitioners are carefully recruited for their dedication to providing the best care possible for children. Practitioners are highly valued & supported to develop professionally in order to improve the outcomes for children & to ensure the outstanding standards of La Maternelle are maintained. Our strict recruitment procedures ensure that all staff are suitably qualified & hold an enhanced criminal record bureau disclosure.

Parent quotes from our annual questionnaire

- "Everyone is friendly & helpful. Both our children have formed good relationships with staff easily & I have always felt confident that staff look after children exceptionally well."
- "I like the continuity of care – the same people looking after my child with no great turnover of staff. The staff smile & take an interest in my child and the whole atmosphere is of staff that care."
- "Nothing seems too much trouble. The staff are always smiling & welcoming, and most importantly put the children first."

Promoting the themes of The Early Years Foundation Stage

The setting follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2008 (EYFS). We work to promote the themes of the Early Years Foundation Stage to a high standard. These are-

- A Unique Child
- An Enabling Environment
- Parental Partnership
- Learning & Development

Further details on the EYFS can be found at <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/eyfs/>.



Parental Comments from annual Questionnaire

"The environment is child focused with plenty of everyday items for the children to explore rather than being an environment designed to be visually appealing to adults- some of the other nurseries we looked at had clearly missed the point and it was one of the things as parents we liked about La Maternelle"

"Abbie has developed fantastically attending La Maternelle she is very independent. She has been able to express herself in a caring environment"

"I particularly like the high standard to which you know about every child and how you cater for individual needs"

The Indoor Environment

The rooms are designed to be warm, welcoming & stimulating to ensure that children feel comfortable & at home so their personal, social & emotional being is fostered. We encourage children to take ownership of their environment & develop their independence with well balanced adult support. This is done through engaging children to make decisions about the nursery & listening to their interests, views & opinions. This in turn makes children feel valued and raises self esteem & confidence. The rooms, displays & resources promote inclusion, diversity & equal opportunities.

There is a wealth of opportunities & resources to support children to take part in meaningful open ended play experiences which enables children's learning & development to thrive. We continually monitor the environment through careful observation & add resources to the continuous provision based on children's interests & development needs. We provide a balance of natural, manmade & everyday items for the children to play with.

The room is divided into different areas which promote opportunities for children over all the areas of learning & development of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Construction Area
- Small World Play Area
- Messy area
- Sand & Water Play
- Role Play & imagination area
- Music & Dance area
- Reading Corner
- Mark Making Table



The Outdoor Learning Environments

"The best classroom and richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky" Margaret McMillan (1919)

"We need to develop runner beans not couch potatoes"

Children have free access to the secure & stimulating outdoor learning environment. Children have first contact with the weather, seasons & natural world. Come rain or shine the children are able to go outside, well equipped in appropriate clothing & footwear.

The environment is designed to mirror the indoor environment so children can take part in similar experiences outside, for example, a quiet reading area, mark making area, sand play, singing, role play. In addition to this there are also opportunities to do things in different ways and on different scales than you could possibly do indoors for example den making, riding bikes & climbing.

The outdoor learning environment also has a vegetable & herb patch where the children take part in planting & growing their own produce. The children learn about and take part daily in good environmental practices such as recycling & composting. They also learn about and take care of the nursery gerbils, guinea pigs & fish.

In addition to our outdoor learning environment the school fields, woodland area & play area offer the children the space & freedom to explore in a safe & secure environment, where they can be physically active & energetic.



hand

Parent Comment

"Lucy loves the animals at nursery & likes to help take care of them"

"I think the outdoor play is excellent including the 'puddle suits!'" (The puddle suits are provided for children on particularly wet days so they can play in the puddles)

"The outside fresh air is a great thing and to play outside rain or shine is something very beneficial."



Your Child's Time Here.

The day is carefully planned to achieve the correct balance of activities for your child. The environment, activities and experiences are planned based on your child's interests & development needs through careful observation and listening attentively to children. The activities described below will vary based on the age of your child & their stage of development.

Meaningful Play

Children can freely access the indoor & outdoor learning environment. Children choose the areas & resources they wish to play in & engage in a wide variety of activities & experiences. Practitioners are skilled to support and extend children's learning & development and track through observations the progress the children are making.

