

## **Expressive Arts and Design at Ditton Nursery School**

At our nursery, being creative is all about exploring, taking risks, and having fun! Through indoor and outdoor play, your child will learn to express their ideas, build confidence, and develop their thinking. There are lots of opportunities for your child to share their thoughts and feelings through art, music, dance, and roleplay.

### **Creating with Materials**

In autumn, your child will explore shapes and patterns inspired by Wassily Kandinsky and Yayoi Kusama. In spring they will focus on Henri Matisse's paper cut-outs and outdoor nature art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy and by summer, your child will practise observational skills with Vincent Van Gogh's sunflowers and learn about shape using Paul Klee's designs.

To bring these creations to life, your child will experiment with textures like sand, oats, foam, and twigs using tools like charcoal and neon pens. They will also learn to use glue, tape, hole punches, and scissors, and practice the skills of twisting, tearing, and folding. This hands-on learning flows into 3D modelling, where children build structures out of recycled materials. We also help them build their vocabulary by encouraging them to describe their models as fluffy, bumpy, or smooth.

### **Being Imaginative and Expressive**

Singing, dancing, and storytelling form an integral of our nursery day. We use rhyming games and different pitch ranges to help children find their singing voice and match tones. Children also internalise rhythm through active 'wake and shake' sessions and engage in our 'Key Strings' session which is a fun experience aimed to boost confidence and life experiences.

Movement and dance are used dynamically to help children express big feelings. Your child will use physical gestures and colourful scarves to mirror different emotions, from stomping when the music sounds angry to moving quickly when excited. In our home corner, ordinary cushions become steering wheels and cardboard tubes turn into magic wands. Through outdoor den building and storytelling, children learn to navigate group rules, share, and collaborate with friends. These daily experiences build the confidence your child needs for real-world performances, including singing at our local care home, our Christmas performance and our leaving celebrations.