

BALHAM NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDRENS CENTRE

Spring 1 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>



Wow – it's hard to believe that this is the first newsletter of 2018 – how time flies!

OFSTED

9th January 2018

As many of you will be aware, we recently had an Ofsted inspection of our school.

The entire inspection process was very rigorous, thorough and positive. Parent comments were highly regarded, as was our website, and all the paper evidence required. These, coupled with observations and lengthy discussion sessions between ourselves and the inspection team all contributed effectively to the 'Outstanding' result.

Please do have a read of the report. You'll see that it highlights much of the amazing work that goes on here at BNSCC. A copy can be found on our website.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work, as well as all our parents and children and thank you to those who were able to feedback about their views of the school in person and online.

Please do share far and wide (it's our fifth 'Outstanding' in a row!)

Congratulations to everyone!

OFSTED CELEBRATION



We would like to invite all our staff, governors, parents and children to a small informal gathering to celebrate our 'Outstanding'.

**Wednesday 7th February 3:15pm–
4:30pm**

For tea, cake and general merriment! Please stay on after you collect your children to chat with the class team and celebrate our success. All welcome!!

PSFA

Christmas Evening

Thank you for supporting the Christmas evening. You might be interested to know that we raised £1111.20 and the night was a huge success. The PSFA have generously given us funds for next year's children's Christmas activities and the remainder will be a donation for BNSCC towards some items on the 'wish list!'. A BIG thank you goes to all those PSFA members for their hard work, commitment and time!

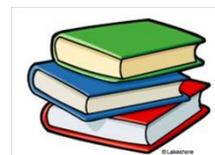
What's been going on?

Since returning in January we have been delighted at how well children have settled back into the nursery – their growing confidence and sense of belonging is really shining through. We continue to support those children who find it a little hard to say goodbye to family members through extra nurturing time and thinking imaginatively about what might comfort and support them. Looking at their memory books and using the digital camera are popular options. We have a few new children who are in the early stages of settling.

Children have been developing their interest in story telling all over the nursery, whether in the block area or out in the garden where many of them are currently enjoying acting out their stories for others.

Balham Book Day

We will be celebrating our very own Book Day on **Tuesday 6th March**. We ask children NOT to come dressed as a favorite story character as we know this can create a lot of work for parents and can also result in many superheroes in school which is actually hard for the children to handle in a large group. There will be lots of opportunities for children 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! Staff may be appearing as a variety of characters and will be telling lots of stories too! If you have some free time to come in to read your child's favorite story with a small group of children, we would be very grateful to you and this could be the start of you popping in regularly if you would like. Please speak with your child's teacher or key person to arrange a time.



All Together Now!

Over the next few days you will notice some changes in the Reception Office. Bryanna and Kelly will be joining Hollie bringing the school admin team together.

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 Half Term.

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



Donations

If you have any spare clothes or footwear that you could donate to the nursery– particularly welly boots, pants, socks and trousers– we would be very grateful as our stock of spare clothes and shoes for children to change into is very low! Anything to fit ages two – five would be perfect.



If you have any old portable CD players, cameras, phones or torches– either working or not– we would love them. If they're working we can use them and if they're not we can take them apart with the children to fuel their investigative skills and interest in how things work.



Dates for Diary

Parent/Teacher Conferences are going to be held the week of 19th March. Sign-up sheets will be put up outside each class about two weeks before. Do please sign up to meet your child's class teacher (Jo in Front Class, Dee in Back Class and Fiona in the Garden Room) on one of these days. The school will be organising cover in order to release teachers from the classroom so PLEASE, PLEASE let Reception know if you are unable to attend an appointment you have booked so that someone else can take your place. Thank you.

Clarification on leaving the building, opening and closing times

End of sessions – We open the doors for collection at **11.25am** in the morning and **3.10pm** in the afternoon. We make a concerted effort to make sure the doors are open promptly so that parents can complete their school runs successfully!

We aim to close the door again just after **11.30am** and **3.15pm**. It really is important we are able to close the door as soon as possible to secure the building and move on to the next stage of the nursery day. Just after 11.30am staff begin lunch with the children or go to lunch themselves. Just after 3.15pm staff go straight into a planning session where we complete the very important task of

deciding what children will be doing the next day, discussing any significant issues and organising resources.

As you can see the school runs to quite a strict timetable in order to ensure we are making the most of the time we have in order to support the children. We would ask for your support in allowing us to maintain the flow of the day by arriving and leaving the building as promptly as possible. Of course, when a parent and staff member would like to discuss something at length then we will always make this a priority and this may mean that one or two families remain in the building a little while longer.

When the side door is open please exit this way, the main door should not be used as a short cut. We try to ensure a smooth flow of traffic through the school as if everybody is entering and exiting the building in the same way it allows us to know that the building is as secure as possible at all times.

Late arrivals – Please ensure you inform Reception that your child has arrived in school so that they can mark them on the register and lunch register. **It is really important that your child comes to school on time everyday to minimise disruption and to encourage good school routines.**

Late collection – We do understand that from time to time everybody finds themselves held up and running late. If you are late to collect or leave the building then please exit through the main door.

If you know that you will be late please do give us a ring as this allows us to explain to your child what is happening and minimise their confusion and concern. When you arrive please collect your child from reception where a member of staff will be supporting them.

TERM DATES 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 is 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

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.

Please also ensure that after entering and leaving the front garden you shut the green gate behind you so we are secure at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

Half Term Activities

Wednesday 14th February Morning sessions

Family Music Making for children under 8 years old

In Partnership with Lifelong Learning

Come along and join in with songs and music activities; making instruments and music together!

Look out for further information about times.

Friday 16th February 10.00am–11:30am

Messy Play at Balham Library for children under 6 years old.

Let's get messy together – come dressed for mess.

This is a really popular session and can get very busy so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

If you need help and advice about

- Parenting;
- Managing your child's behaviour;
- Child development

Come and meet with Liz Mawle our Children's Centre specialist on a Monday between 4pm–5pm. Children can come too. Please speak to a staff member to book.

Balham Nursery School & Children's Centre PSFA



February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Unless you have previously had a child at Balham Nursery, you will most probably be unaware that the PSFA (Parents, Staff & Friends Association) run a scheme whereby they ask each family to contribute £1.00 per child per week or whatever they can afford, for Front Class, Back Class and Garden Room funds.

These funds are used to purchase items such as ingredients for cookery, children's daily snacks and for supplies for the guinea pigs and tortoise.

We would just like to take this opportunity to let you know that staff in the Reception Office would be delighted to receive any donations of any size!

If it is more convenient for you to donate termly or annually rather than weekly, the amounts work out as follows: -

£1.00 per week
£6.00 per half-term
£12.00 per term
£36.00 per year

If you wish to write a cheque, then please make it payable to "Balham Nursery School" or, for online banking, the details are as follows:

Account Name: Balham Nursery - School Fund Account
A/C Number: 69615462 Sort Code: 60-22-28
Reference: PSFA Donation

We would like to thank you for your help, support and contributions for the Christmas Fair – a fantastic £1111.20 was raised. We look forward to your support with PSFA activities throughout the coming year.

Please keep your eye on the noticeboards for details of the next PSFA meeting – all are very welcome