

BALMORE kindergarten NEWSLETTER...February 2018



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Family Interaction Sessions

We are looking to host weekly family health and wellbeing events. This could be a Wednesday walk, a Monday healthy menu cooking class or a fun day Friday coffee and chat. These would be on offer at various times throughout the week.

Please can you detail any ideas you have below or come and have a chat with myself in the nursery. On Friday 2nd February we are inviting all grandparents to join us in experiencing a day in the life of the nursery.

Fees and Nursery Holidays

As stated in our nursery contract, fees should be paid by standing order, cash, or debit/credit card. Card payments can be taken over the telephone. If paying monthly, your fees should be paid by the 5th of the month. If paying weekly, we ask that payment is made one week in advance.

Fees are payable when your child is absent due to sickness or holiday. Full time children will be given a refund on our four-day closure at Christmas and new year. Children who attend part time will be offered alternative sessions.

Nursery Voting system

We have created a new voting system located in the entrance hall on our lower floor area, this is to allow parents to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas which relate to "How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare".

We are currently reviewing (2.5) Family learning - How good are we at engaging families in learning?

Please ensure that you vote and leave comments as this will have an impact on our decisions.

Online Learning Journals

Please keep up to date with your child's learning and news via our online journal system. Learning journals are updated on a weekly basis and you can arrange to discuss any matters relating to your child's learning and development with their keyworker or senior of the department.

If you do not have access to your child's journal, you can click the link on our nursery website or please do not hesitate to speak with Kathleen.

Festival Dates for Your Diary

- National heart month - Month of February
- Pancake day - Tuesday 13th February
- Valentine's day - Wednesday 14th February
- Chinese New Year - Friday 16th February

Staff Training this month

Oh Lila training - Kirsty
FGM child protection training - Shannan
Stem training (session 5) - Kelly
Play on pedals - Devlin
NHS Toothbrushing - Lauren Livingstone
Maths training - Lauren Hamill

Staff News

During our appraisal procedure staff discussed with management what training opportunities they would like, professionalism, skills, setting new objectives etc. Due to our students being part of the Balmore team for over six months we have now decided that Devlin will spend the rest of his training year in our duckling department to further develop his knowledge of the Pre-Birth to Three curriculum and developing his skills with this age group. Joseph will spend this year in our monster department to further develop his knowledge of the Curriculum for Excellence and developing his skill with this age group. We would also like to welcome Megan to our Balmore team, she will join our owl department where she will begin to work towards her SVQ Level 3 in childcare.

Employee of the month

We would like to congratulate Joseph for receiving employee of the month, he has now been with our team for six months and is making great progress with his own learning.

Committee Teams

Please ensure that you are kept up to date with our committees by looking at our committee wall, big books, minutes of meetings and you can also attend meetings. For more information please speak with the head of the committee however if you would like to take part in a committee please speak with Kathleen.

Committee meeting dates for this month

- ✓ My world outdoors committee meeting - 8th February
- ✓ Charity committee meeting - 15th February
- ✓ HGIOELCC Committee meeting - 16th February
- ✓ Eco schools committee meeting - 23rd February

Spanish Classes

Following parent suggestions, I have sourced a Spanish teacher from the company 'The Language Hub' to come in on a Friday morning. Lessons will last 30mins, and links to the curriculum for excellence. These will run in 8-week blocks with the maximum of 10 children in each class. Payment for the 8-week block will be due in advance. If you would like your child to attend, please comment below or alternatively give me a call at the nursery to secure your place. Cost will depend on how many children are in the class. If the maximum numbers attend cost will be £4.50 per session. Please note at the moment this will be for the 3-5 years children but should anyone with younger children be interested please speak with Kathleen, as the company provide separate classes also.

Did You Know...

We have put in a proposal to the Care Inspectorate with regards to the possibilities of opening our "Balmore After School Care" on our upper floor of the building. This application is at very early stages however we will continue to keep you updated. For more information please speak with Annette or Kathleen.

Our Duckling Department

As it is national heart month our ducklings will be taking part in different learning experiences such as baking, healthy food, and different physical play experiences. Our babies will enjoy exploring different arts and crafts to create special surprises for valentine's day. We have been reading loads of different stories together to learn and identify images and leaning new sounds and words. February staff challenge is to create a treasure basket for our department, we would really appreciate if you could donate anything for example, corks, lids, chains, locks etc.

Our Owl Department

This month we are planning to move our owls into our yellow room. Through observations and evaluations of the playroom, we feel that by moving this will benefit our children. We are focusing on sensory exploration, building our sensory garden, and exploring lots of sensory experiences. Kirsty will implement Reggio Emilia into our department as a new learning initiative, we are looking to collect corks, lids, and bottles. Our colour of the month is RED, as we will be celebrating national heart month, valentine's day, and Chinese New Year.

Our Monster Department

During the month of February our children have decided they would like to learn about money, why we need money and how we use money. We have planned to visit local shops within our community, encouraging our children to be responsible with handling money. Our children would like to turn their role-play area into their Balmore shop, this is to extend their experience with money. Our children will also be celebrating Chinese New Year by creating a Chinese dragon, visiting SeeWoo, listening to Chinese music and much more. Can we please ask all parents to provide a spare change of clothes for your child as they may become wet, dirty from garden play etc.