



# Outstanding Care

For children from  
3 months to 5 years





My name is Abby Auty, I am co-founder and co-owner of Red Balloon. Caroline and I established Red Balloon in 2004. We originally met at ante-natal classes when we were both expecting our first child and we soon became firm friends. We both returned to work after maternity leave and were disappointed that we were unable to find a nursery which met our high standards. We were seeking an exceptional quality of care which mirrored our own values as parents but we found that local nurseries failed to fulfil our high expectations.

*"In August of 2016 we were truly delighted to welcome Ockham as the newest member of the Red Balloon family"*

# Welcome To Red Balloon!

So, fuelled by our passion to deliver truly outstanding childcare, we established Red Balloon with an aim to providing everything we, as mothers ourselves, feel like-minded parents would want for their children and themselves. Our first setting in Cobham opened in 2004, followed by the second in Weybridge in 2013. In August 2016 we were truly delighted to welcome Ockham as the newest member of the Red Balloon family.





Our approach has always been from the perspective of a parent which, coupled with the extensive skills and childcare experience of our teams, creates the unique environment that is Red Balloon.

At Red Balloon we foster a home-from-home environment within nurturing and safe surroundings where all children can feel relaxed, happy and self-assured.

We aim to provide a stimulating environment which offers every opportunity to learn, to create and to explore. Whilst recognising the importance of social,

# Welcome To Red Balloon!

intellectual and academic development, we are also only too aware that children are only children once so having lots and lots of fun is always at the top of our agenda.

At Red Balloon we pride ourselves on truly knowing the children in our care as individuals and understanding their specific family circumstances. We respect the fact that all children think, feel, behave and develop in different ways and at different rates. We aim to enable children to express their individuality and to set their own pace. We value the diversity of all the children in our care and celebrate their differences.

Our aspiration is to consistently exceed your



expectations by providing truly outstanding care for your child; continuous improvement is at the heart of our ethos. The most important way in which we seek to deliver on our promises to parents is through the Red Balloon team. At Red Balloon we aim to recruit well-qualified individuals with a wealth of different skills and experience who most importantly display a genuine passion for children and an absolute dedication to providing the highest standards in quality care.

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07:30 – 18:30 Monday – Friday  
51 weeks per year (closed Christmas week)

### Our Premises

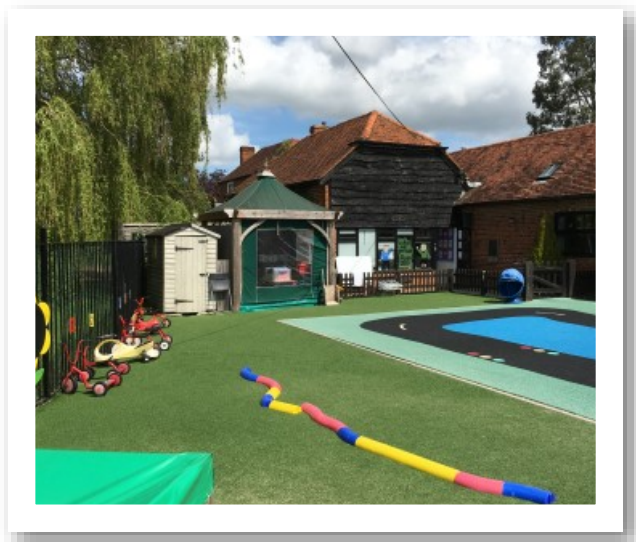
Red Balloon Ockham enjoys an idyllic rural location. The nursery nestles on farm grounds and is set within a single storey barn and stable conversion. Each of the nursery rooms has its own direct access to wonderful spacious outdoor play areas.

### Location

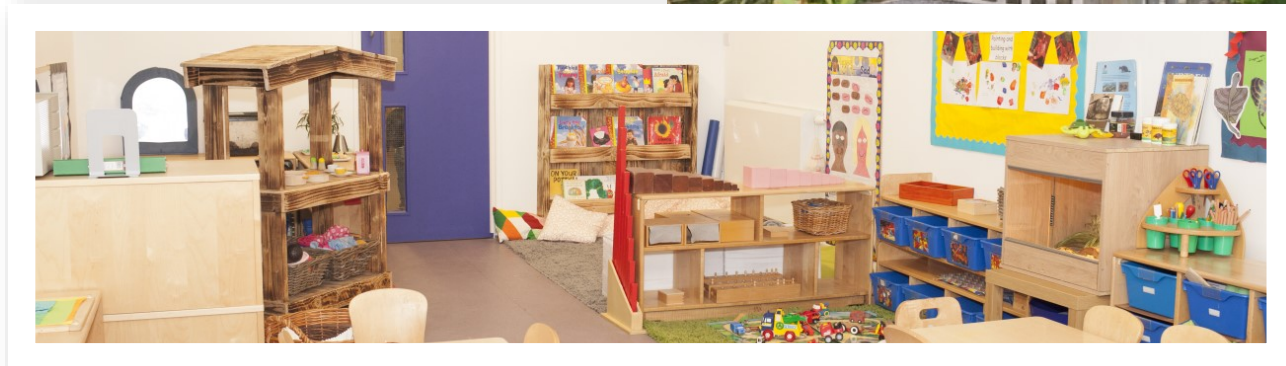
We are located in the picturesque hamlet of Ockham, just 2 miles / 5 minutes from Cobham and on the boarder with East Horsley, offering a highly accessible location from the A3 and great proximity to Effingham Junction.

