



# Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre

## Newsletter - Autumn Term 2016, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, Tues 15<sup>th</sup> and Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 4-6pm, and during the school day on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.*

### PSFA

Preparation is well under way for a fabulous

***Christmas Charity Evening on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 (promptly) with festive singing in the front garden, 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 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Children's Centre** meets regularly and in the spirit of partnership please do tell us anything you would find helpful or would like to be discussed. 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 and their photos will be displayed in the hallway and on the website shortly.

### **CHILDREN'S CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

*Rise and Shine every Wednesday  
morning 930am – 11:30am*



*Under One's every Wednesday afternoon  
1.45pm – 3.00pm*

*Messy Play every Friday morning 9.30am-  
11am*

**Do you need help and advice about  
parenting;  
managing your child's behaviour; child  
development or any other family and  
child  
related issue?**

**Need help with benefits; training, debts  
or  
employment?**

**Advice and support is available through  
the Children's Centre Team**

**We are also able to provide Family  
Support; Food and FuelBank vouchers  
and help you to access free high quality  
toys, clothes and equipment for babies  
and children.**

**Please feel free to contact the team  
with any  
questions**

***Monday 19th December – Monday  
9th January 2017***

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

### **Back To Work Course**

All parents are invited to attend on  
Tuesday afternoons 1pm-3pm on 17<sup>th</sup>  
January; Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January; Tuesday  
31<sup>st</sup> January; and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

The course is designed to help support  
parents who wish to return to training or  
employment and will cover CV Writing;  
completing application forms; and  
interview skills.

Please note that unfortunately we are  
unable to offer crèche provision for these  
sessions.

Please contact the Children's Centre if you  
have any questions.

## **Developing understanding and communication between you and your child**

All parents are invited to attend on  
Tuesday Mornings 9.15-11.15am, Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> February; 7<sup>th</sup> March; 14<sup>th</sup> March; and  
21<sup>st</sup> March. Simon Ungar our Children's  
Centre Educational Psychologist will be  
running a programme of four sessions  
exploring child development. These  
sessions will offer tips and allow parents  
time to ask questions and develop their  
confidence and understanding. Please note  
that unfortunately we are unable to offer  
crèche provision for these sessions

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

For Parents and Carers of children  
born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012  
and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 please  
remember to **submit your  
application for Wandsworth  
primary schools by the 15<sup>th</sup>  
January 2017 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 four 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 that they will be even more settled and confident next term! Parents' Fortnight was busy and we hope it was welcoming, useful and informative. We have had some really positive feedback from the fortnight and in particular the Young Children's Learning evening and we are really glad that so many of you enjoyed it!

### **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 any you find. Thank you.

### **Snow, Ice and Unforeseen Circumstances**

**If we ever have to close the school unexpectedly we will send a text message to the numbers and addresses you have given us. We will also put a notice up on the website. It is really important that we have correct contact information and if you do change any details, please 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](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk).**

### **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 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.

### **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, storytime 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.

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!

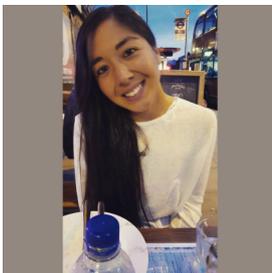
**Other adults working in the nursery that your children may mention at home!**



**Eloise- Artist in Residence**

This half term Eloise, our Artist in Residence, has been working in the Nursery every Monday. This year she has begun by using mark-making as means to get to know the children and identify their interests. We then plan ways in which to develop these interests and extend children's learning across the curriculum. Many children have been keen on exploring how they can use charcoal, working collaboratively on large sheets of paper on the floor.

*Keep an eye out in the covered way where Eloise puts up documentation each week that shows the most current interests of children in the nursery when working with her.*



**Zara- Yoga**

Zara continues to spend one morning and one afternoon a week in the nursery, supporting children to engage in yoga sessions through story with her. She is also running a session after school for parents and children to attend together.



**Kerry- Music Therapist**

Kerry continues to spend Thursdays working in the nursery. She works mainly with the children based in Garden Room, but also spends some time taking story time and in the nursery environment where her guitar is particularly popular! She also runs a session after school for parents and children to attend together.



**Kate- Speech and Language Therapist**

Kate continues to spend Mondays working in the nursery. She works mainly with the children based in Garden Room but also spends some time supporting children in the nursery environment.

**DONATIONS:**

Any donations of the following will be greatly received;

- Corks
- Wellies
- Newborn baby clothes (for the dolls)
- Any clean pants and socks



### 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 Christmas.

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

### 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 appear to be a few "bugs" around at the moment so your understanding is much appreciated.

## TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 – 2017

	First Day	Last Day
Autumn 1	Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Half Term	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Autumn 2	Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec
Term Break	Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan
Spring 1	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Half Term	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Spring 2	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar
Term Break	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Summer 1	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Summer 2	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> July

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 **Tuesday 3rd January, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** and **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.**

The School will also be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

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

