



Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre

Newsletter - Autumn Term 2014, Issue 2

Welcome to our second newsletter of the school year....first the 'news':

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our first Parent/Teacher Conferences for the year were held on Mon 17th, Tues 18th and Wed 19th November and we hope that all parents found it a useful and informative session.

We hope that for those of you who are very busy, having the Spring Term meeting date well in advance should make the process easier. *The Spring Term dates are Monday 16th March 4-6pm, and during the school day on Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th.*

PSFA

Preparation is well under way for a fabulous **Christmas Charity Evening on Thursday 18th December 5:30-7:30pm**. This fun event raises money for next year's children's Christmas party and for charities chosen by parents. The evening will be in aid of two charities, The Lily Foundation and Klevis Kola. The children's Christmas party will be on the following afternoon as usual and School will be **closed in the morning**.

The evening starts at 5:30pm with a drink beforehand with festive singing at 6:00pm inside the building, so have your voices ready for a good 'sing-a-long' to kick things off. It will continue inside the school, with food, drink and activities.

It is great fun but also hard work for those involved and any help or contributions will be very gratefully received. **Please see the notices on the board in the Covered Way for more information.**

Children's Christmas Party Friday 19th December

12.45pm ~ 2.45pm

There is no morning school for any children. All children are invited to attend the party. It starts at 12.45pm and finishes at 2.45pm when children need to be collected promptly.

Please ensure your child can really enjoy him/herself by arriving on time at both ends of the party. It isn't like the usual session at all and has a fairly tight timetable to run to. Children will have party food and entertainment. We will open the side door at about 2.30pm for those of you who would like to catch a glimpse of Father Christmas when he takes time out of his busy schedule to visit us.

The **Governing Body of the School and Centre** meets regularly and in the spirit of partnership please do tell us anything you would find helpful or would like to be discussed. We're delighted that Veronica Leydon and Tammy Stapleton have joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governors. If you'd like to speak with any governors but aren't sure who they are ask a member of staff or another parent to introduce you. Governors can be contacted through the school office.



Food Bank Friday

On the last Friday of the month we will be collecting suitable foods for our own food bank and for a local food bank based at Balham Baptist Church. This is to support local families in the community who find themselves in the situation where they are in need of temporary support. There will be a bucket labelled 'Food Bank' in Reception at all times, in case you forget!

Shopping list

- Breakfast Cereals
- Milk (UHT or Powered)
- Sugar (500g)
- Fruit Juice (Carton)
- Soup
- Pasta Sauces
- Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
- Tomatoes (Tinned)
- Rice Pudding (Tinned)
- Tea bags/Instant Coffee
- Instant Mashed Potato
- Rice/Pasta
- Tinned Meat/Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Jam/Marmalade
- Biscuits or snack bars
- Baked Beans

Or you can donate money so we can buy Nappies and baby wipes. For a copy of the shopping list and donate money please ask in the office.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Rise and Shine every Wednesday morning

9am - 11:15am

Baby Group every Wednesday afternoon

1.45pm - 3.00pm

For information about baby massage, basic life support for babies or 1:1 support via our Children's Centre please speak to Liz Wards.

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January

The Children's Centre will be closed for the Christmas break.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

For parents of children who will be 4 years old before 31st August 2014, just a reminder to **get your application for Wandsworth primary schools in to the Town Hall by the 15th January 2015 deadline.** Applications received after this date will be counted as late. If you would like any assistance completing the form online, please do speak a member of school staff and we can arrange a time to do this in **School.**

HOW TIME FLIES!

It's amazing to think that there are less than three weeks to go before the end of this first term. It feels like yesterday when most of our children and parents/carers were just starting at the School. The children are flourishing and confident and seem well settled, though we know very well that they will be even more settled and confident next term! Parents' Week was busy and we hope it was welcoming, useful and informative. We have had some very positive results from our questionnaires, the results of which will be published shortly.



Little hands and little pockets

Little play people and small toys are great in pockets! If you find any unfamiliar ones have made their way to you, they might be ours we can get a little low so please do return if you spot them. Thank you.

We really need to talk about it with you and find the best way to support and improve it so that your child can enjoy and benefit from the whole session and disruption to others can be minimised.

Snow, Ice and Unforeseen Circumstances

If we ever have to close the School unexpectedly we will send a text message and email to the numbers and addresses you have given us. It is really important that we have correct contact information and if you do change any details, please do let the school office know.

