

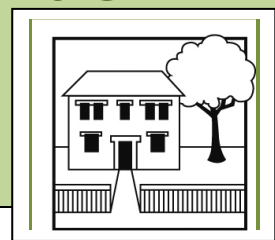
BALHAM NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDRENS CENTRE

Autumn 2 Newsletter 2017/2018

Don't forget to visit our website and follow us on twitter to get regular updates

Website: <https://balham-nursery.wandsworth.sch.uk>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bnscc>



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

5.30pm - 7.30pm



This fun event raises money for next year's children's Christmas party and generates much needed donations for the school. 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.

Preparation is well under way for a fabulous evening - thank you to all those PSFA members who are working hard to organise what will be a great event. 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 20th December

12.45pm ~ 2.45pm

There is no morning school for any children. All children are invited to 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 themselves 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.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

The first Conferences for this year were held in 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.

Conferences will be held on Tuesday 20th Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd March 2018.

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 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!

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

For Parents and Carers of children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 please remember to **submit your application for Wandsworth primary schools by the 15th 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.

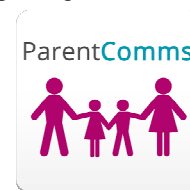
LITTLE HANDS AND LITTLE POCKETS

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 and/or email to you. 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 <https://opencheck.atomwide.com/Default.aspx> which is LGFL Opencheck for schools. If you have (and if you haven't please do) downloaded the free ParentComms app to your mobile device you will receive an automatic notification of any closure.

Please also remember to wrap your child up nice and warm for nursery. Outside play is an important part of our curriculum and whilst in the really cold weather we will limit the amount of time spent outdoors - it is important they have a nice thick, warm jacket, a hat, gloves and a scarf. Please remember to label all items of clothing too!

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!

PARENT FEEDBACK

Please find attached the recently collated parent feedback from the 2016/2017 academic year. Throughout the year we will ask your views on what we are doing well and what we could improve on. We send out a questionnaire where parents are encouraged to leave comments and we do some exit interviews too.

**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 make marks, 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.



Kerry– Music Therapist

Kerry spends 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 and piano playing is particularly popular! She also runs a session after school for parents and children to attend together.



Kate– Speech and Language Therapist

Kate spends 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.

CAN YOU HELP?



We are looking for a holiday home for our lovely tortoise Jamie while we are closed over Christmas.

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

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.

SEND consultation

Wandsworth Council is carrying out a consultation about the educational provision that it makes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). If you want to read the full paper this can be found, together with response forms for children and young people, parent's carers and schools, colleges and other service providers on the Wandsworth Local Offer web page.

FUNDRAISING THE "EASY" WAY



As you will know, we are actively looking at ways to raise funds for the school. Our easyfundraising link is – www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bnsc/ Using this site is absolutely free for you. Over £60 in donations have been raised so far. This amount will pay for three weeks' fruit boxes for the children's snacks! There are hundreds of online retailers listed who will donate to us if you access their website via the easyfundraising site and have chosen us as your "cause". There is a free app and a "donation reminder" available for PCs. Please think of us if you are doing any online Christmas shopping!!!

TERM DATES 2017/2018

The dates for the Spring and Summer Terms are listed below and are also available on our website. PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, 7th MAY which the May Day Bank Holiday.

2018		
Spring 1	We 3 Jan	Fr 9 Feb
Break	Mo 12 Feb	Fr 16 Feb
Spring 2	Mo 19 Feb	Th 29 Mar
Break	Fr 30 Mar	Mo 16 Apr
Summer 1	Tu 17 Apr	Fr 25 May
Break	Mo 28 May	Fr 1 Jun
Summer 2	Mo 4 Jun	Fr 20 Jul

CHILDREN'S CENTRE ACTIVITIES

Please do have a look at our new 'Balham Nursery School and Children's Centre Services' merged site timetable available on the website.

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP?

Do you have IT skills?
Are you able to spare a little time to help with formatting the new merged Children's Centre Timetable?

If you are able to help out please speak with Sasha, Paula or Liz

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

Balham site:

*Monday 18th December 2017 -
Monday 8th January 2018*

Fayland site

*Thursday 21st December 2017 -
Wednesday 3rd January 2018*

Nightingale Square

*Wednesday 20th December 2017 -
Monday 8th January 2018*

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

Parent Feedback 2016/2017*Questionnaires – 26 returned*

- 100% respondents said 'they are made to feel welcome in the school'
- 100% respondents said 'their child enjoys coming to Nursery'
- 100% respondents said 'they feel that their child's needs are being met'
- 100% respondents said that 'their child feels safe and well cared for at Nursery'
- 100% respondents said that 'the nursery has had a positive impact upon their child'
- 100% respondents said that 'the school was lead and managed well'
- 100% respondents said that they 'felt that BNSCC was fully inclusive'
- 100% respondents would 'recommend BNSCC to a friend, neighbour or relative'
- 85% respondents felt that they 'felt informed about what goes on in the life of the Nursery'



