

May 2024

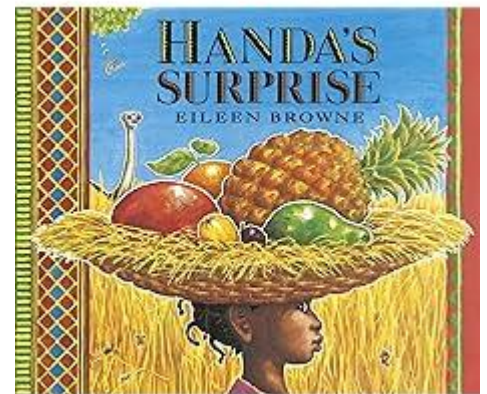


# Balham Nursery School

## Family Newsletter

**Hello Mums, Dads and Carers** Welcome to our May newsletter. As ever it has been a busy month, with children embedding their learning in all areas of the EYFS curriculum. Do have a look at the curriculum progression chart in the main reception area so you can see how the curriculum helps your child develop. Most of our planning is 'reflective' which means we plan on the children's interests and fascinations and we are responsive to daily and weekly need. Our planning is shaped by time of year, seasons, celebrations and other events and covers the seven areas of learning.

**Trip to Polka Theatre** to see Handa's Surprise will take place this Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you so much to the many parents of 3 and four year olds, who are meeting us there and/or accompanying us to the theatre. Final details of the journey, timings and other key information will be provided before we go. In preparation we have been reading the story of Handa's Surprise, have shared with the children all the real fruits and practised some drama skills, acting out the movements of the animals. There have been a lot of tangerines in the nursery this week!



Do try and read the story with your child this week. You are welcome to borrow a copy of the book from nursery. Here is a Youtube link to the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrANbAjnQgM>

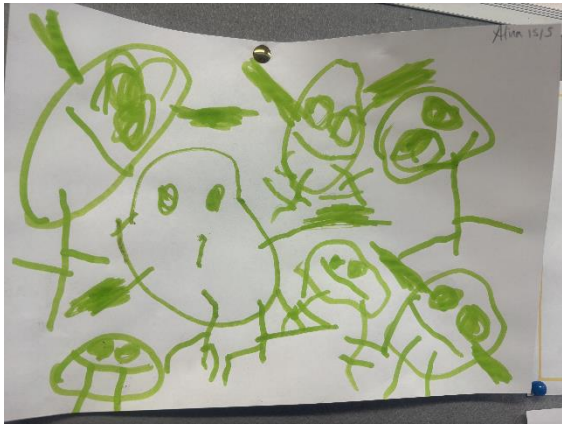
For our two year olds, we will aim to find another outing before the end of term.

**The chicks have hatched** It has been so exciting to have the Living Eggs Company bring us eggs to hatch. We had nine successful hatchings within just a day or two them arriving.



Number	Name
1	Edna Brown
2	Alfred
3	Bob
5	Max
6	Paul
7	Lucy
8	
9	Alfred
10	Alfred

The children made a chart to guess which eggs would hatch first. Number 9 was the winner.



There have been some wonderful representational drawings of our chicks, all posted onto the front class display board. Please take a look.

**Interesting fact. Did you know that male chicks are yellow and female chicks are orange?**

**Awe and wonder at Balham Nursery** We had great fun with a science experiment this month. Look at all those faces, enjoying the amazing erupting volcano.



If you want to have a try at home click on this link to get you started:  
<https://www.kindercare.com/content-hub/articles/2016/february/exploding-volcanos-in-our-centers-we-love-science> There are plenty of other recipes on the internet to try.

We have been talking about the life of a volcano, sharing pictures and doing lots of pictures. Of course, the real lava is red hot rather than blue so we called our experiment the fizzy fountain.

## Health and Safety reminder – No parking on the yellow zig zags

Do NOT park on the yellow zig zags outside the school. There are there to keep all our children safe. It only takes a few minutes to park up the road so remember the safety of the children comes first. We have asked local parking attendants to patrol the area at key times for drop off and pick up as a deterrent.

**We are NOT closing the school** Following an informal meeting with a couple of parents we would like to reassure everyone that Balham Nursery School is not closing and we are looking forward to welcoming back all our returners in September. The Local Authority are committed to keeping the school open. We will be in touch with you all individually about plans for September and also arrange a Q and A session after half term.

