

# Eastwood News Monday 5th December 2016

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

Here at Eastwood we avoid mention of the word Christmas until we reach December! We will provide some details of the events we have planned for the children and the community over the the last two weeks and we will be sending home some song words. If you would like to discuss any arrangements for your child then please do have a word with your child's key person or a management member of staff- do please let us know if you are concerned about any plans or activities.

We had an interesting and practical INSET day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November with an outside trainer helping us to think about our provision for science. One of our priorities for this year is to develop our provision for science investigations and we found some new ideas - though we also found that we are already doing quite a lot considering how young the children are - for example a lot of baking has been taking place recently!

## Learning at Eastwood

### FUND RAISING AT THE DAY NURSERY

The Day Nursery had a fun week of raising funds initially for 'Santa' presents (books) but Eastwood Friends Group have now funded and so our thanks on behalf of all the children to EFG. The children took part in the Eastwood bake off challenge and made biscuits, banana loaf, muffins, cakes and bread rolls and more which sold out and expanded waistlines. There were also jellies and fruit pots for sale. The children raised an amazing **£218**.

We are planning to use some of the money for decorations for the season and will put the rest towards trips and outings or to arrange for animals or special activities to be brought to Eastwood for the

children. We already have a date in mind for what has now become the 'Eastwood Annual Farm Trip'.

## WELL DONE - Blossom Cedar and Willow

### Blossom Room

This week in Blossom Room the children have continued their theme around 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The children even had tea with a TIGER! They have been digging in the garden using containers and we hope that children will soon begin planting individually so that they can care for their own plant. They have been busy starting with Christmas creativeness! Children have been practising their carols and Jingle bells are already proving a firm favourite! Nicola has been getting very messy with the children in Forest School. They have been mud painting which has been met with great enthusiasm.

### Willow Room

There has been lots going on in Willow Room with painting, construction play and plenty of water play as well!

### Cedar Class

This week the children have been involved in some very exciting learning! They made their very own 'moon sand' and the children created different structures from castles to mountains: If you want to make some at home it involves mixing 8 cups of flour and a cup of oil and adding some colouring if desired. They have been making prints and patterns in playdough using natural resources such as shells and pine cones.

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When they explored our forest school site on Wednesday it was very icy; the children collected frosty leaves and brought these back to nursery to make their own leaf ice blocks. The children have also visited the library and yesterday some of them took part in a Jabadao session; exploring movement and balance.

## **Beech Class**

In Beech class the children have been developing an environment and play inspired by 'space' with astronaut characters, collaborative work to make a rocket and exploring light, reflective materials and making a few planets out of recycled materials! Outside the children have been exploring forces by making a giant see saw - using logs and sleepers - and relating this to their weighing scales.

## **Maple Class**

The children have been exploring three dimensional shapes and developing descriptive vocabulary through wrapping up various items in the classroom and putting them under their Christmas Tree! They have been enjoying some very imaginative 'doctor' play and learning to programme their little robots so that they move around the classroom.

## **Chestnut**

Chestnut class have also been taking part in some baking activities! They have made bread using yeast and watching the dough rise. This has helped them to learn and use action vocabulary including 'stirring', 'kneading' and 'mixing'. The younger ones have been learning some games as part of their work on looking after babies. This has really helped them to approach the adults to initiate their own games and gain adult attention.

## **Clothes and dress code**

At Eastwood we promote and encourage children using aprons for wet and messy activities but we do not exclude children from play and exploring if they are not ready and willing to put one on. Hopefully we have explained this to all parents before the children start so there should not be unhappiness if clothes are a little messy at the end of the day. We will of course change your child if they are wet - especially in this cold weather!

As a reminder children at Eastwood are not supposed to wear jeans and lace-up shoes. We like the children to be dressed in clothes that we can help them change out of easily or the older ones can manage all by themselves. Track suits with zipped hoody tops and Velcro shoes are recommended. Whilst we do not have a uniform we do ask for the dress code to be followed- our dress code is very similar to the uniforms of local school nursery classes except that here the children can wear any colour or pattern they like! All children should have a waterproof coat, wellington boots and lot of spare clothes in their back pack with names in everything!

## **Road Safety**

As you know, we do not own the carpark or driveways around the site. If you do drive onto the site please never park in the disabled bays and always ensure your child is fastened into a suitable car-seat. We may approach you and remind you of this if we see unrestrained children because the risk of injury is very high.



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## **Feedback**

We are working to improve the quality and detail of feedback we provide at the end of the day for our younger children. If your child is in Blossom, Willow or Cedar Room and you would like to have some detailed feedback or discussion with the practitioner on duty then please make sure you arrive before 6.00pm. Nursery closes at 6.00pm and shifts end at 6.15pm and that last 15 minutes is needed to tidy up and prepare for the next day.

## **Book Club**

Each child attending Eastwood should be able to access a folder and a choice of good quality books that can be borrowed to take home. Please encourage your child to change their books regularly and to look at their chosen book at home with you! Please see your room leader or key person if you have any questions or need to start borrowing books.

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## End of term events

Date	Activity
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Party for the Lennox Children's Centre Play and Learn session.
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Centre Parents' Coffee morning 10am - 11.30am.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day for Maple, Beech and Chestnut classes (Nursery School) for children who have already experienced staying for lunch.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Hanukkah Bedtime Story - all welcome at 4.30pm in the Nursery School.
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Father Christmas visiting all children attending Eastwood Nursery School.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert for Maple, Beech and Chestnut classes – parents warmly invited to hear the children sing and join in at 9.30am and 1.00pm!
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Children Centre's Christmas Celebration – Booking required. Please contact the Children Centre.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas concerts and Santa for Blossom, Willow and Cedar rooms.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Children Centre – Advice and support only - No stay and play sessions
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner day for Cedar, Willow and Blossom Rooms (Day Nursery) for children who will normally be in for lunch on that day.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term for Maple, Beech and Chestnut classes (Nursery School). School closes early at 1.45pm.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Last day for Cedar, Willow and Blossom rooms (Day Nursery). Children <b>must be collected</b> by 3.00pm.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	INSET DAY – Eastwood closed.
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Eastwood reopens to children.