

January 2024

# Balham Nursery School

## Family Newsletter



**Hello Mums, Dads and Carers** Welcome back to nursery, we are now in the Spring term and enjoying the winter activities that this time of year brings. We are settling new starters in both front class and back class and it is a joy to see how the current cohort help with this, showing new children what to do and being curious about them and developing relationships. We love meeting new parents too and hope that you are settling as much as the children are.

For our staff-training day in January, we focused on bringing more maths in the nursery. This was through exploring the value of number through songs, rhymes and stories and then looking at opportunities to develop children's spatial reasoning. The team have shown some excellent creativity in bringing number and problem solving into our plans. Here are some examples of what the children have learned.

### Placing and arranging and block play



This collection of dolls house furniture is thoughtfully laid out on the large blocks in front class. Child was so proud of her layout.

This took a lot of deep thought and practice, working together. One child builds with the blocks and another mirrors the work. How well they worked on this.



Making enclosures for the three little pigs and one for myself! This shows excellent spatial awareness.



## Following instructions and problem solving



Following instructions to tie a knot is a challenge. Well done for the perseverance!

**Chatterbox** Last term we had a wonderful response from parents about the chatterbox activity. The children who got involved felt greatly valued as staff and children learned so much about what is important to them at home. Please keep sending them in – look at the chatterbox display in the covered area for a reminder and to pick up a letter for information.

**Gender Action Project** We are working with Kings College London on a block play project re gender and gender stereotypes. If your child is involved, we will be in touch regarding parental permissions.

**Warm winter clothing** Thank you for providing suitable outdoor clothing for your child. Again, we appreciate your understanding when a hat or coat goes missing – and we do usually find them and reunite them with the owner the next day. **Remember to label each item of your child's clothing** (there is marker pen on the parent noticeboard in the covered area, as you come in). Remember another child may have the same hat, coat, scarf or gloves as yours so putting a name on the items really helps!

**New funding arrangements for two year olds** Applications are now open for eligible working parents of 2-year-olds to receive 15 hours free childcare, starting from April 2024. It is the first step in the Government's promise to expand the 30 hours free childcare scheme for working parents. You can find out more about your eligibility and how to apply by visiting Childcare Choices at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) . Please let Milena in the office know you are applying and you must share your code with us once you have received it.

### Health Update from the NHS

Cases of measles are rising across England, including among children. It's an infection that spreads very easily and for some people can cause serious problems. There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell. The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is one of the [routine childhood vaccinations](#), so most children are already vaccinated against measles. If your child has received both doses of the vaccine, they are unlikely to have the virus. Talk to your GP or Health Clinic to book an appointment.



## Family Hub Activities - virtual workshops this term to support your child's learning and development

### All Mondays 1:30-2:30pm

5<sup>th</sup> Feb -your child's speech and language, understanding behaviour,

12<sup>th</sup> Feb – keeping your child's teeth healthy

4<sup>th</sup> March - How to create a healthy sleep routine

18<sup>th</sup> March Introducing solids

**For more information contact Hannah**

**Email: [Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.skaife@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk) Call: 07974 586467**

**Look out for the flyers on the parent noticeboard**

## Children's Centre update

**Social Worker in Schools** Our Social worker in school Paige is running some well-being sessions for parents in January and February. Please sign up and pick some useful tips and ideas. See the posters around school or ask in the office for dates of the sessions. From January, she will be at Balham on Thursday mornings, if you would like to pop up and see her.

**One and two and a half year checks** Our local health visiting team are in Balham Nursery on Thursdays and Fridays. Please book through your local health clinic.

**Warmer Welcome Offer** As the nights continue to be cold, the Council have relaunched the Community Spaces Warmer Welcome offer, opening up our family hubs and children's centres to ensure families have a safe, warm space to spend time in, connect with others, and access free, nutritious food. Families throughout the week can drop in to the following centres where they can get free breakfast, hot lunch and a packed takeaway meal with no referral needed:

- Yvonne Carr Family Hub (2 Thessaly Road, SW8 4HT) – offer available Tues – Fri, 9am - 5pm
- Eastwood Children's Centre (166 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4EU) – offer available Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm
- Smallwood Children's Centre (Smallwood Primary School, Smallwood Road, SW17 0TW) – offer available Mon – Fri, 8.30pm – 4.15pm

Official Evening meals are also being provided to young people with SEND at the George Shearing Centre (Mon – Wed, 4pm – 8pm via Unique Youth and Generate) as well

**Update to the nursery school changes** By now you will be in receipt of information about some forthcoming changes to Balham Nursery School for September. Do email [admin@balham-nursery@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:admin@balham-nursery@wandsworth.gov.uk) or leave a note in the office. Kate, our Executive Head teacher and Clive the Chair of Governors will be happy to take your questions. Please be assured the nursery will continue as usual, with the children's learning and development at the heart of everything we do.

## Dates for the term

Parent coffee morning on Numbers in Everyday Life with Jo (home learning project)	TBC – look out for flyers in the nursery
Lunar new year celebrations	Week beginning 5th February
Half term	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter holidays	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April

**Staff updates** Lucia (back class) is on her teacher training practice for seven weeks and Catriona is doing an excellent job covering her post during this time. Ruth will be away for the month of February, for family reasons, and Kate (Exec Head) will be in Balham to support the leadership during this time. Both Lucia and Ruth will be back in Balham on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**And finally ...** please remember to bring in your weekly fruit donation for our rolling snack. Thank you, every little helps.



## Ruth, Anne and all the staff at Balham Nursery School

**Keeping in touch – Parent Hub** A free app that helps you keep up to date with what is going on in school. Download the app, choose 'Join a school', and enter @BNS.