**General parenting tips are on our website** Self-regulation, supporting positive behaviour, emotion coaching, biting, sleep routines and other topics plus information on particular needs. Do take a look and let us know how it has helped, or if you would like any other information to be added. Visit the website <https://balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk/> and go to the Learning for Parents tab.

**Safety in the home** Did you know you can buy this wall chart for just £1 to remind you and your children about keeping safe at home? Available from The Child Action Prevention Trust <https://capt.org.uk/shop/one-step-ahead-wallchart/>

**One Step Ahead: keeping your child safe at home (0-24 months)**

**I might FALL...**  
 0-3 months ...when you carry me. **Clear toys away so you don't trip.**  
 0-9 months ...if I roll off the bed. **Change my nappy on the floor.**  
 6-24 months (and over) ...from my highchair or pram. **Use a three point harness.**  
 ...if I climb the stairs. **Use safety gates.**  
 ...out of the window. **Move things I might climb on away.**  
 ...out of my cot if I climb on my cot toys. **Take big toys out.**

**I might SUFFOCATE or get STRANGLER...**  
 0-12 months ...in duvets and pillows. **Don't use them on my bed.**  
 10-24 months (and over) ...as blind or curtain cords. **Tie up blind or curtain cords so there's no hanging loop.**

**I might get POISONED...**  
 7-24 months (and over) ...if I put medicine in my mouth. **Put them out of my reach.**  
 10-24 months (and over) ...if I drink cleaning products. **Keep them out of my reach and sign. Ideally locked away.**

**I might DROWN...**  
 0-24 months (and over) ...in only 5 cm of water. **Don't leave me alone in the bath.**  
 10-24 months (and over) ...in garden ponds or paddling pools. **Don't leave me alone near them.**

**I might CHOKE...**  
 0-8 months ...if you prop me up to feed. **Hold me when I feed.**  
 6-24 months (and over) ...as food that's too big or an odd shape. **Please cut it up small.**  
 ...as small objects, like coins. **Keep them out of my reach.**

**I might get BURN...**  
 0-18 months ...on hot drinks. **Put me down before you pick up yours.**  
 0-24 months (and over) ...if you put hot water in the bath first. **Always put the cold in first.**  
 4-24 months (and over) ...if I touch your hot hair straighteners. **Keep them straight and tuck out of my reach.**  
 7-24 months (and over) ...if I grab hot drinks, pots or kettles. **Keep them out of my reach.**

**We might have a FIRE...**  
 Check our smoke alarms are working.  
 Plan how we'll escape in a fire and practise what we should do.

**Timeline of milestones:**  
 Birth: I can lift my head, I can wriggle and kick.  
 3 months: I can roll over, reach for things and put things in my mouth.  
 5 months: I can crawl, crawl and stand with help and sit up on my own.  
 8 months: I can sit up, stand with help and pull myself up on furniture.  
 9 months: I can walk with help and stand on my own.  
 10 months: I can pick up small things and put them in my mouth.  
 11 months: I can walk with help and stand on my own.  
 12 months: I can walk with help and stand on my own.  
 13 months: I can walk with help and stand on my own.  
 18 months: I like to bathe you and do what you do.  
 24 months: I can whisper like you.

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**Funding arrangements for two year olds** are available for eligible working parents of 2-year-olds to receive 15 hours free childcare, starting from April 2024. It's 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.

## Usual reminders... Please bring

Fruit donations each week towards the children's snacks

Nappies and wipes for those who need them

Spare clothes (just in case of accidents or enthusiastic play)

(You can label your own items with a pen, specially attached to the parent noticeboard, this really helps us all.)



## Have a few minutes to spare?

Please ask about volunteering opportunities in the nursery. We would particularly welcome some parents to come and share books and stories with the children.

## Dates for the term

<b>Polka theatre trip</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May save the date</b>
<b>Eco week in nursery</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June</b>
<b>May Half term</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May</b>
<b>June inset <b>cancelled</b></b>	<b>Was 3<sup>rd</sup> June (school now open)</b>
<b>Last day of term for children</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>

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

3<sup>rd</sup> June The Power of Positive Parenting Dr Soila Sindiyo

17<sup>th</sup> Jun Getting Ready for Reading in Reception Tara Coffin (Learn2Love2 Read)

1<sup>st</sup> July Learning through Play

15<sup>th</sup> July Toilet Training

**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 and round the nursery**

### Children's Centre update

**Social Worker in Schools** Our Social worker in school Paige Adams will be in the nursery school on Tuesday afternoons this term. Let us know if you would like to meet with 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.

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