

Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre

Newsletter - Autumn 2014 Issue 1



WELCOME TO BNSCC!

A very warm welcome to the new school year. We hope you had a wonderful summer and have settled in to your new nursery routine. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, children and staff for a wonderful start to the year.

This is the first of six newsletters you will receive during the school year. We try to share information with you this way rather than sending too many letters or emails. Inevitably there will be detail for some events that will be sent out as additional to the half termly newsletter.

In future each newsletter will be emailed to you if you have given us your email address and will also be posted on our website (www.balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk).

It will always be available as a paper copy for anyone who would like it, and everyone should receive a paper copy this first time.

We really do like to have your feedback about what we do and how we do it, so please always feel you can say what you think. We hope we are approachable and you are comfortable to have a word with any one of us. We also have parents/carers forums throughout the year and these are integrated with the Wednesday morning 'Rise and Shine' drop in sessions in the Family Room which you are all welcome to come along to. Please pop in; Liz Wards will be there to welcome you.

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

Well, for all of them, this is a new venture! Our returning children, which includes those who started with us as two year olds, are getting used to 'their' nursery without the children they had last year and with a growing number of new children.

Our new children have everything to get used to; new nursery environment and routines and for some their very first time in a nursery. Then there are new adults and a new peer group which is larger than many will have had before. Clearly really hard work for them, and they show this in their very individual ways.

Tears, distress, unsettled or confused behaviour are minimised when the parent can take their **child's needs** as the starting point for settling them into their nursery year. The year goes all too rapidly but we hope you can share our passion for nursery as a really vital time in a child's education and future.

Punctuality helps: Arriving on time, when the side door is open, really helps your child to settle, as does collecting on time at the end of the session (11.25-11.30am and 3.10-3.15pm). We don't invite parents in before the end of the session as children are in story groups around the nursery and it is disruptive to have any movement around nursery at that time. Please speak with your key person if you have any worries about arriving on time or collecting at these times, or about any aspect of your child's settling.

Clothing: remembering a change (or more if necessary) of clothes will help and also trying to be relaxed about toileting accidents. This will ease in time and the staff team are very focussed on reminding and supporting children. Easy to handle clothing is useful, and clothing will get grubby when children are at school; this is definitely a place where 'mess happens' as an essential part of children's learning and sometimes paint, glue or mud will find its way onto clothes! A useful strategy is to avoid precious clothing and aim for older, sturdy clothes that you won't feel too upset about if they get messy.



You can buy a sweatshirt from our Reception if you like. Please ensure you have had a thorough look at the Brochure we gave out on your child's start day and if you need any help with this please do ask. *The shoes children wear MUST be closed in at the toe and at the heel to avoid accidents and allow children to get the most out of their outdoor experiences in the garden.*

Bumped heads.....if your child bumps their head at nursery we will telephone you. Usually it is very minor but we like you to know straight away and ask you to keep an eye on your child for a few hours once they are back at home with you

KEEPING SAFE

At the meeting on your child's start day we talked a lot about safety at nursery but we didn't talk about road safety.

PLEASE ensure you hold your child's hand when crossing roads and indeed all the time; running on the pavement should be avoided but many children do like to scoot. This requires a strong sense of road safety so have some simple fun rules about how far ahead of you they can scoot and practice with them....and please be very vigilant about driveways from houses, which cross the pavement. If you use a bike with your child, please ensure you are both wearing helmets.

Please do not park on the zig zag lines outside the School when dropping off or collecting your child. This is a crucial health & safety precaution designed to protect all children.

Whilst talking about health & safety, please remember that no dogs are permitted anywhere on the school premises, other than guide dogs.

Children love to talk about all the things they see on the way from home to school and when they are out and about. Holding hands and chatting is fabulous for their learning and well being, and one of the most effective ways for children to learn.

This is so good for them, do please consider putting your mobile phone on silent and avoid using it at these times. We ask that mobiles are not used whilst on school premises.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parents Staff and Friends Association

First meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 30th September at 7pm-8pm** in our Family Room. We will talk about the work of the PSFA and get the show on the road, including appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary etc. and preparation for the Christmas Charity Evening. All parents are automatically members of the PSFA and we look forward to utilising your hidden talents for the various events that take place over the year. Further to the letter in the pack we gave you on your first day, a black collection box for any donations is affixed to the wall just above the piano in the Covered Way.