### Car Parking

There is a spacious car park to the front of the nursery which extends alongside the adjacent livery yard.



# The Nursery





# Special People For Special People



**Excellent staff are the single most important element of an excellent nursery.**

We operate a stringent and demanding recruitment process in order to select the highest quality, well-qualified and experienced staff who display absolute dedication to providing the highest standards in childcare and a genuine commitment to the safety, development and wellbeing of the children in their care.



## Special People For Special People

The Red Balloon team has a broad range of skills and experience. A majority of the team hold qualified status (NVQ3 or equivalent) and those who are not already qualified are currently working towards a qualification. All staff have access to diverse training opportunities in order to develop themselves as individuals and to achieve continuous improvement within the nursery.

At Red Balloon we try as a matter of principle to employ higher ratios of staff to children than those required by Ofsted. Our philosophy is the more hands on deck the better which means children in our care receive greater individual attention.

We have a policy to avoid using agency staff in order to ensure continuity of care for the children. To this end we have a fantastic support team who are able to assist when our permanent team members are ill or on holiday. Our support team work regularly in the nursery so their faces are

always familiar to the children and they understand fully how we work at Red Balloon.

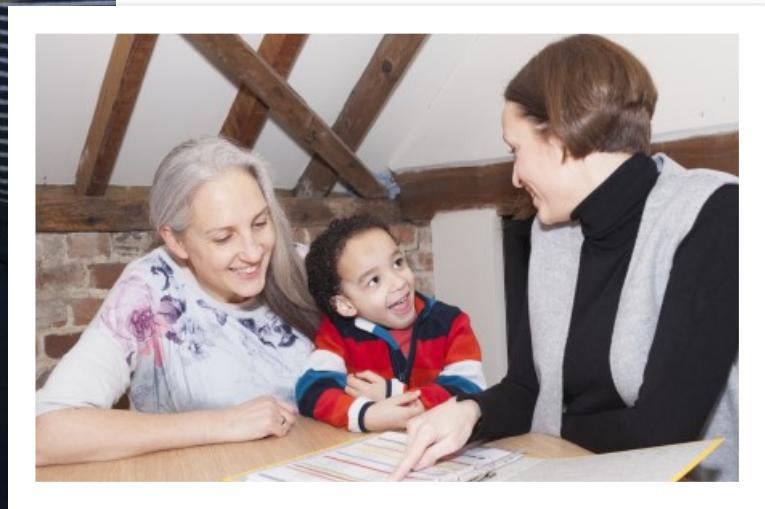
All staff are required to hold a recent first aid qualification and all staff are subject to police, health and reference checks.



At Red Balloon we believe parents are children's first and most enduring educators. We work in close partnership with parents and use parental knowledge and expertise to support the learning opportunities we provide.



# Teamwork Let's work together



We believe that good communication is key to developing good relationships. We operate an open door policy and parents are always welcome to discuss any issues relating to their child or the nursery at any time.



# Teamwork Let's work together



At Red Balloon we use Tapestry, an innovative and interactive online learning journal. Tapestry enables us to record, track and celebrate children's development: this unique journal is shared online with parents, who are able to see special moments and view their child's progress.



Each child is assigned to a key person who has responsibility for monitoring their progress and maintaining development records. We hold regular parents evenings which give you the opportunity to discuss your child's development profile with their key person.

We recognise that leaving a child at nursery for the first time is not easy and can be an unsettling time for both parents and children. We will try to ease this process by offering a complimentary settling in

period for your child which will comprise an unrestricted number of settling in sessions, including an initial introductory visit to your home, which will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's individual needs and routine with their key person.

The need to be kept informed is paramount to the standard of customer care and good quality practice within the nursery. General notices are displayed in the entrance hall and room-specific notices are displayed on the notice boards outside the rooms.

