

BALHAM NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDRENS CENTRE

Spring 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>



What are the children learning and thinking about?

Children's current interests

Many children have become increasingly interested in the idea of machines with moving parts, including 'arms' and 'grabbers'. They have been making them all over the nursery, particularly in the blocks and using card with split pins or wire to connect and enable movement.

We have been introducing children to basic coding using a 'blue-bot' (small programmable toy) and a program called 'scratch junior' on the iPads. If you do have a tablet or iPad 'scratch junior' is a free app to download. The children have been picking up on how to personalise backgrounds and characters very quickly, even programming the characters to move and saving their work!

Balham Book Day this year was a huge success, with several renditions of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and The Three Little Pigs. All children had the opportunity to dress up and act out their favourite stories and have their face painted too. Staff appeared as a variety of characters, even performing some traditional tales at story-time! Children were 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. A big thank you goes out to those parents who were able to come and read

some stories in different languages (including Welsh and Polish).

This half-term, children in Front Class and Back Class have enjoyed visiting the library. We will be continuing to take small groups of children to the library so if you are interested in volunteering to help us regularly, (Monday afternoons or Friday mornings), please speak to either Jo or Dee.

Our amazing Nursery Nurse in Front Class, Alice Buckett, is running the marathon and raising money for BNSCC! Wow!!



This is a HUGE undertaking and Alice has been training hard for a number of weeks now. If you would like to donate to support Alice and BNSCC – please either follow the Go Fund Me link online: <https://www.gofundme.com/raising-money-for-bnscc>

Or, for a cash donation, see Hollie in Reception for the paper form.

Balham Nursery in print!

Attached to this newsletter is an article recently published in 'Nursery World' that was co-authored by Nicola, our deputy head, Camilla, our SENDCo and Eloise, our artist educator. It tells some of our journey, (which is ongoing), in introducing digital technology to work on creative projects with the children at Balham Nursery.

Staffing

The end of the Spring Term brings some sad 'goodbyes' and we will be saying farewell to two of our amazing external staff.

Eloise Robinson, our Artist Educator

Eloise has accepted a full-time post with another setting and will be off to pastures new. We will miss Eloise immensely as she has been a huge inspiration for the staff and children here at BNSCC. She has been enormously influential on our creative practice and has worked tirelessly to lead the photography project and exhibition each year. We hope that we will stay in touch with Eloise so she can continue to 'light our fires' and we endeavour to continue with the photography project and exhibition in one form or another.

Kate Burgess, our Speech and Language Therapist

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, we are unable to renew Kate's Speech and Language Therapist contract through Guy's and St. Thomas'. Kate is commissioned with us for 1 day a week and supports us to run small groups with both the 2 year olds and those children

with either emerging or identified speech and language therapy needs. Kate has been tremendously supportive of the team and our practice, she has been integral to the work we do with early communication and language and we will miss her dearly. Kate will now have some more time to devote to her other SALT commitments and will ensure that a handover is managed well.

We have been successful in recruiting Paula Diaz into our new post as Outreach Worker. Paula will work across all three Children's Centre sites. Subsequently we have recruited Roma Macarenhas, as our new Family Service's Worker (replacing Paula). We are currently looking to advertise for an Administration Assistant – again to work across all three Children's Centre sites.

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 as 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 late please collect your child from Reception where a member of staff will be supporting them.

Late arrivals - Please ensure that you are prompt when bringing your child at the beginning of their session. It is really important that your child comes to school on time every day to minimise disruption and to encourage good school routines.

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.



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.

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 sunny days ahead, 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.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

During term-time - Play and Learn sessions take place every Wednesday morning from 9.30am – 10.30am and it's 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 Speech and Language; Educational Psychologist; Health; and on subjects such as oral health and emotional well-being.

Remember during the holidays the session is 10am-12pm and we have an Easter Egg hunt planned!!

Don't forget:

Messy Play Session on Friday mornings 9.30am-10.30am and 11.00am-12.00pm. This gets very busy and we save some places for identified families so please come early!!

Remember during the holidays this takes place at Balham Library 10.00am-11.00am and 11.30am-12.30pm

Sessions are also available for you to attend at our newly merged Fayland base.

Please look at our current timetables for more information or speak to Liz, Roma or Paula for further information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**Photographer**

The school photographer will be visiting the nursery this term on **Tuesday 19th June** 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!

TERM DATES – 2018

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

The school will be closed on:

Staff Training Day **Monday 16th April** 2018 and May Bank Holiday **Monday 7th May 2018** .

Please do make sure you check the website regularly and follow us on Twitter for the most up to date information