You said this...	We are doing this...
85% respondents felt that they 'felt informed about what goes on in the life of the Nursery' Some parents had suggested a communication book, or a quick note of a couple of things their child did in a week	Unfortunately we are unable to provide specific individual feedback regarding children's learning at the end of each session for every child due to time restrictions, however we are always approachable, we have regular parent/teacher conferences, we send out newsletters, display information on the notice board and often provide informal feedback at the end of the session. If you have any questions you are always able to ask your child's key person.
The settling in process was a little too rigid	We have no 'hard and fast' settling process. It is lead by the needs of the child and takes as long or as little as required. We will ensure this message is given clearly at the start of the process
We found the parent's fortnight extremely informative	Thank you! We will continue with this format.
The website is very helpful and also the notice board and newsletter	Thanks – we have been working hard on our new website and keeping it updated. We are pleased that you take a moment to read the notice board.
I would love more opportunities for dancing in the Nursery	We ensure that we have a member of staff responsible for the 'creative arts' and we have our Music Therapist , Kerry too. We will ensure that all CD players and IPod docks are in good working order.
The whole staff could not do more to make parents and children welcome – they are marvellous.	Thank you – we pride ourselves on ensuring we welcome everyone!
I would like more lengthy parent meetings but I know I can approach staff anytime	We will do our best to make sure you have the time you need for discussion at parent/teacher conferences, however we are restricted by time. Glad to hear that you feel you can approach staff anytime.
All staff give a warm welcome at all times, to both myself and my child. From the class staff, to the Headteacher, kitchen and office staff too – commendable!	Thank you. We pride ourselves on being friendly and welcoming!
I would like to see more cultures and faiths celebrated	We try to ensure that we celebrate lots of different cultures and festivals from Navratri, to Black History month, Australia day, and Diwali just to name a few. This is something we have put in as part of our school development plan to ensure we are always trying to improve.
Electronic communication would be a real improvement/help for working parents – it's more environmentally friendly and less costly!	Our website is updated regularly with events, notices, timetables and our newsletter. We are also looking at extending our presence within social media. We hope this helps.
My child's needs are met and exceeded! She has had wider experiences and opportunities since starting Nursery – in a very gentle way and she has engaged at her pace	We are really pleased to hear this – what a great start to your child's educational journey!

The diversity of children is what made BNSCC attractive to us	Great – we ensure that we are fully inclusive and welcome and respect children and families of all different cultures and backgrounds.
It is a shame it isn't possible to get extra sessions – I would have been willing to pay	Thank you for the feedback. This is something that we will discuss with our governing body as it involves reviewing our policies. We will most certainly consider this in the future.
Everyone is really friendly and helpful – staff are excellent!	Thanks – our staff really are amazing!
There is literally almost nothing that BNSCC could do to improve – based on current Government funding. It already offers the children so much – especially the contact with animals and nature which I think is so important	Thank you. We will ensure that we continue to have pets in school and will look after our Tortoise, Jamie, our 2 guinea pigs – Rosie and Rio and our Nursery dog, Seamus.
The leadership – An excellent tone from the top sets the warm, friendly, community feeling where everyone is accepted for who they are and valued uniquely	Thank you. I try to be as approachable as I can because I really believe that our families and our community are hugely important in working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.
Balham is a great example of independent learning through play and observation in a very encouraging, positive environment with immense freedom to explore	We are really pleased to hear that you think this as it is really what we know and believe in.
The Nursery should try and take the children out for a little walk to the park or common or if possible to the library	We agree, and we have also built this into our school development plan. Visits to the library have been planned for this term.
I really can't say enough good things about BNSCC. We have noticed such a positive impact this past year has had on our son. Always recommend BNSCC to friends and looking forward to my youngest son coming next year!	Great news – thank you!!
BNSCC is an amazing place – we have absolutely loved our time here and will miss it very much. Our only criticism is that we wish we could have an option to take up a full-time place – thank you to all the staff – you are brilliant!	Thanks for the feedback. This is something that we will discuss with our governing body as it involves reviewing our policies. We will most certainly consider this in the future.
It matters of supporting the school (e.g. funding issues) it could be useful to develop a network of ex-parents in the area. BNSCC is held in high regard and there are many parents who would love to support the school but are not in formal contact – perhaps the idea of an Alumni?	Great idea. We intend to keep past parents 'in the loop' via email in the academic year 2017/2018. Hopefully this will help with offers of donations, time and skills, not to mention attendance at the Christmas and Summer Fairs.
I have worked in Early Years for 12 years and BNSCC is second to none, this is exactly how it should be done. BNSCC gives an enriched environment that lets the children explore and develop themselves	What lovely feedback, thank you. It really helps to support the work we do.
Maybe they could get paint that washes out of clothes more easily – it really sticks!!	If you try a bit of Fairy Liquid on the stain, sometimes this helps. We always encourage children to wear aprons when painting but it is not always so easy!
My experience has been really positive. My child has special needs and they supported us through everything	Great news, thanks. We have a highly skilled SENDCo who really helps children and families to access the support they need, and have a wonderfully positive experience here.