



Newsletter 26th January 2018

Welcome to 2018!

We have had a very exciting start to the year here at Eastwood with our new topics 'Schemas' and 'STEM' to really get to the heart of some practical and hands on learning!

Schemas are little learning behaviours that children repeat over and over again in different ways. A clever early years practitioner can make the most of these in children's play and learning and recognise how they can really support children's learning. Classic schemas include 'transporting' in which children like to move things from one place to another. Setting up a pop-up shop with shopping baskets can build nicely on that. Another is 'enveloping' where children like to put things into something else-like a box or a bag- so those things cannot be seen. That's quite mathematical and can be the starting point for early mental arithmetic!

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and this is very much what we like at Eastwood- making things, learning skills, solving problems and thinking mathematically by doing things.

We are welcoming some new children at the moment in nearly all our classes and of course we have new children coming to our Children's Centre crèche and Fantastic Twos. Welcome to the children and their families!

Now that's How to Recycle a Christmas Tree!

We weren't sure what to do with our rather sad looking Christmas trees when the New Year arrived so we handed the problem over to the children...

The tree with roots was easy- we are good at digging holes at Eastwood so planting a tree is straightforward. The rather dead one without roots was more complicated.



The children started with scissors to remove branches but then we found we need secateurs (which require a great deal of care when you are 3 or 4) to deal with the tougher ones. Discussions about 'force' needed to cut and 'diameter' of the branches continued as children got busy using the trimmings as makeshift paintbrushes and additions to the mud kitchen.

The final part of this learning story was deciding to add the branches to a chicken-wire weaving loom and before long the children had made a nest! I wonder if something will lay some eggs...

News from Christmas and Hanukkah

We were delighted to be invited to the Hanukkah assembly at Mosaic School- a group of 20 of our older children went across to join all of the children and find out more about the festival. Meanwhile Fantastic 2s and others in nursery enjoyed playing with spinners (dreidels are traditional toys associated with Hanukkah) and watching us light and then blow-out 8 large and one small candle in a sand tray!

Carol Singing at Duchesne House in Aubyn Square

We really appreciated seeing all of our parents attend Christmas sing a longs- we hope you enjoyed helping your child to learn the songs! A group of 18 from Cedar, Beech, Chestnut and Maple classes walked all the way down to Duchesne House for 'Carol Singing' to the elderly residents as we have done every year for the last 4 years. We are planning to visit much more often in future and the trip helped the children to think about 'People and Communities' which as an aspect of the curriculum we have made a priority this year.

Dads Go Wild

'Dads Go Wild' is our monthly Saturday morning outdoor activity session for all young children in the area. Dads, granddads, uncles are all welcome with any child from birth upwards. Our next session is 9.30 to 11.30 on Saturday 3rd February- meet at the Nursery School



Wandle Early Years Hub



We are very excited to be a key partner in the recently announced Wandle Early Years Hub- a new initiative by the Mayor of London. Rob has attended several meetings at City Hall over the last couple of months with colleagues from Wandle Teaching School Alliance as we developed our bid. Only three were approved in the whole of London so we were very proud and are now planning to work on: -

- Increasing the uptake of the 2 year old entitlement across SW London
- Improving the quality of early years education in providers across SW London
- Promoting careers in Early Years
- Helping providers build their confidence in working with children with special needs
- Supporting parents to understand the benefits of early education.

Eastwood already provides training, cluster meetings and consultancy services to local schools and settings so it seems very natural to us to develop an Early Years Hub and we are really excited about the development!

2018 Nursery Applications

If you or a friend is seeking a high quality nursery education place for September 2018 then please get your applications to Eastwood Nursery School in by 9th February 2018. Show rounds are on Fridays at 10.00 but we can do other times by arrangement. We really hope that you will want your child to join Eastwood and have an excellent start to their education.

Car Parking Safety on our Site

Thank you for keeping the disabled bays opposite the Nursery School empty for those cars with a valid disabled parking badge. Many users of services at Eastwood and Small Steps need to have access to these bays so that they can attend. The Council will be carrying out checks to ensure that only badge holders are parked here.



Learning and Teaching at Eastwood

Maple Class have developed a fascination with what is inside them and have been speculating about how many bones and muscles they have in their bodies. They have looked at a model of a brain, made skeleton puppets and even dug up and assembled a cardboard skeleton in the sand pit! This week they are learning about how to clean and look after their teeth.

Beech Class have been making some very impressive constructions both inside and out using recycled materials, blocks, long cardboard shapes and lots and lots of tape! They have also found time to refine their name-writing skills and there is always someone in Beech class creating a magnificent painting! Mathematical thinking has also been a focus with a wonderful fruit and veg shop- with real fruit and veg of course!

Chestnut class has been lucky enough to have a Professor of Music work with them each week! Our Chair of Governors, Adam Ockelford, has been helping the children to explore musical instruments including keyboards. The children have been learning to compose and the

practitioners learning how to respond through music.



Blossom Class have been exploring with the water lots this week, making lots of bubbles and trying to blow them off their hands.

The children have been playing with play dough, rice and fir cones in the home corner, and using different resources to paint onto paper (and themselves), and filling and emptying different size containers in the sand. Last week they also had fun exploring ramps and gradients to make toy cars roll down them at different speeds- physics for babies and toddlers!

Oak class have been focusing on shapes and patterns in the environment. The children have been looking for shapes and identifying the ones that they find. They have also been using Duplo and Interstars to make their own patterns. They then extended this to begin to categorize objects by shape. The team has been introducing children to the effects that exercise has on their bodies and have been exploring this with some running games out in the garden. The children made cupcakes in their cooking session and spontaneously began representing the experience of cooking in the home corner by mixing together playdough and flour. Forest school and Jabadeo sessions have begun again as well as the weekly visits to the library.



Cedar class have been working hard on their photography project- talking about the photographs that they have taken in the local community and about photos from home. They have been busy baking with some delicious muffins. They have also found time to explore numerals on clocks and watches and 2D shapes!

Eastwood Children's Centre News

We were quite overwhelmed by the response to the new Volunteering course-please come into the centre if you are interested and would like to join. Best wishes to the volunteers who will go on to make a real difference and gain excellent work experience!

January to March Programme

Have you seen our latest programme? Leaflets are available in the reception areas and on the website. We are delighted that 166 Roehampton Lane is now also the base for Health Visitors from a very large area and we will soon be providing additional health services on site- including a 2 Year Olds' Reviews!

January INSET days

All the Eastwood staff benefitted from excellent safeguarding and child protection training in our early January INSET days. We had an expert

outside trainer who we were very impressed with. She was also very impressed with us!

Stronger Safeguarding at Eastwood

If you are at Eastwood and have cause to be concerned about a child's safety or wellbeing or the actions of any adult please tell a member of staff immediately or ask at reception to speak to a Designated Safeguarding Manager in confidence.

At Eastwood we have a duty system so you will always be able to talk with a qualified designated safeguarding manager: -

- Jennie Ramsey
- Wendy Thrussell
- Rob Nicholson
- Karen Pearson

Please join us in our aim of 'always acting in the child's best interest to keep them safe and well'.

Mud Kitchen Appeal

If your kitchen drawers are getting too full we are always keen to add to our mud kitchens! If you have any spares of the following then please do bring them in for us!

- Large metal spoons
- Ladles and slotted spoons
- Saucepans and frying pans
- Wooden spoons and spatulas

Please visit our website

www.eastwood.wandsworth.sch.uk

