

October 2023

Balham Nursery School

Family Newsletter



Hello - it has been such a joy to get to know the children and families this half term. We have had the summer returners back to the nursery followed by new children across front and back classes. The personal social and emotional development of the children has been particularly strong, and their wellbeing is high. The positive relationships support the development of self-regulation and we see the consistency of staff responding sensitively to their needs, so they can feel safe, relaxed and valued.

Play and Learning opportunities We know that children learn best by following their own interests, supported by knowledgeable, well-informed adults. So the environment is set up to support this. Here are some examples of what we have seen in the first half term.



Observes sycamore keys floating
from the climbing frame to the ground (UW)



Having an adventure on the rope climb(PD)



Exploring properties of water
in back class (M,UW)



Focusing on designing a construction with
Duplo (M,EAD)

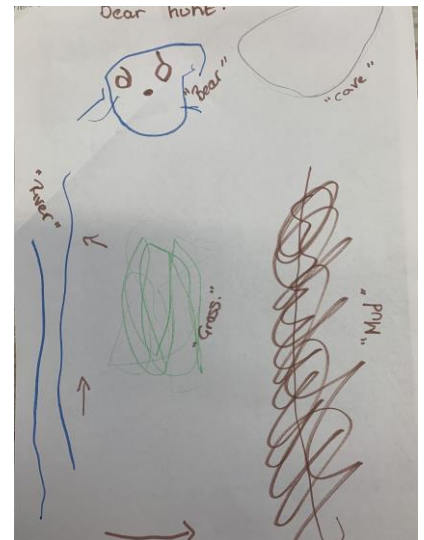
Autumn and warm clothing Please ensure your child has a warm coat for the garden as the temperatures start to drop. We do enable children to play outside in all weathers, as there are so many learning opportunities created by wind, rain, sunshine, rainbows and other experiences. Make sure you have a spare set of clothes in a bag for your child too, just in case they get a bit wet or messy through their play - indoors or outdoors! There are nursery wellies available, or you may prefer to send in your child's own pair (make sure they are named). Thank you for helping with this.



October is Black History Month with a focus on 'Saluting our Sisters'. Have a look at the display in the covered way, we have included some black female authors. It might give some inspiration for your reading list.

Covered Way (where the children come in) We are working on developing this as our library area. If you would like to send us a picture of your child reading/looking at a book, with an adult or on their own, or in an unusual place, we would love to make a collection. Add a comment about something your child said about their book. Please send your pictures to admin@balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk

A favourite nursery story We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen is a popular core book in the nursery. Ibbby drew an amazing map of the swishy swashy grass, the deep cold river and other parts of the adventure. He included a picture of the cave and the bear with 'two big goggly eyes.'



Winter fair - a Friday in December - we need your help The Parents, Staff and Families Association PSFA starts to grow at this time of year. If you would like to get involved in our first event this term please speak to Katy (back class) and she will link you together with other interested parents. We normally have a winter fair that raises valuable funds to support little extras for the children eg cooking materials, new resources, so please do offer to help. It is a great way to get to know other families in the nursery too. Updates to follow.

Parent coffee mornings 1st, 15th, 29th November Come and meet other parents in the family room - if you would like us to share topics of interest about children's learning and development please let Ruth or Anne or your key person know and we can come and share information/discuss issues with you. Or you are free to use this as a social space to relax and make connections.

Can you look after Sparkledogs, Fluffyanna or Jamie this half term? Holiday homes for the guinea pigs and tortoise required - please speak to the class teams if you can help out. The children have been learning so much about the animals this half term - the food they eat, how much they drink, how they move. One guinea pig had a trip to the vets with Fiona and have observed the care and concern for making sure he is clean and well again.

Nursery spaces We are full for two year olds now and still have a few spaces for 3-4 year olds. Tell friends and connections in the community if they would like to come for a show round and learn more about what we offer. Application forms are on the Balham Nursery School Website.

Children's centre update We are pleased to let you know that, from 2nd November, the Health Visiting team will be in the family room on Thursdays and Fridays, to undertake one year and two year progress checks.

Reminders

Attendance is really important to support children's learning and development. If for any reason your child cannot come to nursery please ring Milena in the office to let us know. We are aiming to improve all round attendance this year.

Fruit Please donate a few pieces of fresh fruit each week, to contribute to the children's snack times across the week. There is a basket near the front door where you can place your contributions or just hand them into the class when you come in. Thank you, every little helps

Dates for the term:

School applications meeting (with Anne)	Wednesday 18th October 9:15 and 1pm
Reception children returning (tea party)	Wednesday 18th October, 3:30pm
Half term	(M-F) 23rd-27th October
Staff INSET - nursery closed	Mon 30th October
Nursery reopens	Tuesday 31st October
Parent coffee mornings	Weds 1st, 15th, 29th November 9:15am
Winter fair	A Friday in December 4-5:30pm
Winter/christmas holidays	Fri 22nd December- Tues 9th January 2024

Have a wonderful half term

Ruth and Anne