

December 2023

# Balham Nursery School

## Family Newsletter



**Hello Mums, Dads and Carers** It has been a wonderful term at Balham Nursery School. The children's learning has come on so well, and each of them are planned for according to their own needs and interests. We know you have been meeting the teachers recently to talk about your child's progress and it is affirming to hear that there is a shared partnership with you in celebrating the successes and creating shared priorities for what comes next.

**Winter activities** This half term the children have had lots experiences relating to the winter season. In front class we chopped vegetables and made some delicious soup in the soup maker. Jo read the story of stone soup and someone made a connection and popped a stone in his bowl!



**Camp Fire** We had a bonfire in the garden (all safely done) and Frances our music therapist sang songs with us! We had a really lovely time and lots of children will remember this long after they leave Balham!

Children use the charcoal from the fire for some mark making on the hard surface in the garden – great recycling!



**Bird food** In back class we have made some bird food to keep the birds well fed and warm over the winter. Can you see the birds in the sky in the third photo? This was taken by one of our nursery children, as the birds swept in for their food.



## Here is a National Trust bird food recipe to try at home

- Hard fat, such as lard or suet, at room temperature
- Handful of birdseed
- Handful of unsalted peanuts
- Grated cheese or raisins
- Dry leftovers like oats or bread
- Old, clean recyclable yoghurt pots or coconut shells for a plastic-free alternative
- String
- Small stick, roughly 7–12cm long

This will make one to four fat cakes depending on size.

**Warm winter clothing** Thank you for providing suitable outdoor clothing for your child. Also we appreciate your understanding when a hat or coat goes missing – and we do always find them and reunite them with the owner the next day!

## Winter fair Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 4:30-6:30pm

It's nearly here! Lots of help has been going on behind the scenes, so please come and support this important social event, meet other families and have some fun. Sign up to volunteer if you can (sheet in covered area). For the winter fair please remember it will be **CASH only**. All proceeds will go towards extra items for the school.

**Cake sale** you raised £92 towards the PSFA fund – thank you so much for your generosity.

**Flash Sale – sweatshirts and T shirts** We have very few of each left to sell. Nearly new sweatshirts £5 and brand new t shirts £5. All money raised goes towards items for the children in nursery. Grab one while you can!



**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.

**Safeguarding** Did you know there is lots of information on the NSPCC website which can support you as a parent with your mental health and well-being? *"Changes to our mental health can sometimes affect children and their well-being. They may pick up on your anxiety or low mood. This doesn't mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain them using phrases like, "It's ok to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-up's get big feelings it's not your fault"* ( NSPCC)

Website for more information [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting)

## Children's Centre update

**Social Worker in Schools** Our Social worker in school Paige is running some well-being sessions for parents in January. 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 get colder, the Council have relaunched the Community Spaces our 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

## Dates for the term:

Winter fair	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 – signup sheets in the covered area
Winter/Christmas holidays	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December- Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Half term	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Easter holidays	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April

**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 and choose 'Join a school' and enter @BNS.

**Reminder 30 hour code** for your 30 hour funded offer of early education and care, remember you must apply each term – **so put in your application by 31<sup>st</sup> December** if you need this for January. Visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/30hours](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/30hours) or [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

**We hope you have a wonderful holiday, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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