



The Marmalade Bear

Principal

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

**St Mary Magdalene Church
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Welcome to the Marmalade Bear!

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 Principal of the Marmalade Bear, 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 also runs the Marmalade Cat, the Marmalade Caterpillar and the Marmalade Owl.

The staff at the Marmalade Bear all have strong Early Years qualifications, predominantly Montessori. The Marmalade Bear aims to provide your child with an excellent start on the learning ladder. We very much look forward to seeing you and your child at the Marmalade Bear.

Why the Marmalade Bear?

We aim to provide a fun, happy and secure environment in which your child can develop at his/her own pace. The Marmalade Bear 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 Bear is located in St Mary Magdalene Church on Trinity Road, just down from the junction with Bellevue Road. It is a fabulous church hall divided into two spacious areas, providing a wonderful setting for this nursery. The school has a small garden area and access to Trinity playing fields.

OFSTED

We were inspected by OFSTED in May 2015 and were rated Outstanding in all areas. The report is available on the OFSTED web site, (www.ofsted.gov.uk) and at The Marmalade Bear.

The Groups

The children are split into two groups, the Marmalade Cubs and the Marmalade Bears. The children each have a group teacher who monitors their development. The Cubs are rising three and the Bears rising four.

Times

The school times are from 8.45am – 12.00pm

We also run a separate afternoon school from 12.45pm – 4.00pm

For the older, morning children there are also afternoon sessions subject to availability with pick up at 3.15pm

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 Bear 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.

The school also provides a French and Computer Club – this is an extra charge.

Events

The Marmalade Bear 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 Summer Concert, The Easter Bonnet Parade, Festival Feast Days, World Book 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 Bear. 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 Cat. 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 newly 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. Miss Suki 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 the school office marmaladecaterpillar@googlemail.com.

If you would like your child to attend the Marmalade Bear 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 Bear 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**