

Muriel Green Nursery School and Day Care
Church Crescent
St Albans
Herts, AL3 5JB
Tel: 01727 891109
Fax: 01727 891114
Email: admin@murielgreen.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Karen Ashton B.Ed NPQH



Dear Parents and Carers

Local MP Anne Maine visited Muriel Green Nursery School on 4th November 2016

Here she is pictured with some of the children, the Chair of Governors Rebecca Blackstaffe, Bethan Jones, Vice Chair and Karen Ashton, Headteacher.



Anne looked around the nursery and saw the facilities the Nursery provides for local children. This is the only maintained Nursery School in St Albans and she was interested to learn more about it. As maintained Nursery School Muriel Green offers free early education and also non-profit making day-care for children from 3 months. The staff team includes three full time fully qualified teachers and one part time plus a teacher SENCo. There are fully qualified Leaders and Practitioners several of whom are currently studying for higher qualifications. The nursery is in a good position to offer the 30 hours free education and care that many 3 and 4 year olds will be entitled to from September 2017.

During the visit myself and the Governors shared with Anne the current discussion about the future of 'Maintained Nursery Schools'. Nursery schools like maintained Primary Schools must have fully qualified teachers, a governing body, teacher SENCo and follow the same requirements as Primary schools including paying for a range of additional services, they are therefore more costly than the private and voluntary sector that does not have to work to the same strict requirements. Research shows that Nursery Schools with teachers who have full QTS are highly effective and have an impact on social mobility. They have the highest percentage of good and outstanding Ofsted inspections in any sector of education including early years,

primary, secondary and further education. Nursery schools are able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and are key to laying the foundations for learning for children with special educational needs and disabilities. We cannot become academies because our children are not of compulsory school age. The recent review of early years funding that will be published shortly is key to our future. Nursery Schools across the country including ourselves have been attending All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings in London to ensure that politicians and others understand the role of the Maintained Nursery schools in offering high quality funded education for 3 and 4 year olds. Muriel Green Nursery School offers places for funded two year olds and is in a prime position to be able to offer 30 funded hours a week and to offer systems leadership for new and existing initiatives in the early years. We also offer full wrap around care for 3 and 4 year olds and additional daycare for younger children. We have a reach of over 100 families every week which rises through the year, last year in the summer 170 children benefitted from the nursery every week.

It is so important that nursery schools survive, they have been the pioneers at the forefront of early years education in this country and we need to ensure that their funding is secure well into the future so that they can continue to act as role models and examples to others. We will give information about further planned consultations as it becomes available.

Best Wishes

Karen Ashton