

# BALHAM NURSERY SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CENTRE NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2 - 2015



## **What are the children learning and thinking about?**

### **Children's current interests**

This half term children have been interested in 'scary stories' and the concept of 'trickery'. We even had a 'baby dragon' in our garden for a while there! Children have been enjoying the concept of story making using characters from familiar traditional tales such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The three Little Pigs'. They have been using dressing up props and puppets as well as the outdoor area to develop their play.

**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 using puppets as their 'alter ego' and telling stories through their puppets as well as exploring shadow play.

**Displays-** Children's interests and the work we do to support and extend learning is recorded through displays throughout the nursery. These are regularly updated so please do take some time to wonder around the whole nursery and celebrate the range of experiences the children have been engaged in this term.

### **Balham Book Day**

Balham Book Day took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and was great fun. The children enjoyed having stories read to them by a few parents and other adults throughout the nursery. They enjoyed the hilarity of seeing staff act out their favorite traditional stories and some of them took to the stage

themselves. Since the event there has been a great interest in acting out Three Little Pigs and Goldilocks across the nursery and perhaps at home too?

We continue to develop our collection of recorded stories and I would like to thank those parents who recently volunteered to read out loud. If you would be happy to record a story in your home language, please speak with Nikki or Nicola.



### LATENESS

#### **The end of the school day finishes at 3:10pm**

Please please please ensure that you collect your child on time.

We do understand that from time to time everybody finds themselves held up and running late. If you know that you will be late please do give us a ring this allows us to explain to your child what is happening and minimise their confusion and concern. It also has an impact on the time that the staff meet at the end of the day to discuss and plan for future activities.

When you arrive please collect your child from reception where a member of staff will be supporting them.

### FRONT GATE

Please ensure that you close the front gate behind you to ensure the safety of all of our children. This is especially necessary at pick up and drop off times. Thank you



## **GUINEA PIG**

We are delighted to announce the arrival of our latest additions to the BNSCC community! We welcome Rosie and Rio as our 2 new female guinea pigs. They have had a warm welcome from the children and were ceremoniously named last week. Please do feel free to come and have a look at our new babies. Aren't they gorgeous?!



PS: We will still need a volunteer to look after our 2 precious arrivals on the Easter holiday. If you feel you are up for the job, please come and speak to a member of the team.

## **Easter Holiday Activities**

**Look out for the Easter timetable available next week!!**

### **Activities include:**

- **Visit from the Oral Hygienist**
  - **Face Painting**
  - **Easter Egg Hunt**
  - **Music and Songs Entertainer**
- AND LOTS MORE!!**

## **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 quite a few "bugs" around at the moment and so your understanding is much appreciated.

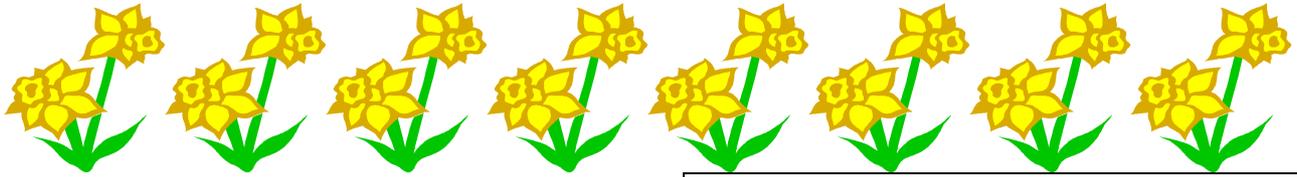
## **Food in children's bags**

**I cannot stress this highly enough...please DO NOT bring snacks or food of any type in your child's bags. Recently we had an incident where children were snacking out of each other's bags.**

**THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS as we have children with severe allergies. If you need to pack a snack for after school purposes, please hand it to a member of staff.**

## **Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers**

Just a reminder that we are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers. Please tell friends and family as this is a great way of getting fun resources for the children. The collection box is on top of the piano in the Covered Way – Thank You.



## How time flies!

Those of you with a child in school who will be 4 before 1<sup>st</sup> September this year, will have applied for a primary school place and we will be saying a fond farewell at the end of this school year, in July. Wandsworth will be posting results of your application on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please do speak with Liz or your key person if you have any worries about your child's transfer to primary school. The PSFA will be hosting a coffee and cake morning where you can chat to and meet other parents of children who will be attending the same school on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 9:00am

## **The Sun will be putting his Hat on – so we need to too!**

In anticipation of sun this is an opportunity for us to send a reminder about summer clothing for the next term! Please make sure your child wears enclosed shoes or

sandals, not open-toed and has a hat for sunny days and that you have applied sun screen/sun block before you come to school. We will re-apply children's high factor sun screen at lunch time for those children staying all day. Please talk with your child's key person if you have any concerns.



PSFA  
Some dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 17th March:** PSFA meeting, Balham Bowls Club, 7.30pm - 9pm

**Wednesday 25th March:** Informal drinks, Balham Bowls Club bar, 8pm

**Thursday 23rd April:** Coffee Morning in school, 9am to chat about Reception places

**Sunday 26th April:** Communal walk on Tooting Common 10.30am-11.30am

## **and the big one:**

**Saturday 20th June:** THE SUMMER FAIR at Balham Nursery School and Children's Centre 11am-2pm

For more details on these events and other community activities, please email [balhamnurserypsfa@hotmail.com](mailto:balhamnurserypsfa@hotmail.com) and you will be added to this year's distribution list.