A newsletter is distributed weekly and our popular ClarionCall system enables us to communicate with parents day-to-day by email and text.

Parents are invited to attend various information evenings throughout the year as well as bi-annual Parent Consultation Group forums which give us the opportunity to seek parents' views and to share our plans.

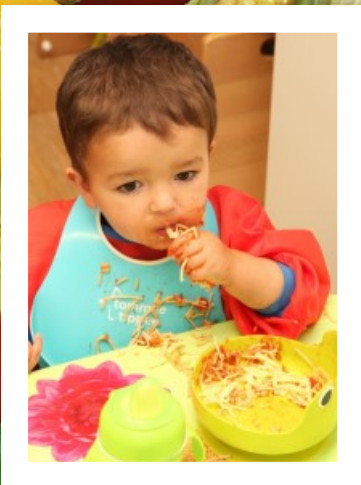
# You Are What You Eat

At Red Balloon we believe children should eat a wholesome, balanced diet.

Our healthy and nutritious meals are home-cooked on site using fresh produce. All our meat and poultry is sourced from local producers and suppliers and is of exceptional quality. We always use free range eggs and organic milk supplied by West Horsley Dairies.



As a nursery we believe that we have an ideal opportunity to help every child eat well, enjoy a varied diet and establish healthy eating habits to take with them into their school years. We follow the Children's Food Trust voluntary guidelines - Eat Better, Start Better - in order to provide healthy, balanced and nutritious food and drink. Encouraging children to eat well and learn about food in their early years not only protects their health when they are young, but also sets the foundations for their future health and wellbeing.



# You Are What You Eat

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKFAST	Cereal selection, toast with spread, apple slices & whole milk	Vanilla yoghurt, bananas, fruit tea, loaf and fruit juice	Hard boiled eggs, wholemeal muffin with spread, pear slices & milk	Cereal selection, croissant, strawberry slices and organic milk	Cereal selection, crumpets, banana slices and organic milk
MORNING SNACK	Rice cakes, bananas & whole milk	Carrot + pepper sticks, breadsticks and organic milk	Oatcakes, soft cheese and strawberry's and organic milk	Wholemeal pitta, tzatziki, cucumber sticks and organic milk	Grapes, cheese cubes and breadsticks with organic milk
LUNCH	Tomato and basil sauce with wholemeal spaghetti. Served with grated cheese	Fish Crumble with new potatoes broccoli and corn.	Roast lamb, roasted new potatoes, cabbage and carrot batons, Yorkshire pudding, mint sauce and gravy	Sweet and sour chicken with rice	Lentil thatch with cauliflower and peas
VEGGIE ALTERNATIVE		Tofu crumble, new potatoes, broccoli and corn	Veggie sausage roast	Edamame sweet and sour vegetables and rice.	
WEANING		Fish in parsley sauce, new potatoes, broccoli and corn	Roast lamb medley	Chicken and vegetable casserole and rice	Lentil casserole, cauliflower and peas
PUDDING	Strawberry yoghurt and strawberry slices	Dried fruit	watermelon	Ginger biscuit with pear slices	Fruit platter
AFTERNOON SNACK	Melba toast, soft cheese and cucumber slices	Mango and pineapple	Apple and banana	Cheese cubes, cherry tomato and breadsticks	Oatcakes, spread and cucumber slices
TEA	Jacket potato with chilli con carne and sour cream	Vegetable frittata with baked beans	Cauliflower and broccoli cheese bake with crispy wholemeal bread	Sticky sausages in a bun with red pepper and cucumber crudities	Sandwich section with carrot sticks and cherry tomatoes
VEGGIE ALTERNATIVE	Jacket potato with veg and bean chilli and sour cream			Sticky vegetable sausages in a bun with red pepper and cucumber crudities	
WEANING	Jacket potato with savoury minced beef	Jacket potato with cheese and beans	Cauliflower and broccoli cheese bake	Sausage hot pot	Tomato and basil pasta bake
PUDDING	Cinnamon swirl	Ice cream and banana slices	Rice crispy cake	Melon and grapes	Plum muffin

Sample Menu

The cultural background and dietary requirements of every child is fully respected and we work with parents to ensure that their child's individual needs are catered for.

At Red Balloon we enjoy mealtimes as happy, social and relaxed occasions. Breakfast is served between 08.00 and 08.30, lunch at 12.00 and tea at 16.30. Children are offered a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon snack comprising for example home-baked biscuits and fruit.

Children are encouraged to try different things and to develop good table manners. We introduce children to tastes of different cultures and encourage them to develop their own culinary skills in regular cooking sessions.

