



Hemdean House School

Independent Day School for Girls (3-16) and Boys (3-11)

The Nursery school day

During our morning session, we divide into three rooms, the “quiet” room, the “play” room and the “messy” room. At registration the children are given the choice of which room they would like to start in and then during the morning they move freely between these rooms participating in the various activities on offer or choosing their own from the shelves.

Quiet room

Mrs Dickason bases herself in this room and during the morning will try to see every child to either do some phonics work or a maths activity according to the stage they are at. The computer and reading corners are also in this room. The two nursery assistants take it in turns on a weekly basis to work in either the **Play room** or the **Messy room**.

Play room

There will be a focused activity run by one of the nursery assistants, this could be a creative activity, a game or science activity depending on the topic we are covering. The role play area is also in this room and is always relevant to whatever topic is being covered. There is a writing area in this room where the children can freely write and draw using the equipment on offer. On the other tables in the room there are normally some sort of construction toys and possibly the small world toys, although the children are able to swap these around and choose for themselves.



Messy room

Again there is a focused activity run by one of the nursery assistants, this is generally some sort of creative activity. Also on offer in this room is the sand, with free choice of toys to play with, the water and water toys and the easel with either paint, large felt pens or chalks to use. Lastly the free art table which might have play-dough sticking, shaving foam or other various fun activities on it. The afternoon sessions run slightly differently to the mornings. Firstly the children have free play outside before coming in for registration. We then have a more relaxed session, with perhaps one focused activity and free play. The afternoon session is also a time when we go to the main school and use the computer suite, the hall for gym and have a cooking session (the day for these are determined at the beginning of the school year, to fit in with the rest of the school).



Every day we have two group times where the children sit for approx. 15 minutes. These group times will cover all 6 areas of learning and development, e.g. a maths game, music, show and tell, investigating various objects and materials, recall games and phonics.

Garden Time

The children are encouraged to go in the garden every day come rain or shine. We normally start with a joint activity e.g. Parachute game, practising ball skills, the freeze game and many more.



The children then have the choice of play equipment which include a play house, a pirate ship, trikes, scooters and sand pit. We also have a covered area where the children can sit quietly and play whilst still having some fresh air.

When possible we do like to join with the main school for play times, these are generally after lunch. We join the children in the playground or on the playing field, this is particularly nice for those children who have siblings further up the school.

Snack-time

Every day the children have snack-time in the morning at 10:30am approx. and again in the afternoons at 2:40pm approx.

During this time the children are offered a choice of drink, milk or water, and a healthy snack, which varies daily. At the beginning of each term we ask you for a contribution towards these snacks, the cost being roughly 10 pence a session. This will be worked out for you and you will be advised of the amount owing via a letter within the first two weeks of term. We do ask for prompt payment.

We also ask that you provide a water bottle for your child that maybe be left at nursery. These are filled with fresh water daily and are available to your child as and when they want a drink.

Lunch-time

Your child might also stay for lunch. You are asked to provide a healthy lunch (e.g. sandwich or savoury dish, fruit, raw vegetables, yoghurt, drink and one treat) for your child in a labelled lunch bag. In the summer especially, please can you put an ice pack as we do not have the facilities to keep your child's lunch cool. Remember to make sure that your child can un-do any containers that they may have as we try to encourage independence. These times are a very social time and encourage the use of good manners.