

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 learning how to use hammers, saws and screwdrivers at our re-vamped workshop area, now in Back Class. As they have become more confident with these skills they have begun to think about what they could make and how they might be able to do this.

Artist in residence- Eloise, Artist Educator, continues to work in the nursery every Friday. This half-term she has introduced the use of i-pads to film and take photos; many of the children are interested in spinning and capturing motion on them. Do take the time to look at what children's interests have been each week when working with Eloise on the low board in the covered way where the children's own photos are.

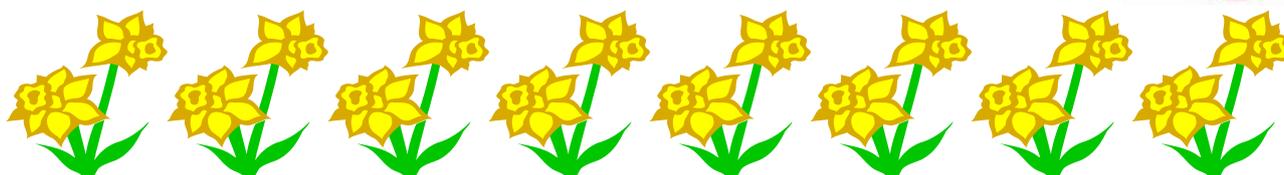
Displays- Children's interests and the work we do to support and extend learning is recorded through displays throughout the nursery. These are regularly updated so please do take some time to wonder around the whole nursery and celebrate the range of experiences the children have been engaged in this term. In the covered way there is a display about our fire-pit, including working together to build it and then

using it; so far we have had fires in it and we have even made hot chocolate over it!

Balham Book Day

Balham Book Day will take place on **Tuesday 8th March**. We ask children NOT to come dressed up as we know this can create a lot of work for parents and it can also result in many superheroes in school which is actually hard for the children to handle in a large group. All children will have the opportunity to have their face painted as a character from a book at nursery and staff will be appearing as a variety of characters too, even performing some traditional tales at story-time! Children will be able to work with a variety of books and materials and we will continue to support their interests in developing their own costumes, characters and story ideas.

If you have some free time to come in and read books with your child and a small group of children we would be very grateful. Please speak with Nicola (Back Class Team Leader) to arrange a time.



Sawran – Front Class

As some of you may know one of our children from Front Class Sawran, was involved in quite a serious and unfortunate road traffic incident during half term. Sawran has just returned home from hospital and is making a good recovery. The Nursery have been in touch with Sawran and his family to offer our love and support and we hope to see Sawran when he visits in the upcoming weeks. If you would like to get in touch with the family to offer any support or to reach out in any way, please liaise with Camilla in Front Class who will be able to help.

Staffing

CONGRATULATIONS!

I am pleased to announce that Nicola Turner has officially been appointed as our Deputy Headteacher here at Balham Nursery School and Children's Centre. I'm sure you will agree with me when I say that Nicola is incredibly well equipped for the role and is a fantastic practitioner and leader. I look forward to working with her in this capacity more closely. Congratulations Nicola!

Last Half Term we said a very sad goodbye to one of our long standing members of staff, Tracy Cook from the 2 Year Old Team. Tracy had been working with us in various different roles since the year 2000. We wish her all the best for the future. We will be recruiting for a new member of staff for the 2 Year Old Team shortly. Watch this space!

LATENESS

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

Please please please ensure that you collect your child on time and you leave the building promptly.



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.

NURSERY PETS CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a holiday home for our lovely Guinea pigs Rio and Rosie as well as Jamie the Tortoise while we are closed over Easter.

If you are able to help out please speak with Hollie in Reception or a member of staff.



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.

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 1st 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 16th April. Please do speak with Emma, Nicola or your key person if you have any worries about your child's transfer to primary school.

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.



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 having a lot of fun while learning how their children learn through play.

Parents are currently attending Confident Parents - Confident Children sessions with our Educational Psychologists to help to develop understanding and communication with their child and provide top tips to support children's behavior.

Rise and Shine Stay and Play takes place every Wednesday morning from 9.30am and is a great session where under threes can play and learn through activities provided to meet their needs. Access to advice and support for Parents is available from Family Support; Speech and Language; Educational Psychologist;



and on subjects such as oral health and emotional well-being.

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 15th March so don't miss out!!

Don't forget

- **Parent and Child Yoga** on Mondays 3.30pm-4pm
- **Community Music Group** on Thursdays 3.30pm-4pm
- **Messy Play Session** on Friday mornings 9.30am-11am. This gets very busy so come early!!

Remember during the holidays this takes place at Balham Library.

Please speak to Liz or Natasha for further information

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 25th 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 **Thursday 24th March 2016**. Children return on **Tuesday 12th April 2016**.

TERM DATES

	First Day	Last Day
Spring 2	Mon 22 Feb	Thurs 24 Mar
Term Break	Fri 25 Mar	Mon 11 Apr
Summer 1	Tue 12 Apr	Fri 27 May
Half Term	Mon 30 May	Fri 3 Jun
Summer 2	Tue 7 Jun	Wed 20 Jul

May Bank Holiday **Monday 2nd May 2016**.

Staff Training Days **Monday 11th April and Monday 6th June 2016**.

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 Andriod 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.

HAPPY EASTER!



