



The Marmalade Caterpillar

Head Teacher

**Rozzy Hyslop BA (Ed) P.G. Dip.
Sp.L.D.(dyslexia)
EYPS**

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Welcome to the Marmalade Caterpillar!

As your child embarks on his or her first steps in education, your decisions on where and how they are taught will have a significant impact on their learning process. The Head Teacher of the Marmalade Caterpillar, Mrs Rozzy Hyslop has a teaching degree from Exeter and a subsequent Special Needs Diploma. She has 24 years teaching experience in both the primary and nursery sector and latterly Miss Rozzy has been awarded her EYPS – the highest Early Years qualification. Miss Rozzy, who started the Marmalade Cat nursery school in Clapham in 2004, also runs The Marmalade Bear and The Marmalade Owl.

The staff at the Marmalade Caterpillar all have strong Early Years qualifications and The Marmalade Caterpillar aims to provide your child with an excellent start on the learning ladder. The Marmalade Caterpillar is managed daily by Mr Darren Walker who has 16 years' experience of working with children in the Early Years Sector. We very much look forward to seeing you and your child at the Marmalade Caterpillar.

Why the Marmalade Caterpillar?

We aim to provide a fun, happy and secure environment in which your child can develop at his/her own pace. The Marmalade Caterpillar wants to give your child the very best nursery education. A child should be happy, confident, challenged and able to reach their potential with us academically, socially and emotionally.

The location and premises

The Marmalade Caterpillar is located in St Jude's Church Hall, Heslop Road in Balham. It comprises a main hall, an additional hall used for group work and activities, and a separate kitchen. The Marmalade Caterpillar has its own private garden allowing the children easy access to outdoor play and learning.

OFSTED

We were inspected by OFSTED in March 2016 and were rated Outstanding in all areas. The report is available on the OFSTED web site, (www.ofsted.gov.uk) and at The Marmalade Caterpillar.

The Groups

The children are split into two groups, the Butterflies and the Caterpillars. The children each have a group teacher who monitors their development. We work on a child to teacher ratio of 1:5. The Caterpillars are rising three and the Butterflies rising four.

Times

The school times are Monday to Friday 8.45am-Noon. For the older children there are also extended day sessions until 3.15pm. We also run a separate afternoon school, which starts at 12.45pm and runs to 4.00pm.

The term dates are as follows for 2018-2019

- Autumn Term 2018 – 6th September – 12th December (half term 22nd -26th October)

- Spring term 2019 – 9th January – 28th March (half term 18th – 22nd February)
- Summer Term 2019 – 25th April – 2nd July (half term 27th May – 31st May)

The Curriculum

The Marmalade Caterpillar offers a balanced and broadly based 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 the World, Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design and Maths. We aim to use the best of both traditional and Montessori methods. Within this curriculum the children will have many chances to experience structured play and free play which are both a very important part of their early learning experiences. The Chelsea School of Ballet come weekly to give ballet lessons to all and on top of our general music the children have a music lesson with a specialist teacher. The children are also taught French by a peripatetic teacher. Extra physical development sessions are taught by Mr Ben Burton.

Events

The Marmalade Caterpillar holds exciting events throughout the year which parents are encouraged to attend. These include: The Nativity Play, Grandparents Day, Mummies' and Fathers' Stay and Play Days, A Mini Spring Concert, The Easter Bonnet Parade, Festival Feast Days, World Book Day, A Sponsored Charity Fundraiser, Open Art Day and Sports Day. The children will also go on half-day outings throughout the year to support their topic work.

Parents as partners

As parents are the first and most enduring educators we seek to develop an effective partnership with parents. Parents are asked to attend a small tea party with their child in the summer term prior to their child's arrival; this hopefully will help the child familiarise him/herself with The Marmalade Caterpillar. At this tea party each parent will have time to talk to the teachers and be given a New Parents pack; the documents will need to be filled in to give us some background information on their child. All children have reached different stages of development when they arrive at school and it is very helpful to know what stage they are at before they start school. Over the first two days of term we offer each family a home visit from their child's new teacher this offers a chance for the parents to ask any questions and to familiarise themselves with the school routines. The children seem to settle in very quickly as a result of these visits.

In the Autumn term we will invite you to an evening for us to inform you of the learning opportunities provided by the Marmalade Caterpillar. The evening will give you more time to ask your child's teacher any further questions, meet other parents and to become aware of what your child will be learning throughout the year. At this evening we will also go through the more practical side of day to day nursery school life.

The primary way of communicating with your child's teacher is through the daily diary, which ensures close contact with the parent and teacher is maintained at all times. Newsletters will be sent out during the term and emails are sent weekly with planning and details of weekly activities. Parents are encouraged to have close contact with the school either in person, by telephone or by email.

At the end of the Autumn and Summer term we send out detailed reports outlining your child's progress and in the Spring term we will hold individual meetings to discuss your child's progress. We have a well-established Parent Teacher Association

to help parents meet each other and to provide a non-academic support network for the good of the school.

The choice of your child's next school is important and we aim to support you in finding the right school for your child for both independent and state sectors. This is often difficult in the school's immediate area. Miss Rozzy has substantial experience and knowledge of the process and options available. Mr Darren and Miss Rozzy regularly visit local schools to foster good relationships and therefore have up to date knowledge of the local provision.

Admissions procedure

If you would like a registration form, more information or to arrange a show round then please call Samantha Feilding, School Registrar, on 020 8265 5224 or email marmaladecaterpillar@googlemail.com.

If you would like your child to attend the Marmalade Caterpillar then we would ask you to fill in a registration form and send it with the registration fee to the Head. Children are accepted on a 'first come first' served basis, with priority being given to residents of Wandsworth over children from other boroughs. The Marmalade Caterpillar does not require children to take any test on entry and nor does it discriminate on the grounds of disability, special needs, or ethnic background. We operate a sibling policy where a space is available and we keep an eye on any gender imbalance. The parents will be notified if their child has a place or is put on the waiting list.

Website

Full details on all the Marmalade Schools can also be found by visiting our website

www.marmaladeschools.co.uk