**Brief Teacher Biographies**

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ruth Martin

Founder, Owner, Director, Headteacher

Qualifications: MA Oxon, MSc Educational Neuroscience, BSc Hons Child Psychology, Qualified Teacher Status, Montessori Diploma, Certificate in Infant Mental Health, Certificate in Early Years Special Educational Needs, Member of British Psychological Society, ACCPH Counsellor and psychotherapist

Ruth has four children and over twenty years teaching experience from nursery throughout primary. She is passionate about emotional wellbeing and the influence of positive and compassionate early years experience for the whole family on future life chances, as part of this she sat on St Albans and District Families First Implementation Group and currently sits on the panel for Local High Needs Funding. She is always looking for something new to learn and in her free time loves anything to do with nature.

Ruth Rawlings (green group)

Senior Leadership Team

Qualifications: BA, Higher Diploma in Education from South Africa, SA Qualified Teacher Status equivalent, Montessori Diploma, Place2Be Mental Health certificate

Ruth has one son and twenty years teaching experience from nursery throughout primary years. She is passionate about outdoor learning and the importance of risk taking and building a child’s ability to make good choices. She loves painting and gardening.

Liane Rowlett (yellow group)

Senior Leadership Team

Qualifications: BA Hons, Early Years Professional Status.

Liane has worked tirelessly in academic and practical situations to become the highly respected Early Years Professional she is. She also has two children of her own and is dedicated to the importance of early years being a time of holistic growth for children, when their natural curiosity and characteristics make them rapid learners that sets them up for school readiness. She loves the cinema and parties.

Donna Brice (orange group)

Senior Leadership Team and Special Needs Co-ordinator

Qualifications: Nursery Nurse, Montessori Diploma, Montessori Education for Autism Certificate, SENCo Certificate.

Donna is a mum to one daughter and has worked in education for more than twenty years. She is evangelical about the value of the individual and the importance of secure attachment and deep confidence built on clear expectations. She has enhanced the lives of many children and their families and receives thanks years after they leave her care for the impact she makes, especially to their wellbeing. She loves reading and time with friends and family.

TEACHING TEAM

Alison (orange group)

Qualifications : BA, Montessori Diploma

Alison joined Artisans after many years as a nursery teacher in both Montessori settings and independent schools. She is passionate about the Montessori ethos and creating stimulating and caring environments that respond to the needs of children.

Claire (blue group)

Qualifications: Montessori Diploma, currently studying for a Level 5 leadership course

Claire has been a Montessori teacher for many years and helped establish Artisans in our first few years before stopping to raise her own children. With her children now a little older, we are delighted to welcome her back. Claire brings fun and laughter, as well as insight and care, to all the children. She is vivacious and compassionate.

Jayne (purple group)

Qualifications: BA, EYT, Montessori diploma

The enjoyment of raising her own children inspired Jayne to change career when she had the opportunity to return to work and she has delighted in the richness early education provides children to explore learning in an integrated way that combines subjects and developments in one experience. She is an insightful observer of behaviours and how they can inform supported development opportunities.

Sheila (purple group)

Qualifications: BA in Early Childhood Studies with Qualified Teacher Status, currently studying for certificate in Early Years Special Educational Needs

Sheila’s curiosity about the learning and development of children is infectious. She brings her fascination to her interactions with the children , making them feel valued and important. There is always fun to be had where Sheila is.

Tess (blue group)

Qualifications: BA, Montessori Diploma, Dance Instructor

Tess is our guru for a child’s perspective; she is always able to see the world through the eyes of each child and tailors the experiences Artisans provides to resonate with each child’s unique interpretations. She also provides movement and dance opportunities for the children bringing her previous expertise for the benefit of our children and teaching the value of inner calm and mindfulness in a busy world.

VITAL SUPPORT TEAM

Lorraine

As a fully qualified chef with many years experience in large commercial kitchens Lorraine is in charge of our delicious lunches. She plans menus with Ruth M and then leads on our food hygiene. She loves involving the children and teaching them the wonders of food production and chemistry.

As a mum of three (two of whom came to Artisans) Niki is naturally drawn into children’s games. She is incredible at channelling their energies and behaviours into positive experiences and building their own self awareness and confidence. Niki is also a professional Artist (please ask her and she will let you know how you can see her work) and yoga teacher.

Caroline (forest school)

Qualifications: BA, QTS, Mont Dip, Forest School leader

Caroline’s children came to Artisans so she has been part of the family for a long time. Caroline is passionate about holistic development and children learning through experience and nature. She brings with her an extraordinary number of skills and we are lucky to have her in our team.

ALL STAFF ARE TRAINED IN SAFEGURDAING BEFORE STARTING. ALL STAFF HAVE FIRST AID TRAINING WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF STARTING. ALL STAFF HAVE BASIC FOOD HYGIENE TRAINING WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF STARTING. ALL SENIOR STAFF HAVE ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

**Safeguarding Leads** are :

Ruth Martin, Donna Brice, Liane Rowlett, Ruth Rawlings

**Special Needs and Inclusion Lead** is

Donna Brice, assisted by Ruth Martin

**First Aiders** – all staff are trained in First Aid