Greeting Time

Children come together when the children have arrived to greet each other and talk about what will be happening that day.

Small Group Time

Children come together in small groups for a play based adult led activity with their key worker each morning & afternoon. This is planned by the key worker based upon a child's interest or development or individual needs. Again key workers observe & track children's learning & development to plan the next steps for children. At the end of a morning or afternoon children also sit together in small groups to review & evaluate what they have done.

Large Group Special Time

Children come together in a whole group to do an activity based on observations. These will include stories, rhymes, number songs, team work, outdoor adventure, singing, performing & dancing.

Snack Time – morning & afternoon

Children sit together with their key worker to enjoy their morning & afternoon snack and a drink of milk or water. The children choose from a variety of different fruits, vegetables and bread items. This provides opportunities to develop independence as children help to prepare snack, pour drinks, serve & clear down. Practitioners also discuss staying healthy & use this time to practice problem solving, reasoning & numeracy skills. It is also a wonderful social situation where children can chat to their friends & key worker.

Rest/Sleep Time

We appreciate that children may also need times of rest & relaxation so arrangements are made for quieter activities when needed. Children who sleep are offered a comfortable place to rest choosing from a cot, a bed or a pram which can be safely put inside or outside in the fresh air if you wish. Each child has their own personal sheets & blanket. This is flexible based on the needs of individual children & your preferences for them.

Partnership

Parental Partnership

We understand that you know your child/children better than anyone else. In order to improve outcomes for the children it is essential that we strive to build trusting & professional relationships with the families of children in our care.



Settling Children into La Maternelle

We ensure that prior to your child starting we find out as much information from you regarding your child. This helps us to develop continuity between home & nursery. When your child visits the nursery you will both be introduced to their key worker. This person will support your child to become familiar with the setting & routines. They will also develop a genuine bond with your child and offer a settled, trusting relationship. We ensure that your child is made to feel comfortable & secure as it is a priority for us that they are happy to come to nursery. We understand the anxieties that you may have leaving your child. We always stay in contact over the telephone to ensure you feel reassured about how your child is getting on. In many cases it is getting children out of nursery at the end of the day that is most problematic!

Parent comment from annual questionnaire

"My daughter loves going to La Maternelle. She is disappointed when it is not a "nursery day". I think that speaks volumes about the care provided. I would recommend La Maternelle to anyone who wants their child to spend their early years in a safe, caring, exciting & fun environment"

Ongoing Partnership

Within each room there are Senior Practitioners who lead the room and get to know you & your child well. The owner & managers also take pride in developing relationships with families and children within the setting.

In addition to this each child has a key worker who has a special responsibility for your child during their time at La Maternelle ensuring that there is a two way flow of information between nursery & home. The child's key worker will share information with you about your child informally & encourage you to share information from home on an ongoing basis. We really welcome any information about a child that can help us to support them personally or developmentally. Your child's key worker will keep track of your child's development and update their learning journey. This is available for you & your child to access at all times and we encourage you to contribute to this.

In order for the key worker system runs smoothly we also organise a back up key worker who works alongside your child's key worker to ensure that in their absence they can share information with you & support your child.

There is an information board located in the entrance hall and outside which informs parents of the activities children have been doing at nursery that day. Planning is displayed in the room. We invite you to look at this and encourage you to contribute to it any time. There is also a digital screen that is updated regularly to showing pictures of the activities your child has taken part in.

In the toilets there is an information board which details when & why your child has had their nappy changed or their clothes changed. You will also find information of your child's sleep for that day.

A chart is completed each day after lunch and to inform parents/guardians as to how much each child has eaten. What your child has chosen for snack is also registered on this chart. This is kept by the register for you to check as you collect your child in the evening. Menu details are displayed in the entrance hall.

We welcome your comments & thoughts at all times. We encourage an open door policy where parents feel comfortable to discuss any suggestions. There are comment & suggestion slips in the entrance hall for parents to complete & return to share their ideas about La Maternelle. We also organise formal opportunities for partnership and communication sending home regular newsletters, running open surgeries, sending out questionnaires, organising information evenings & open evenings as an opportunity for you to discuss your children's progress with their key worker. There is also an annual Christmas performance & fun races organised for the children who are leaving to go to school. All parents/guardians are invited to join us on these very special occasions.

