

November 2023



Balham Nursery School

Family Newsletter

Hello Mums, Dads and Carers

There is lots of news to share as Anne and I start to become more familiar with the nursery. The children are settled now and enjoying playing alongside each other and with their older peers. One of the benefits of the mixed age classes is how the younger children look up to and learn from their older friends. We also notice the care and concern the older children have for the younger children, showing them where to find things, sharing their skills and helping if they need it.

Did you know we are a Maintained Nursery School? Balham Nursery School is part of the Wandsworth Federation for Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS). What makes us different to other nurseries? We are a local authority school and our funding is controlled by the Local Authority. Nursery schools were set up over a century ago to provide early education and care to balance health and wellbeing with education. Although an early education provider we are legally constituted as a school. Like maintained schools we have a Head teacher/Deputy, a governing body, delegated budget and at least one teacher with qualified teacher status (QTS) and a qualified QTS teacher as SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). MNS are viewed as centres of excellence and their role is often seen wider than just delivering early years' provision. This might include how we value the voice of the child, the use of outdoors, and support for children with SEND plus other models for good practice. This year at Balham we are supporting Kings College students in a Gender Action Project and take opportunities to engage in research whenever we can.

Chatterbox We have had some wonderful responses from you and your child regarding the Chatterbox experience. This has provided a rich time for children to share items from home that are important to them. The children have felt greatly valued and we have learned more about them as they 'chatter' about their selected toys with an adult and some peers. Keep sending your chatterboxes in!

Diwali This month we celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of light



The children made some Rangoli patterns in flour and Coconut Ladoo sweets, then ate the sweets.

Autumn and warm clothing Thank you for providing good clothing and a spare set of clothes for your child. The children love the garden in the autumn and as you know are likely to get a bit muddy and wet in their learning and play. There has been a lot of leaf sweeping and clearing this week, a truly purposeful and fun activity.

Winter fair Wednesday 20th December 4:30-6:30pm Thank you to all the parents who have helped so far with making a poster, meeting on Wednesdays, collecting donations and offering to help on the day. Look out for some sign-up sheets in the covered area – your help is much needed. Don't forget to make a dish for the ever popular International Food Stall.

For the winter fair please remember it will be **CASH only**. All proceeds will go towards extra items for the school.

Cake sale Wednesday and Thursday morning, 6th and 7th December to help raise money for prizes for the fair. Support us by making or buying cakes as a contribution and then buy some more to take home!

Parent coffee mornings have been taking place on Wednesdays this month and I would like to extend a big thank you for the support you have provided. There will be another coffee morning on 29th – do come along, all welcome!

Children's centre update One year and two and half year checks are now taking place in our family room on Thursdays and Fridays. Please book through your local health centre for an appointment.

E-safety (Safeguarding) Is your child safe online?

If your child is using a phone or a tablet or any other device it is possible that they could accidentally see something inappropriate.

The **NSPCC** recommend: Always using parental controls.

Talk to your child about what they are watching on-line

Set time limits - you can set these on your device so that your child has a good balance of online and other activities

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#) there is lots of information for parents on this website.

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, as it really makes a difference to children's learning and social interactions.

Fruit Remember to bring a few pieces of fresh fruit each week, to contribute to the children's snack times across the week. It really makes a difference. We have had mango, bananas, apples and pears this week – what other fruit could you bring?

Flash Sale – sweatshirts and T shirts We have a few of each to sell. Nearly new sweatshirts £5 and brand new t shirts £5. All money raised goes towards items for the children in nursery. Hurry, there is limited stock!

Dates for the term:

Parent coffee mornings	Weds 29th November, 6th December 9:15am
Winter cake sale	Weds 6th and Thurs 7th December
Christmas tree arrives	Mon 11th December
Parent/teacher conferences	Week of 11 December – sign-up sheets in the covered area
School Christmas dinner for children	Wednesday 13th December
Winter fair	Wednesday 20th December 2023 – sign up sheets in the covered area
Winter/Christmas holidays	Fri 22nd December- Tues 9th January 2024

Keeping in touch – Parent Hub

Have you signed up to the Parent Hub yet? It is a free app that helps you keep up to date with what is going on in school. Download the app and choose 'Join a school' and enter @BNS.

Ruth and Anne

Co-deputy Heads