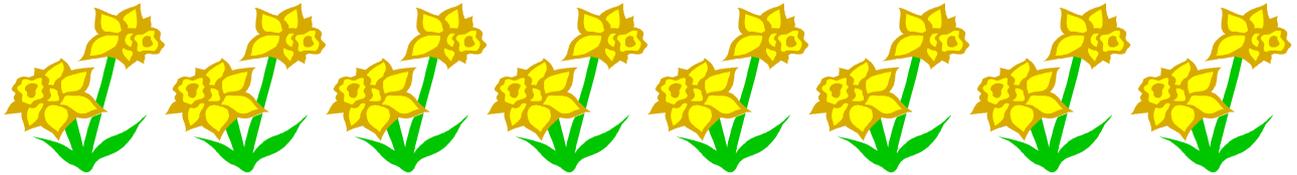
All the best,

BNSCC PSFA (Parents, Staff and Friends Association)

## **Term Time - Children's Centre Activities**

Parents of our Two Year Olds have been working with staff and attending sessions in the Children's Centre including craft session; Balham Book Day and a Messy Play session. They have been having a lot of fun while learning how their children learn through play

The **Rise and Shine Group** continues to meet every Wednesday morning from 9.15am. A great opportunity to pop up to the Family Room for fun activities for you and



your child; a tea/coffee and chat; and advice and support.

**Bed-Time Stories** has been a great success with children coming dressed in their pyjamas ready for bed, getting cosy and sharing stories with their parents and staff. The session finishes on 26<sup>th</sup> March so don't miss out!!

Don't forget the new **Messy Play Session** on Friday mornings 9.30am-11am.

**We will be expecting an arrival of some eggs that will hatch into chicks before our very eyes! The eggs will be delivered on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and we will have them for 2 weeks. Do come in and take a sneak peak. Cheep cheep!**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Photographer**

The school photographer will be visiting the nursery this term to take individual photographs of the children. She will be attending both morning and afternoon sessions so that every child can have their photograph taken. Family photos can also be arranged through the school office. She also takes a photo of everyone together! The date of this is still to be confirmed.

The last day of this current term is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015**. Children return on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015**.

## **TERM DATES**

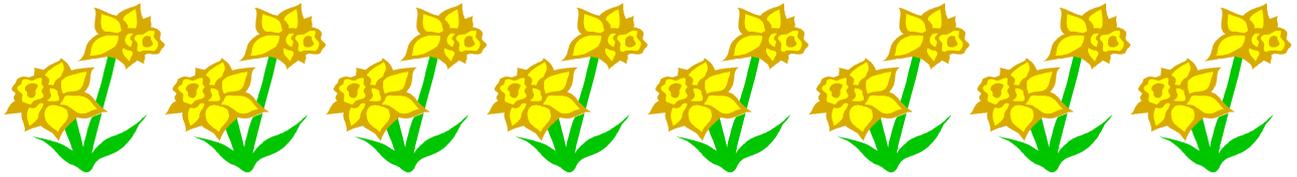
|                 | <b>First Day</b>  | <b>Last Day</b>   |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Spring 2</b> | <b>Mon 23 Feb</b> | <b>Fri 27 Mar</b> |
| Term Break      | Mon 30 Mar        | Fri 10 Apr        |
| <b>Summer 1</b> | <b>Mon 13 Apr</b> | <b>Fri 22 May</b> |
| Half Term       | Mon 25 May        | Fri 29 May        |
| <b>Summer 2</b> | <b>Wed 3 Jun</b>  | <b>Fri 17 Jul</b> |

May Bank Holiday **4<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
Staff Training Days **1st June & 2nd June 2015**

We have uploaded the whole year's term dates to a new app which is available to download free. The app is called "Parent Comms" and can be used by I-Phone and Android mobile phones/tablets. You will initially need to subscribe (free) and select "Balham Nursery School". This app reflects similar information as can be found on the Opencheck area of the Schools webpages on [www.wandsworth.gov.uk](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk).

## **HAPPY EASTER!**





# Children's Imagination

Creativity Under Our Noses  
by Ursula Kolbe

Coming to Balham Nursery School and Children's  
Centre  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April @ 9:30

'A lovely, lovely book—well and truly loveable! A cracker.' —**Janet Robertson**, educational consultant and teacher, Mia-Mia Child and Family Study Centre, Macquarie University

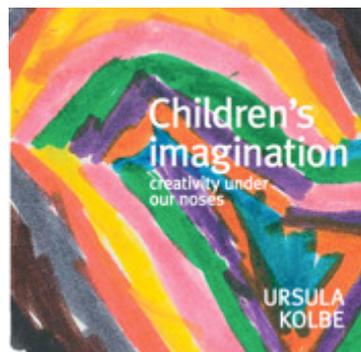
**Is today's pressure on parents and teachers sidelining children's play?**

Artist and educator Ursula Kolbe opens our eyes and ears to what's happening 'under our noses' when children play—with anything from seedpods to felt-tip pens or even an iPad.

Kolbe's stories reveal that unstructured and unhurried play, as neuroscientists, psychologists and educators have long said, encourages children to become imaginative and inventive thinkers.

By looking at children's responses to the unexpected in play, **Children's Imagination: Creativity Under Our Noses** uncovers valuable clues to what sparks creativity in us all.

For all who live and work with children 1½ -10 years.



#### About the author

Ursula Kolbe is a Sydney-based artist who has worked in the field of early education for over thirty years as a university lecturer, artist-teacher, writer and filmmaker.

**There will also be an opportunity to view some of the work the children have been exploring with Eloise**

**Please book at Reception to avoid disappointment as there will be limited space.**

**More Information: [www.ursulakolbe.com](http://www.ursulakolbe.com)**

