



BALHAM NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Weekly newsletter

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Dear families,

HOW TIME FLIES!

It's amazing to think that there are just two weeks to go before the end of this first term. It feels like yesterday when most of our children and parents/carers were just starting at the school. The children are flourishing and confident and most are well settled, though we know that they will be even more settled and confident next term!

Only one week to go!

A big thank you to those volunteers who have already signed up to help with a stall or setting up for our Winter Fair. We really need a few more volunteers to help on the day. This could be help setting up before the fair, tidying up after or running a stall for an hour. (Don't worry all will be prepared before hand for you).

The sign up sheet is on the right hand side as you go in the side entrance. Any questions please speak to Katy (Mason's mum) in the Front Garden or via the parent's WhatsApp group.



We also need food donations for the International Food Stall. We would be grateful if you could cook/buy some traditional food from your home to share with others at the fair. This could be sweet or savoury! All food donations can be brought into nursery on the day of the fair.

Next week we will be selling Raffle tickets (£1 a ticket) and Lucky Number Auction tickets (£2 a ticket or 3 for £5). For the Lucky Number Auction, you buy a ticket and choose which prize you would like to win by placing your ticket in that box. At the fair, a lucky number will be picked from each box at random. So, please remember to bring change with you next week to be in with a chance of winning some of the amazing prizes kindly donated!

Most importantly, we hope you can join us next Friday to celebrate and raise money for Balham Nursery and Children's Centre!

Safeguarding

It is very important that the only food that is brought into school by families, is fruit for birthdays or snack. Balham Nursery School is a nut free zone and we have children with other food intolerances and allergies. Bringing food in puts other people at risk!



People Games

We play lots of 'People Games' at Balham Nursery! The information below helps to make it clear how this type of play develops your child's interaction and communication skills and gives some top-tips about how to sequence this type of play if you are unsure. Big thanks to Catriona for putting this information sheet together for us!

People Games- You are your Child's Best Toy!

People games are fun, physical games that you can play to help develop a child's interaction and communication. These games don't include toys because 'you' are the fun part of the interaction! They help develop skills of connecting with others, paying attention to others, copying, taking turns in an interaction, waiting for a turn and using sounds/ actions and words as part of the game. This is an important step towards having conversations.

Some ideas for Games

- Interactive songs e.g., Row, Row the Boat, Ring a Ring of Roses
- Tickling games e.g., Round and Round the Garden, This Little Piggy
- Chase, Hide and Seek or Peekaboo
- Spinning or twirling
- Jumping or being swung in a blanket by two adults
- Bouncing games e.g., Horsey, Horsey, Don't You Stop



Why people games are really good for developing language

- It's easier for your child to focus on you. For some children, it can be really difficult to shift attention between a toy and a person, so they just focus on the toy. During a people game, your child only has to focus on you which makes it easier for them to pay attention to the actions, sounds and words you use.
- It's also easier for you to focus on your child because it's just you and your child together. It's also easier to notice and respond to their unique subtle ways of communication.
- People games are played the same way each time and this repetition allows you to use the same words over and over again.
- Children with delayed language can take part in people games. There are many non-verbal opportunities for your child to participate because the games involve actions and movements.
- You can make up your own people games. The best games are often the ones parents make up for their child based on their interests.
- People games are fun! This makes a fun context for learning to communicate.

SPARK – Some ideas of how to organise a game.

Start the same way each time - Name the game and invite your child to play with you by saying the name of the game, e.g. 'Let's play tickles.' If possible, do an action when you say the name of the game e.g., put your hands in a tickling position which helps the child understand your words. Starting the game in the same way each time also helps your child understand your words and they can then begin to know what to expect.

Plan your child's turn – Think about a moment in the game when your child can join in in some way. Maybe they can show you that they want more of the game by moving their body, looking at you or reaching. Perhaps they might make a word or sound. More verbal children might say a key phrase during the game.

Adjust the routine so your child can take a turn - You can adjust the game by pausing at a key moment to let your child participate. Most games have a high point e.g., when you fall down during Ring a Ring of Roses or when you tickle during 'This Little Piggy.' Pausing right before the high point builds excitement and encourages your child to participate so that the game can continue. You can encourage your child to participate by giving a cue or hint e.g., by leaning close, opening your eyes wide, using a gesture or action to remind your child what to do or asking, 'Do you want more tickles?'

Repeat the same actions, sounds & words. This repetition helps your child know what's coming next and begin to learn the words that go along with each part of the game.

Keep the end the same. Let your child know that the game has ended by saying and doing the same thing each time you play. The consistent end of the game also teaches them a way of eventually ending the game themselves. Some games have a natural ending but with other games you may need to say a phrase e.g. 'jumping finished!'

Article from the Hanen Centre, Ontario, Canada.

Yogabugs Virtual

We are very lucky to have an opportunity (funded by Yogabugs) to join 'Yogabugs Virtual', free for a year. For the nursery, this includes 30 yoga and mindfulness classes that we can use with the children as well as yoga and mindfulness sessions for staff. Yoga, relaxation and mindfulness sessions can help to reduce stress and anxiety and also to improve mental health.

We are very happy to tell you that parents also get access to this service, please see the attached letter in this weeks email for more information about how you can join in!



Dates for your diary

Term Dates 2022		
	First Day	Last Day
Autumn 1	6th September	21st October
Half Term	24th October	28th October
Autumn 2	1st November	16th December

Please note: The last day is morning school only. The children will have a party from 9 -11:25. All children are invited to attend in the morning.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

For Parents and Carers of children born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 please remember to **submit your application for Wandsworth primary schools by the 15th January 2023 deadline. Applications received after this date will be counted as late.** If you would like any assistance completing the form online, please do speak a member of school staff and we can arrange a time to do this in school.

Community Music Group

The last after-school Community Music Group will be on the 8th December from 3:15 to 3:45.

On the 15th December there will be two sessions on for parents to attend with their children, at 11-11:30am or 1-1:30pm. Please let Gema know in the office if you would like to attend.

Remember we always like to hear about children's interests at home or special events. Please feel free to share a photo by emailing it to: admin@balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk