

# Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre

## Newsletter - Autumn 2016 Issue 1



### **WELCOME TO BNSCC!**

Wishing you 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. We are slightly changing the format this year to include our half-termly planning and ways in which you can support your child at home. We hope you enjoy this and feedback is most certainly welcome!

Each newsletter will be posted on our **NEW** website;

[www.balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk](http://www.balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk)

Please do look it up. We are really proud of the new website and have worked hard to ensure it meets the needs of all our users. More information regarding photo permissions and log in details will be with you shortly.

### **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; a new nursery environment, new routines, and for some

their very first time in a nursery. Then there are new adults and new peer groups which might be larger than many will have had before. Clearly this is 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 gate is open really helps your child to settle, as does collecting them 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 additional movement around the nursery at this time. Please speak with your key person if you have any worries about arriving or collecting on time or about any aspect of your child's settling.

**Clothing:** remember to bring a change of clothes (or more if necessary) and also try to be relaxed about toileting accidents. This will naturally ease in time and the staff team are very focussed on supporting children and prompting the use of the toilet. 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.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Please check the website regularly for updated information and dates for your diary!**

### **Parents Staff and Friends Association**

Our first meeting of the year will be

**6:30-7:30pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

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. Donations to the cause are most welcome!

### **Parents Fortnight**

**17th October - 28th October**

That's one whole school week and one week during the half term! **Do make a note in your diary for Thursday, 20th 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 14<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. The sessions on Monday will be from 4 – 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.

## **KEEPING IN CONTACT**

Thank you for completing a contact form for your child. We will shortly be updating our electronic communication system – 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 our website to keep you informed of any school closures and forthcoming events etc.

If you do change your mobile phone number or indeed any other contact information, please do let 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 the internet, 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](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk))



## PETS IN SCHOOL

Over the half term and Christmas holidays we will be looking for a temporary home for our 2 lovely guinea pigs and our very low maintenance tortoise! Please get in touch if you think you might be able to help out. It is often a great experience for children to look after the Nursery pet, so let us know if you would be interested.



### TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017

	First Day	Last Day
Autumn First Half-Term	Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Half Term Holiday	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Second Half-Term Dates	Mon 31 Oct	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec
First Half Term Break	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Spring Term	2017	
First Term Dates	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Half Term Holiday	Mon 13 Feb	Fri 17 Feb
Second Half-Term Dates	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar
Summer Half Term	2017	
First Half Term Dates	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May
May Day Bank Holiday	1 <sup>st</sup> May	School Closed
Half -Term Holiday	Mon 29 May	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun
Second Half Term Dated	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jun	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> 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 was not open for children to attend on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

The school will also **not** be open for children to attend on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** and **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017.**

The School will also be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on **Monday 1 May 2017.**

Please see attached a copy of the menu for this term and a list of staff names and photos for you to know who we all are.

## Children's Centre

The Children's Centre Team would like to welcome all new families to the Children's Centre.

Many of you may have previously attended sessions at the centre but please continue to come! There are always new and exciting activities for you and your family.

For those of you who are new to the Children's Centre please come along to see what it's all about.

We provide

- Fun stimulating activities in our Play and Learn and Messy Play sessions
- An Under One's session for babies and crawlers
- General support for families
- Child development advice
- Access to parenting groups
- Access to support around Housing, Employment, Benefits and Training
- A Volunteer programme

Please see our new timetable – available from reception or on the website – or come and speak to a member of the Children's Centre Team who are always available to help and would love to meet you.

Sasha, Liz, Natasha and Paula

**Donations – we need donations of conkers and corks for our collection – please bring in whatever you can!**