



Here we discover an unusual new nursery school, learn a mother's first impressions of a Steiner Kindergarten and find out how one local school is embracing the world.

## WESTWARD SCHOOL WALTON-ON-THAMES

Headmistress: Mrs. Patricia Robertson



"from little acorns"

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- \* First rate academic opportunities
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- \* Developing caring and kind students

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AND TO ARRANGE A VISIT

Park Hill School, 8 Queens Road, Kingston Upon Thames  
Tel: 020 8546 5496 Fax: 020 8546 4558  
Email: [park.hill@lineone.net](mailto:park.hill@lineone.net) Website: [www.parkhill.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.parkhill.kingston.sch.uk)

## Welcome to АЗЫКА

For a child to be able to actively communicate in any language, he or she needs to be immersed in this language, talking, learning and playing with both other children and adults. So a language nursery school is an ideal setting for an active knowledge of a second language.

**MARIA GAVRILOVA** tells us about the Russian Language Nursery School, newly opened in Twickenham.

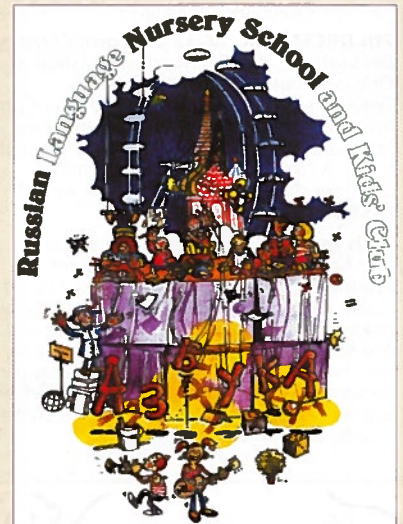
The aim of our school is to give a child an excellent pre-school nursery education together with a solid background in the Russian Language, leading to English/Russian bilingualism. Learning a new language at this age is quick, spontaneous and effective - by the age of 11 it's often too late for a solid grounding in a second language to develop.

The Russian Language Nursery School is for children aged between two and a half and five, whose parents want them to develop language skills in Russian from early childhood. If one or more of the parents speaks Russian at home, so much the better, but this is by no means a prerequisite.

The curriculum is designed to integrate two elements:

- We follow the English education system particularly the early learning requirements for pre-school education, combined with:
- Our own methodology, using Russian pre-school methods and some Montessori activities and practices.

The school uses Russian for 90% of language instructions and care alongside a few English lessons a week.



The school is regularly inspected by Ofsted and follows its standards, guidelines and requirements.

The nursery school is also associated with the Russian Language Kids Club which holds monthly meetings and events. It provides an opportunity for children and parents to socialise, primarily though the Russian language, and has a library plus information centre. The Kids Club is open to all.

The Russian Language Nursery School is situated in Twickenham (closest tube, Richmond) and is open for 5 sessions a week (Monday to Friday). There are a few once-a-week, part-time places available for those who want a very general introduction to Russian. Full-time attendance is advised for maximum benefit. For a brochure and full information, please contact Maria on 0781 001 3042 or email: [bilingualkids2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bilingualkids2000@yahoo.co.uk)

## Why Steiner suits Sophia

One of the first things you notice about The Children's Garden in St Margarets is that there are no brightly coloured plastic toys or dazzling posters on the walls; just plenty of prettily coloured scarves which the children use for dressing up to making a secret playhouse, while all the toys are made from natural materials. In one room, small tables are set out for arts and crafts, a home corner provides a play area equipped with a toy cooker, pots and pans, dolls, pushchairs, story books, table and chairs and along the walls are low shelves filled with baskets of small wooden animals, buttons, cotton reels, etc. A second conservatory-style room, overlook-

