



- **Nursery School**
- **Day Nursery**
- **Children's Centre**

Newsletter October 2018

Welcome to a New School Year!

We are very impressed with how well our new children are settling in at Eastwood- our Children's Centre Creche, Day Nursery and Nursery School are all welcoming in new children to play and learn and they do seem to be having fun whilst learning new skills.

It isn't all about new children of course and we have experienced children returning to us after the summer holidays and Forest School is an ideal way to extend them and give them some protected time as new children settle. Several children are becoming experts at identifying trees!

We were excited to welcome lots of adult learners with their young children to our new ESOL courses on a Wednesday in the Children's Centre. The children settled happily into the crèche whilst parents were busy getting to know the course tutor and starting to learn new skills. Good luck to everyone!

We are focusing on our approaches to curriculum planning this year- thinking in particular about how we link planning to our observations and ensure children are supported to make the next steps in their learning.

Harvest Festival

Each term we plan carefully for the festivals and cultural celebrations that we think we will be interesting and meaningful to the children and then think of ways to mark them that are suitable to the age group.

We kick off the year with Harvest Festival which does link in with the children's awareness of seasonal change and the cooking and baking that we enjoy taking part in.

There will be opportunities for you to come in and help the children celebrate and we are planning that as many of them as possible will bake some bread or something similar- helping them to be aware of the ingredients of familiar foods.

We like to forge links with the local Duchesne House in Auby Square and a group of children will take some of their bread to help understand the sharing side of Harvest with the elderly residents there.

Breakfast

We have places available at the Nursery School Breakfast Club. The service requires regular attendance but represents good value with a nutritious breakfast, play and fun with our qualified leader before Nursery School starts in the morning.

Forest School News

You may already see groups of children from a very young age going out into the local community natural areas for some memorable first hand experiences with nature! This is a good time of year for collections with acorns, conkers and leaves to pick up and attach to a woodland crown (come to Dads Go Wild if you don't know what that is) or to place on the nature table. A Nursery can never have too many conkers and the squirrels keep pinching the acorns so do feel free to bring in any spares that you may collect!

Have a look at the Forest School displays around the nursery classes to find out more!

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 November - meet at the Nursery School (no need to book and no charge) meet other dads and male carers for a relaxed nature walk with an art activity and campfire.

You and your child will need to be dressed to be outdoors for about 2 hours.



Dads Go Wild Dates Autumn and Winter
Saturday 3 rd November
Saturday 1 st December
Saturday 5 th January

Wandle Early Years Hub



Eastwood is as member of the Wandle Teaching School Alliance and we already provide a great deal of training to early years practitioners and teachers from south west London. We are also a key partner on the Wandle Early Years Hub and are now working 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.

Latest news is that we have been commissioned to provide training to all Wandsworth Children's Centres on our Fantastic 2s programme- one of our key 'school readiness' programmes for children eligible for a free nursery place at 2 years old.

2018 Nursery School

Applications

If you or a friend is seeking a high quality nursery education place for a 3 or 4 year old for September 2019 then please try and get your applications in to Eastwood Nursery School 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.

If you are interested in a free place for your 2 year old then please make contact with our Children's Centre on 020 8876 3976 opt 3

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

In **oak class** the children have been exploring with programmable toys and have been using remote control cars to investigate with speed and direction. The children have also been focusing on different stories which have so far included 'Peace at Last', 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'What the ladybird Heard'

In **cedar class** the children have been learning about the topic of hibernation, the animals that hibernate and why and they also made their very own bear cave. We will be focusing on this topic more during our upcoming forest school sessions. The children have also been engaging in lots of role-play from making their own supermarket to an outdoor pirate ship.

Blossom Class: This month the children in blossom have been learning lots about animals

that live in the jungle. They have made their own jungle using natural resources, researched animals on the iPad and have created a new nursery rhyme focused on jungle animals.

Maple Class have lots of new children starting – some of them very young and so learning routines and learning each other's' names are very important. There is still time for baking bread and for a daily group time in which the children have been learning to handle books, talk about what they see and recall details through one of our core books- Dear Zoo.

Beech Class also has lots of new children- some of our older ones- and they have been focusing on 'Owl Babies' and 'Brown Bear Brown Bear What do You See?' as core books. They have been making their own playdough; drawing, cutting & sticking; writing letters, learning words and posting with envelopes; identifying trees, leaves, seeds and fruits and caring for their new goldfish!

Chestnut Class have been working hard on new routines, getting to know each other and learning about listening and attention through daily bucket group and language activities plus plenty of time to play. Several of the children have really enjoyed some first Forest School experiences.

Eastwood Children's Centre News

AUTUMN TERM PROGRAMME

Have you seen our latest programme? Leaflets are available in the reception areas and on the website. Our new ESOL courses have proved very popular and have quickly filled up!

Safeguarding Update

We used part of our staff training day at the start of September to launch our new policy and

ensure everyone is aware of our legal requirements under 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Once formally agreed by Governors the policy will be available as a download from our website.

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' by supervising your child around the site and not using your mobile phone in Eastwood buildings.

Key diary dates

10 th October 9.30 and 5.00	Parent curriculum information sessions 9.30 and 5.00 in the Nursery School Training Room
12 th October	Harvest Festival Sing Songs
22 nd – 26 th October	Half term – Nursery School only
29 th October	Closed for staff training
Wednesday 7 th November 5.30 PM	Diwali and Bonfire Night celebration and bedtime story
Tuesday 13 th November	School photographer in for individual photos

Please see notice boards or class-letters for information about parent consultation meetings

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 and tiny measuring spoons
- Ladles and slotted spoons
- Wooden spoons and spatulas

Please visit our website

www.eastwood.wandsworth.sch.uk

