

Eastwood News October 18th 2016

Improving lives through education for young children and their families in Roehampton.



Welcome to Harvest Festival at Eastwood! The children have been working hard to learn some traditional harvest time songs and as the week progresses we hope to see many parents coming in to listen to them and join in! Learning the words to songs and rhymes is an essential part of young children's development in literacy whether singing the songs with you or listening to them online. We hope to make a donation to the local Foodbank of any spare foods that the children can bring in and this will help them to understand the idea of sharing the harvest with others.

Health and Safety

Over the half term holiday Jason (our Premises Officer) will be hard at work clearing the old sand from the sandpit and replacing it with nice new sand. We had a couple of reports of children getting insect bites after playing in the sandpit despite regular raking and removal of the surrounding bushes so we are cordoning off the sandpit until the sand is replaced.



Thank you for folding up your buggy when dropping your child off. This helps to keep the buggies contained and the outdoor areas safe for the children.

Safeguarding

Thank you for sticking with our policy of not using your mobile phone when at Eastwood.

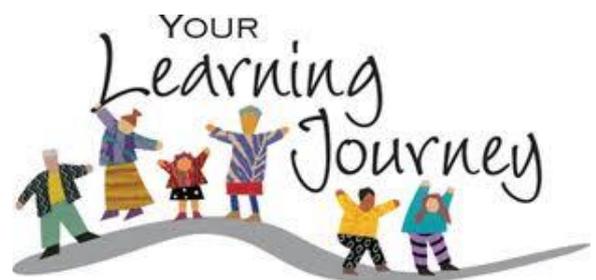
Eastwood staff are not allowed to have their personal mobile phones with them when with

children and we appreciate your support with this policy. Please do not be offended if we ask you not to use your mobile.



Starting at Eastwood

It has been wonderful to have such support and interest in these information sessions for all parents at Eastwood who have children recently starting at Eastwood. This year we are very keen to get lots of family involvement in the children's Learning Journeys



so please speak to your child's key person if you would like to take the Learning Journey home and add some photographs, drawings or little stories about what you have been doing together! You can also talk to the Children's Centre Team about starting a learning journey for your child.

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Children's Centre



We really want to increase use of the Children's Centre groups by families living close to Eastwood. Can you help us by encouraging friends with young families to come along or by giving them a timetable? We are really concentrating on homes within walking distance of Eastwood and would love to see more children aged 2 and under from those areas coming to the Centre.

Strategic Priority- Two Year Olds at the Centre

Our focus Priority for this newsletter is our drive to have two year olds at the centre! This means both providing services to encourage two year olds to come into the Eastwood Children Centre and to put two year



olds at the centre of what we do! We are working hard this year to set up and improve services for two year olds and to improve the quality of early years education that we provide for this important age group. We want to work in partnership with families to help ensure all

two year olds are ready to go to nursery and (where eligible) help more families to access the free nursery places scheme for 2 year olds.

Fantastic 2s



If you are living in Roehampton and your 2 year old is eligible for a free 2 year old place (but you have not yet found a nursery place) then you will be eligible to join Fantastic 2s! This is a structured group lasting for 6 weeks in which the Children's Centre team really focus on helping children to be ready and well prepared to start nursery. Please see the Centre Team for more information!

Local Free 2 Year Old Places

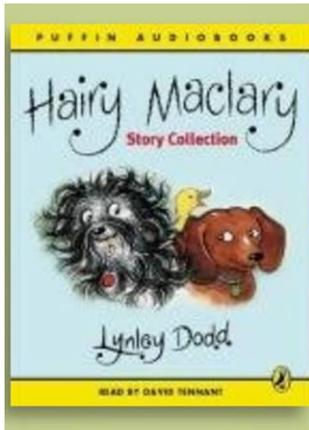
Our friends from Busy Bees Nursery and from Alton Community Playschool tell us that they have some free 2 year old places available. You can find contact information on the Council FIS website www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis and the Children's Centre Team can advise you if you are not sure whether your child is eligible.

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Learning This Week at Eastwood

Blossom Room



It is always very impressive how our youngest children enjoy and respond very positively to quite 'advanced' stories. For example Hairy Maclary – the story of a group

of dogs who are all scared of the local cat- is a big hit! This week the children have been listening to Please Mr Panda in their new book corner and this is helping them to think about manners and saying please at meal times.

Willow Room

There has been lots of industry in Willow Room with children painting cooperatively and at the easel. The children are very receptive to learning new songs- especially when they involve actions and they should recognise, if not join in with some of the songs on the Harvest song sheet!

Cedar Room

The children have been looking at the family photos that they have brought in and drawing very careful pictures as a result. They have also been out and about tallying up the different types of transport that they have seen and comparing heights as they make a height chart for the classroom.

Chestnut Class

We have been noticing just how musical some of our children in Chestnut class are! They have been working together really well to learn new songs, some of which involve learning and using each others' names and others that involve some dancing and learning actions- promoting cooperation, linking words and actions.

Beech Class

There has been excellent block play learning in Beech class with the children using their wooden blocks to explore shape and space and the relationships between different shapes- how to make a construction that does not fall down for example! Our prospective parents on a Friday show-around could see the children exploring angles outside as they used the blocks to fill in triangular spaces between fences and floors marked out with tape.

Maple Class

Some of the children went out on the bus to visit the cafe at Paddock School. They learnt about travelling safely on the bus and about how to use menus and asked politely for an order. Seeing the students running their real cafe clearly inspired them and next week they are planning to run their own cafe in the role play area!

Talk Shop

The next Talk Shop with Kate and Sharon will be from 10-11am on Monday 7th November 2016. See the Children's Centre programme for details and use the service if you have any concerns about your child's speech and language development. The service is free and the advice is from experts!

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SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)



The next SEAL workshop course starts on 9th November and runs once a week for 6 weeks. It is an ideal course for parents wanting some ideas on supporting their children's behaviour in really positive ways. Please talk to the Family Workers, Liz and Ann or to the Children's Centre team if you are interested in attending.

Chicken Pox and Minor Ailments

We have a number of cases of chicken pox at nursery at the moment. Children can come back when spots have scabbed over. Please remember that chicken pox can present a risk to pregnant mums. There have also been some isolated cases of 'Hand Foot and Mouth' and 'Slap-Cheek'. These childhood conditions are not considered illnesses that require children to be sent home but we appreciate your support in helping to ensure that pregnant mothers are aware. It is very normal for conditions like this to be around at this time of the year with weather getting colder and children starting nursery for the first time.

Dates for the Diary



'Harvest Festival Day' – Friday 21st October 2016

Half Term Week (No nursery school that week for Chestnut, Maple & Beech Classes and EECP part-time 2 year olds in Willow Room)

Nursery School first day back from half term is Monday 31st October 2016

Parent Consultations- your meeting with your child's Key Person will take place at some point between - Tuesday 1st November and Wednesday 9th November 2016 though we try to be flexible! Please see lists in classrooms and book your times before the half term holiday if possible. We would hope that every child's parent or carer will come in and meet with the Key Person.