Parent Comment

"The boards are always up to date & it is lovely to come & see digital pictures of the children having so much fun."

"The time & effort the staff put in with the children is excellent such as the Christmas production & Sports Day. The children seemed to enjoy it as much as the parents!"

Partnership with the schools & community & other child care providers.

Wistaston Church Lane School

We have strong links with Wistaston Church Lane School. The school welcomes us for lunch each day and invites us to different celebrations during the academic year. We also have good relationships with the Head Teacher and the foundation stage team within the school. During the time children are at La Maternelle they become very familiar with the school environment, teachers & Head Teacher. The teachers visit the setting to meet children in nursery & we share information with them. This aids a smooth transition into school.



Head

Quote from Head teacher – Mr Graham Prince

"La Maternelle and Wistaston Church Lane Primary School enjoy a close, purposeful relationship which helps the children receive the very best start to their education. By sharing the same key aims, values and expectations for young learners we are able to create the consistency and continuity which allows children to flourish.

Through daily lunchtimes visits, concerts, parties and fun challenges on the school field, our nursery children develop a real familiarity with the infants which makes their move to full-time education a successful and far less daunting prospect.

Pupils entering our Reception classes thrive following on from the experiences and opportunities they have enjoyed at La Maternelle. The nursery provides the children with a first-class start to the Foundation Stage which helps their learning truly accelerate in mainstream school".

Parent Comment from annual Questionnaire

"The children are so familiar with the school & environment. None of the children have been worried about their visits & I think a lot of that is down to the confidence & independence they have learnt at nursery."

Other Schools

Children attend La Maternelle and then go onto other local schools within the area. We ensure that we communicate with these schools and invite the teachers to come and meet the children in the nursery before they start school. We also ensure that all information regarding your child (with your permission) is communicated to enhance their transition to school.

Community

We are very much a part of the local community. We hold a stall at the annual village fete and children help to make produce to sell and decorations/signs for the stall. It is always a lovely day. We also take the children on walks around the local community to the shops, hairdressers & church.

Meals

We provide all meals & drinks for your child during their time at nursery. A varied & nutritionally balanced diet is offered giving the children a choice of different foods. We will support all children with dietary needs. We keep a record of what your child has eaten at lunch time and for snack so you can check each day what & how much your child has eaten.

Breakfast is prepared at nursery where your child can choose from fruit, toast, cereal & fresh porridge.

Snack is prepared at nursery. Children are given a choice of different fruits, different vegetables, crackers, bread, & breadsticks. The choice is varied each day and we incorporate new foods for children to try.

Lunch is freshly prepared by the school cooks during term time.

Lunch is prepared by Cheerbrook farm during holiday periods.

Light Tea is prepared at nursery.

Food will be served to your child based on their stage of development & your wishes. This will be discussed & organised upon registration.

Example of a weekly menu-



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Cottage Pie & vegetables	Spaghetti bolognaise	Chicken Curry & Rice	Roast Pork Dinner	Fish Pie
	Pineapple & grapes	Apple Crumble & custard	Fruit Yoghurt	Gingerbread man	Strawberries & cream
Light Tea	Fresh Sandwiches with jam or ham served with cucumber	Traditional Beans on toast served with cheese on top	Italian Penne Pasta served with tuna chunks, sweetcorn and cheese	Mexican wraps with fresh ham, cucumber, cheese and salad cream	Italian fussilli pasta with fresh ham, sweetcorn and grated cheese
	Swiss Roll	Fruit	Jam Tart	Yoghurts	Swiss roll

Parent Comment from annual questionnaire

"It would be easy to just give the children food guaranteed to be eaten. By pushing the boundaries, encouraging children and offering a variety of choice we have noticed a willingness to try new foods previously unheard of."

"I really appreciate that the nursery supports my child's diet" "I like that the nursery encourage my child to follow a healthy diet & lifestyle."

I hope you have found this information useful.

Please contact me (Vicki) or Peter at the Wistaston office on (01270) 664466 to arrange a visit or to request a brochure.

Kind Regards

Vicki Brown

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