

July 2024

Balham Nursery School

Family Newsletter



Hello Mums, Dads and Carers Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. After all the ups and downs that this year has brought for Balham, we have reached the end. It is amazing to see how the children have grown and progressed in their learning, some are moving on to reception, some to nursery classes where older siblings attend and some who are staying with us. It is a time of transition for all of us, children, families and staff.



1st-5th July

This was a huge success over the week.



Recycle and reuse day Children learned to sort objects that can be recycled, using hoops to classify plastic, card, glass, food



No paper day: Painting in puddles! Large-scale activities such as this are especially good for younger children as they can make big movements that develops their arm and



On 'No Paper Day' children learnt that reducing paper use helped to save trees. One child found a leaf to paint on instead of using paper!



Saving sea creatures. After reading 'Duffy's Lucky Escape', the children re-enacted the story by saving the sea creatures from the rubbish in the water

Welcome to the new Head teacher – Natasha Crabbe



We are delighted to introduce you to the new Head teacher for September. She is an experienced Nursery School/Early Years Leader, with an earlier career as a social worker. Anne and I will be working with Natasha over the summer holidays to ensure a smooth transition for her and for your children. We are confident she will be a great advocate for the nursery school and work towards building this important community resource for the families.

Balham Nursery School be open for returners on Wednesday 4th September.

Please bring your children in just for the morning in that first week, Weds-Friday as staff will be doing home visits for new starters in the afternoons. Thank you for your understanding.

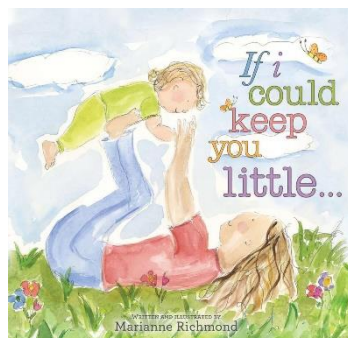


Saying goodbye To staff It is always difficult to say goodbye and as you know a number of key staff are leaving this term. Thank you for all your kindness and support this year for the staff, and the lovely farewell messages we are receiving. We wish Lucia every success in her new role as a teacher, and others in future opportunities. We know they will carry the practices here into new roles, spreading the success of the Balham way.

.... And to children Equally the end of each year is a time mixed with joy to see the children's progress and sadness that they will no longer be with us. The children going to reception are ready for the next stage of their education and we are sure they will step into school with confidence, self regulation and a keenness to learn. They have built some great foundations at Balham Nursery School.

Here is a bedtime story to watch with your children, called 'If I could keep you little.' It is read by Marlis who works on the social gift of language. How to allow your children to move on.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nq_063ickr8



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.

Children’s Centre Support over the Summer Holidays If you need advice, support and guidance over the summer break, please contact your local children's centre. Email: childrenscentres@wandsworth.gov.uk

Franciscan and Balham Centres, call or text on 07866 123 708 / 07866131204

Smallwood and Fayland Centres, call or text on 07813 542 856 /07929874341

Transitioning to primary school is a big change for children and their families.

Coping with change to primary school as a family

- **Don’t avoid it** – draw pictures and tell stories about what might happen to make it fun and more familiar.
- **Talk about feelings** – describe what happens when you have different feelings, including worry. Do you have butterflies in your tummy? Are you tense? Explain that nerves can help us focus and get ready.
- **Look back** – chat about how you’ve coped with changes in the past, like moving house or having a baby. You can do it again!
- **Practice how to stay calm** - this could include taking slow, deep breaths together.

Here are some online links you might find helpful:

Place2Be <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/getting-ready-to-start-primary-school/>

Mentally healthy schools <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/2958/mentally-healthy-schools-change-toolkit-primary.pdf>

Dates for Autumn term

Staff inset	2nd and 3rd September
Children return	4th September – mornings only
Home visits for new starters	4th-6th September - afternoons
New starters	Dates to be confirmed with individual families
Half term	28th Oct-1st Nov
Staff inset (school closed)	Monday 4th November

Anne, Ruth and all the staff at Balham Nursery School