Parents Week 20th October - 24th October

That's one whole school week **Do make a note in your diary for Thursday, 23rd October at 7.00pm** when we set up the nursery for you to see without the children!

It's fun, social and informative and we'd very much like to see you all there. There will be full details coming out to you about the whole week shortly.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

This is a chance to talk with your child's class teacher away from the classroom and little listening ears! This term's parent/teacher conferences will be on **Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November**. The sessions on Monday will be from 4pm – 6pm and on Tuesday and Wednesday will be during the school day. Each teacher will be available on one school morning and one afternoon and a sign up sheet with time slots for you to choose from will be displayed in or just outside the classrooms as soon as we return after the half term school break.

Advance notice - Christmas Evening and Children's Party

Just to let you know that the Charity Christmas Evening is on **Thursday 18th December 6pm - 8pm**. It starts with singing in the front garden and it's lovely for the children to be there if possible. It's a fun, fund-raising evening and is as much for adults as for children. The following day, **Friday 19th December** there is **no morning school**. Instead there is a Christmas Party for ALL children who attend the school starting at 12.45pm and ending at 2.45pm.

WANTED!

New Parent Governors

There are two current vacancies for parent governors and you will all receive a letter shortly giving further details about the nomination process. It can be a great role to take on and usually lasts for three years.

The Governing Body of the School & Children's Centre oversees the development of the nursery in both the short and longer term, so belonging to this group of people is very much valued by us all. Your interest and potential involvement would be most welcome.

Once you have received the letter and associated nomination papers, please have a word with Emma for more details.

KEEPING IN CONTACT

Thank you for completing a contact form for your child. We will shortly be updating our electronic communication system – TXTRound - which is a means for us to contact you via text message and/or email. In the past we have used this means of keeping in touch on the rare occasion we need to reach all parents quickly, such as school closure due to adverse weather conditions. We will also be using email regularly to distribute the newsletter and keep you informed of forthcoming events etc.

If you do change your mobile phone number or indeed any other contact information, please do let staff in Reception know as soon as possible as it is vital to maintain up-to-date records. If you don't have access to a mobile phone or email address, we will obviously contact you by other means! We also update the Wandsworth Council Schools and Colleges webpage – "Check if your school is open today" (www.wandsworth.gov.uk)

OFFICE TEAM

Many of you will have met Hollie, our Receptionist and Jessica and Kelly, Senior Admin Assistants. Other members of staff making up the Office Team are Bryanna our School Business Manager, who leads the Admin and Premises team and Rhonda our Premises Officer.

If you have any queries, please do pop-in to the Reception and one of the team will happily assist.



TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 - 2015

	First Day	Last Day
Autumn 1	Tues 2 Sept	Fri 24 Oct
Half Term	Mon 27 Oct	Fri 31 Oct
Autumn 2	Mon 3 Nov	Fri 19 Dec
Term Break	Mon 23 Dec	Mon 5 Jan
Spring 1	Tues 6 Jan	Fri 13 Feb
Half Term	Mon 16 Feb	Fri 20 Feb
Spring 2	Mon 23 Feb	Fri 27 Mar
Term Break	Mon 30 Mar	Tues 22 Apr
Summer 1	Mon 13 Apr	Fri 22 May
Half Term	Mon 25 May	Tues 2 Jun
Summer 2	Wed 3 Jun	Fri 17 Jul

During each school year, 5 days are allocated for Staff Training Days (known as INSET days) and these have been taken into account in the table above.

The school will **not** be open for children to attend on **Monday 5 January 2015, Monday and Tuesday 1 and 2 June 2015 and Monday, 20 July 2015**

The School will also be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on **Monday 4 May 2014**.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

This term, we will be running the following groups and activities as part of our Children's Centre provision.

These are open to all families both with children currently attending the Nursery and those with children from the local community:

Rise and Shine

Wednesdays 9.00am – 11.00am

A group giving an opportunity to have breakfast and meet other parents/carers.

Baby Group

Wednesdays 1.45pm – 3.00pm

Parent/carer group for babies and crawlers under 1 year.

Food Bank Friday's

Help families in need by donating to our food bank. Every Friday commencing the 3rd October there will be a collection of canned and dried food including beans, soup and pasta etc. Please look out for the labelled collection box.

Thank you

OCTOBER HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

The Children's Centre hope to be offering some fun activities which will run over the October Half Term.

Further details will be provided in due course, but please do keep an eye on the noticeboard as you may need to book.