In the event of enforced closure of the School we always update the Wandsworth Council website on the “Schools Open” page – www.wandsworth.gov.uk. If you have the ParentComms app on your mobile phone, you will also receive a notification.

Travelling to School!

We really want all our children and parents to travel to school safely, so this means making sure you ***do not park on the yellow zig zag lines directly outside the school gates.*** This is really important to ensure everyone’s safety at drop off and pick up times. Thank you for your cooperation.

Picking up early.

Please ensure that if you are picking your child up earlier than 3:10, it must be no later than 2:45 as this is the time when the children have the end of day story. It can become very disruptive in the middle of this session and as I’m sure you will agree, story time is an incredibly valuable time in the day which should be cherished!

Healthy Snacks

As we encourage our children to eat healthily during the school day, I would encourage this at the beginning and end of the school day too. Of course, treats are okay once in a while, but providing your child with a piece of fruit is equally as yummy too! If you would like to bring in a snack for a birthday, please ensure it is healthy one, such as fruit. We have some children with allergies in the Nursery, so this is a nice option that everyone can share in.

Reminders

Arrival

If you are running a little late and need to buzz the front door to come into School, could you please ensure that you speak to your child’s **key person** to let them know that your child is in school – this is really important as we must know at all times exactly how many children we have on the premises. If you’re regularly having difficulty getting here on time at the start of the session, please do speak with your child’s key person, class teacher, or Emma.

We also ask that you do not send any food or snacks in your children’s pockets and bags. As you can imagine this can become quite an issue for other children with any allergies. We do provide a snack for children twice during a full day, so they have plenty to eat and drink!



Artist in residence- This half term Eloise, our Artist in Residence, has been working in the Nursery every Friday. Eloise uses photography as a means to identify children's interests. She then plans ways in which she can develop these interests and extend children's learning across the curriculum. Many children have been keen on turning the camera back on themselves- taking close ups of their own faces and looking up towards the sky!

Confident Parents - Confident
Children
Five Sessions with our Educational
Psychologist

Developing understanding and
communication between you and your child.

All parents are invited to attend on Tuesday Mornings 9.30-11.00am, 13th Jan, 20th Jan, 27th Jan, 3rd Feb, 10th Feb. Karen Schumacher our School Educational Psychologist will be running a programme of five sessions exploring child development. These sessions will offer tips and allow parents time to ask questions and develop their confidence and understanding. Please see letter sent out or speak with your key person if you have any questions.

Children's Centre Manager

We are delighted to announce that Sasha Sagoe will be joining the BNSCC team in the New Year as our Children's Centre Manager. We look forward to welcoming her into the BNSCC family!

We would also like to welcome our new Music Therapist, Kerry, who will be working with us on Mondays. We will keep you posted with more news on Kerry's work.

Mums, Dads, Nannies, Childminders and others!

No matter how much you are in a rush and we all lead very busy lives, please make sure you say goodbye to your child and see that they are happily settled.

CAN YOU HELP?

Guinea pig

We are looking for a holiday home for our lovely guinea pig, SanSan, while we are closed over Christmas. If you are able to help out please speak with a member of staff.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Rise and Shine session takes place every Thursday morning in the Family Room. It is a forum for discussion and a relaxing and informal environment in which to let us have your points of view. We would like your input as to anything that you would like from these sessions. Hobbies!!!! Speakers!!!!

It's a good time to have a chat and a coffee/tea with other parents/carers. We look forward to seeing you!!!!

Hats, scarves and even shoes!

Please please please ensure that you name your children's clothes, including hats, scarves, and shoes as we have many children who wear the same size and it can get very confusing at times!



Sickness

We cannot stress too strongly that **sick children must be kept at home please**. A poorly child doesn't cope well with the bustle of the nursery and the spread of infection is significantly increased. We are sure everyone would recognise that this is something we would all want to avoid. What may not be quite so obvious is the major impact this has on the health of the entire staff team. This is something the school/centre community depends on completely, not only for 'bright eyed and bushy tailed' adults but also for the place to open every morning! Please do not give your child Calpol or Nurofen before coming to Nursery – if they need this medication then they are probably not well enough to attend. There appears to be a few "bugs" around at the moment and so your understanding is much appreciated.



You may be familiar with the "green token" scheme in Waitrose stores.

For the month of December, BNSCC will be one of the beneficiaries of this initiative.

We have a number of resources on our "wish list" and every token counts towards the donation we will receive – so please remember to pick up the tokens from the checkout!

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**.

With our very best wishes for a happy and peaceful time at Christmas.