

# Balham Nursery School and Children's Centre

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Dear Parents and Carers

28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

We hope that you are all safe and healthy at home. It is a very challenging time for everyone. Balham Nursery is open but following the government guidelines, we have only a few children on site. We know that during this emergency that we must wherever possible, **Stay at home, Support the NHS and Save Lives**. It is very odd in school with so few children and staff. We really miss all the Balham Nursery School families, seeing you each day and being together as a school community.

A few people have asked when the school will be reopening. The simple answer is that we do not know. We continue to follow the Government's advice and will be in touch with you as soon as there is any change to the lockdown arrangements. Whilst it is frustrating that the future is unknown, it is much more important that everyone is healthy and safe. Please only leave home when it is absolutely necessary.

There has been many things published on-line to help support parents when talking to their children about coronavirus. You might find the following useful:

- An online book to help young children understand the current situation:  
<https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-A-Book-for-Children.pdf>
- The creators of the Gruffalo, Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler, have also produced a series of Coronavirus cartoons, full of characters the children know and love.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2020/apr/04/gruffalo-axel-scheffler-and-julia-donaldsons-coronavirus-cartoons>

Please feel assured that while Balham is closed to the majority of families we don't expect parents to act as teachers or to be able to provide the range of activities that the nursery might. At home, children learn a great deal from simply talking and being heard, playing alone and together with others and joining in with everyday household chores. Children also feel more comfortable when they have a regular routine to their day. Remember too it's ok to go out for exercise for up to an hour a day but please maintain social distancing.

The Government has recently published some advice for parents about helping children aged 2-4 learn at home during Coronavirus too:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

You can also visit **Hungry Little Minds**: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/> for more ideas of fun things to do at home.



Remember in these unusual times emotional well-being is paramount so above all else please just take time to breathe, relax, laugh and enjoy being together as a family.

Throughout the duration of lockdown, we would like to keep in touch with you and hear how your children are doing. Your Key Person will be telephoning you on a regular basis to maintain contact.

Next week the teachers will be emailing some practical ideas for you to do with your child at home. You can also discuss this with them when they phone.

We will also put these ideas on the website.

Look after yourselves and we look forward to seeing you all again as soon as we are able to.

Best Wishes

Emma and the Leadership Team