Red Balloon is a tooth-friendly nursery. We promote good dental health by minimising sugar in our menu, offering healthy snack choices and cleaning teeth after meals. Good habits last a lifetime.

We are proud to hold a Food Hygiene Rating of 5, Very Good, the highest achievable score.

The Nest accommodates 12 children aged from 3 to 18 months.

The Nest has an intimate, cherishing atmosphere simply bursting with hugs and cuddles. In The Nest we mirror the routine enjoyed by your child at home thus ensuring a gentle transition from home to nursery.

The children are encouraged to learn through play and are offered a whole host of opportunities to explore through a wide variety of exciting (and sometimes extremely messy!) experiences.



# Growing Spaces

## The Nest



The Nest is fully equipped with en-suite nappy changing facilities, an adjoining milk kitchen and an adjacent sleeping room which provides a tranquil setting for peaceful slumber. A fenced-off garden area accessed directly from the room gives plenty of opportunities for fresh air and safe outdoor fun.



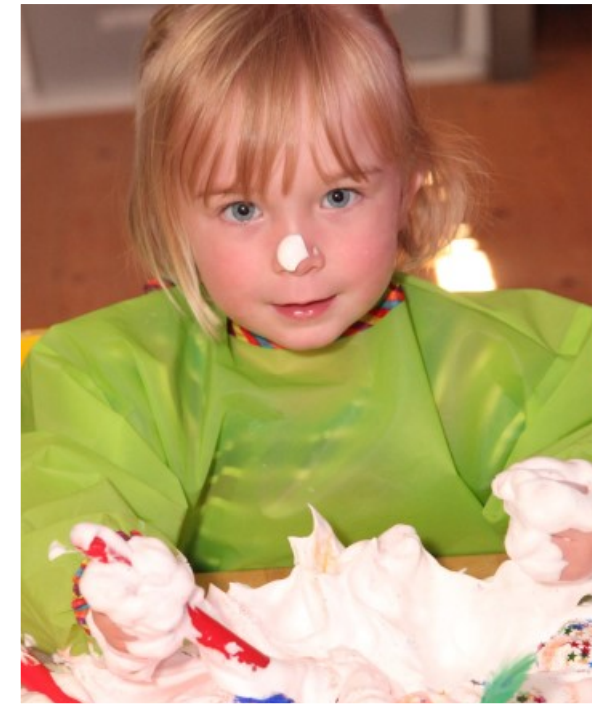


The Dairy accommodates 16 children ranging in age from 18 to 30 months.

The Dairy provides a fun and stimulating playing and learning environment which matches activities to age and ability and allows children to develop at their own pace, to investigate their interests and to play safely.

Children in The Dairy follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. During their time in here we aim to put all the small steps in place to support children to become secure, happy, keen and confident learners. Our carefully designed programme of activities continues to be delivered for the most part through play.

# Growing Spaces The Dairy



The Granary accommodates up to 16 children who continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and four guiding principles shape our delivery of the EYFS:

- Every child is a unique child
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Our carefully designed programme of activities continues to be delivered for the most part through child-initiated play.

During their time in the Granary we aim to put all the small steps in place to support children to become secure, happy, keen and confident learners.



# Growing Spaces The Granary



**The Stables accommodates up to 24 children aged 3 to 5 years, a majority of whom are completing their final year at Ockham prior to Reception year entrance at Big School: children are encouraged to adopt practices and behaviours which will equip them well in preparation for their transition to a school environment.**

Communication and language development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence

and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their coordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Personal, social and emotional development involves

helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

In this age group we also focus increasingly on four specific areas which are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world and Expressive arts and design.



# Growing Spaces The Stables





At Red Balloon we believe children flourish in fresh air so we endeavour to spend as much time as possible outside involving both structured activities and free play.

Our garden offers a host of toddler-friendly activities including sand and water play, climbing, bikes & trikes and a growing area for budding young gardeners.

All rooms enjoy direct access to sectioned outdoor areas enabling all children to have plenty of opportunity to expend some of their boundless energy.

# Growing Spaces Outdoor Play





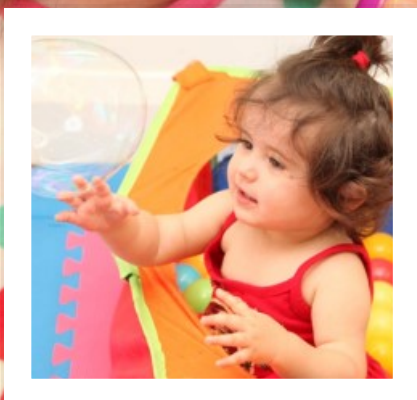
# More Than Just A Nursery...

