

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2016!

We have had a wonderful, busy and tiring couple of weeks at Eastwood with the end of term and various celebrations! It has been great to see so many parents joining us for concerts, parties and of course our Christmas Events in the Children's Centre. Thank you for coming and thank you to all the children for their hard work in learning songs and being brave enough to meet Father Christmas!

Children's Centre

We had our last Fantastic Twos session last Tuesday and we were very impressed to see how much progress the children had made over the 6 weeks in the sessions of this special group for local children eligible for two year old funded nursery places. Many thanks to the Children Centre Team and to Hannah and Esther for their work in running the group and making contact with the families. Some children are moving on to nursery settings but many will come back and join a new intake. You do need an invitation to attend this group.



I think I saw most of our Fantastic Two Year Olds come back for the Christmas Event on Friday 16th December - a fun morning with interactive storytelling and lots of arts and crafts activities. There were also very successful parties with a special visitor at Lennox and Putney Vale so thank you also to Sam, Vicky, Esther and Rachel for their organisation and planning! There was an excellent turn out of local families in all the Christmas parties and activities and hopefully the children enjoyed meeting Santa! This year we also provided some arts and crafts activities and these were very popular with the children.

Christmas Concerts and Hanukkah Bedtime Story

Our children worked very hard indeed to learn new songs for the Christmas period. Our older ones were introduced to the Nativity Story with their songs helping to bring it to life. Considering that two weeks ago the children did not know the songs they did extremely well and sang beautifully. Chestnut Class had a low key concert in their room with some of their parents as did Willow Room. Blossom Room's 'Carols by Candlelight' are now quite a tradition (even if the candles are battery - operated). Cedar, Maple and Beech went for the full concert approach! Thank you for helping your child to learn the words - this will have really helped with their early literacy skills.

We did in fact use real candles for our Hanukkah Bedtime story as we made a home-made Menorah, tried Jewish bread and found out a little about the story of the first Hanukkah - another present - giving festival of light that this year coincides with Christmas.

Dads Go Wild

On Saturday 3rd December the dads braved a chilly day to help their children make dens, feed the wild birds on the pond, learn some mountaineering skills and then enjoy a well - deserved hot chocolate and toasted brioche around a camp fire in our new mud - kitchen! Our next session is Saturday 7th January 2017. All dads and male carers are very welcome. Meet outside the Nursery School (168 Roehampton Lane) at 9.30am.



The Pod Goes Live

We are very excited to have the keys to our new Sensory Pod - an interactive environment with the biggest touch screen we have ever seen, an interactive floor, smoke effects, scents and a wind machine! We managed to programme it to make a Santa's Grotto for our special visitor. The children have been trying it out and finding out how they are required to behave in it!

Learning and Teaching at Eastwood

Chestnut Class



This week the children have been working on fine motor skills with some rather nice Christmas craft activities. Well done for the nice Angels display and the 3D snow-people - and getting language going by exploring sensory messy play, perfect for describing language connected to sensations. The children have been working with adults to compose Christmas cards and letters and have been really enjoying exploring new stories and books to extend their literacy skills. They even found time to bake bread - this time with Raisins in it!

Maple Class

Wrapping presents is a good way to explore the differences and connections between 2D and 3D shapes and Maple class have been wrapping quite a lot of



objects this week! They are becoming more confident and independent with group-games outside – learning to cooperate, following game rules and of course learning the little rhymes that accompany them.

The children were showing interest in volume and capacity in sand play and in the mud-kitchen. The team have followed this interest and extended it to support the children's mathematics. They have been singing Christmas songs independently and explored the Nativity story using props.

Cedar Class

It has been a typically busy week in Cedar Class with highlights including; climbing trees during their forest school outings; exploring the growing seeds, looking at the roots and how these have changed over time (these were planted following our Science INSET day); investigating items that float and sink in water play and starting to think about why some objects float and taking turns and sharing through playing the shopping list game. At Jabadao (developmental movement play) the children explored movement with stretchy fabric and jumped from different heights off the equipment- learning to land safely and with control.

Beech Class

Beech class extended their work on paper engineering from earlier in the term to make some very interesting designs and detailed made artefacts. They explored this further with paper chains and began to think about repeating patterns. Music has been very popular as they explore tuned percussion to compose new tunes and try to recreate the songs from our regular music sessions.

Eastwood News Tuesday 20th December 2016

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

The children have had adult support to write and post their Christmas letters and in their block play and heuristic play they have made arches and enclosures.

Willow Room

The children have been making Christmas Stockings for a display this week and have also been painting and preparing cardboard boxes to make a large sculpture which they added to with shredded paper for a snow-effect! They have been watching and observing closely - especially how bubbles move around the water play letters that they have.

Blossom Room

This week in Blossom room our youngest children have been exploring movement. There have been lots of 'downward dog's' (Yoga) going on! The children have been bending and rolling themselves as well as challenging their own climbing skills outside. There has been lots of mark making going on and all children are showing a real development in their understanding of how marks are made.

Dear Zoo has made a re-appearance as a favourite book so there have been lots of animal noises and children have enjoyed going out and about in the local community looking at decorations and lights.

INSET Day

We are closed on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 for staff training. We will re- open for children on **Wednesday 4th January 2017** when we will be really pleased to see the children again.

Christmas Closure

All **our services** are closed over the Christmas period. If you are in urgent need for help and support then please contact Family Information Service on: **Tel: 0208 871 7899** or check out the Wandsworth FIS website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis).