At Red Balloon we consider ourselves to be more than just a nursery. We welcome parental involvement at every turn and the whole host of events, extra-curricular activities, outings, visits and charity fundraisers which we are involved in throughout the course of the year, make Red Balloon a busy and vibrant community.

Each year we nominate a child-related charity. Throughout the year we organise a series of

fundraising events and activities, all the proceeds of which are donated to our chosen charity. In addition we are proud to sponsor the Gulu Mission in Uganda. (<http://gulumission.org>)

At Red Balloon we offer a diverse selection of extra-curricular activities ranging from Ballet to French, Footie to Drama.



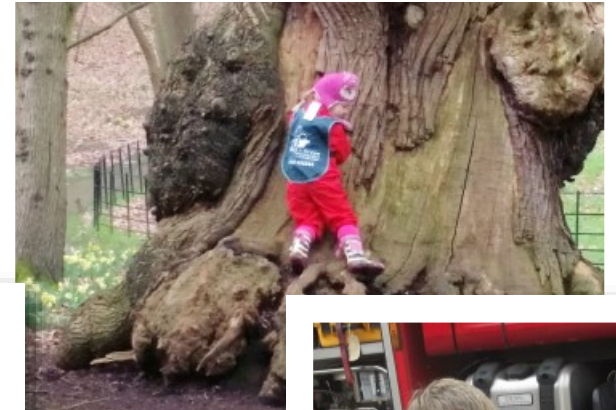


Cuddle-Me-Do

Graduation Day



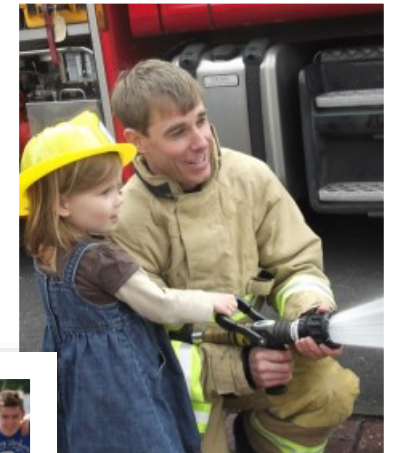
Halloween



Forest School



Pumpkin Picking



Firemen Visit



Sports Day



Our Own Minibus



Christmas

More Than  
Just A Nursery...

# Our Awards

## Investors In People

In February 2018 we were delighted to retain our Investors in People accreditation.

Investors in People is a management framework for high performance through people. This prestigious accreditation is widely recognised as a mark of excellence. At Red Balloon we seek to optimise performance by championing best practice in people management, we achieve our accreditation through a rigorous and objective assessment to determine performance.

**Said our Assessor:** “Red Balloon is a positive, forward looking organisation which continually seeks feedback from both internal and external sources with the aim of continuous improvement.

The leadership team is dynamic and always seeking ways in which to improve the nursery both in terms of facilities and management and staff capabilities. People are proud to work for Red Balloon and appreciate all of the opportunities it offers; this is evidenced by length of service of staff and close relationships within the team.”

## Ofsted Outstanding

We were most recently inspected by Ofsted in October 2018 when we were delighted to be awarded Outstanding in all areas.

Highlights of the report include:

- Children make outstanding progress
- Staff observations on children are insightful
- The delivery of activities by staff is inspirational
- Staff are extremely skilled at keeping children interested and focused
- Children establish exemplary relationships with their designated member of staff
- The settling-in procedure for new children is highly successful
- Baby Room is delightfully tranquil and exceedingly well run
- Staff forge outstanding partnerships with parents
- Managers make excellent use of self-evaluation
- The team all have an exceptionally strong understanding of their responsibilities for protecting children
- Staff receive high-quality supervision and professional development support
- Staff are highly observant and skilled at noting children’s emerging ideas and inspiring them to develop these further
- Staff have an excellent understanding of babies’ interest in exploring and experimenting
- The setting places extremely high priority on promoting outdoor play and learning
- Staff are very well trained to promote good and manage challenging behaviour
- The excellent behaviour of older toddlers is particularly inspiring
- Children are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their learning
- Children use exceedingly well-developed language to express their feelings and ideas



# Learning for Life

## The Red Balloon Way

**At Red Balloon we take a unique child-initiated approach which effectively delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that we must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The learning and development requirements cover the seven areas of learning and development – Communication and language, Physical development, Personal, social and emotional development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world and Expressive arts and design - which shape activities and experiences for children; each area of learning is underpinned by early learning goals, the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five and assessment arrangements are in place to measure progress.

