



Webbs Road • Lavender Hill
Old Town; The Nursery • Old Town; The Kindergarten

Newsletter of the Year 2025

In 2025 we celebrated 20 Years of Linden Tree

Froebel's holistic view of education and development suggests that an understanding of the past (whether personal, cultural, or historical) is essential to appreciating the present and shaping the future. When we reflect on the past 20 years we must be able to appreciate and understand where we have been to clearly see where we are going. Reflection is key to this process, we must learn from the past to be able to adapt and grow.

When we opened our doors at Webbs Road in June 2005 we had no idea how far we'd go, yet here we are 20 years later. Since 2005 we have become a well-established nursery group in Clapham and Battersea now with four sites (soon to be five) and we are honoured to have supported and cared for countless families and children in the community over that time. The Early Years sector has also seen dramatic changes with the rise in qualified educators and the ever-changing curriculum and Ofsted frameworks. We work hard to ensure we keep on top of key changes with the guidance of our Learning and Development Team. What has become apparent over the past two decades is the need for nursery groups to become professional entities. Ones which can interpret and understand government legislation and create policies which benefit and enhance the learning environment for children, which at Linden Tree is underpinned by the Froebelian principles. We recognise that the need for play, care, empathy and consideration is needed now more than ever. This is one of the main drivers for our new curriculum which we launched this autumn (see page 3 for more details). The way in which

'As a team, we've learned what it takes to deliver quality care, week in and week out, through every challenge.'

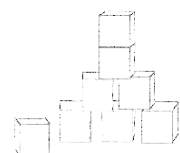
*(Alison Murray
Founder)*

we create our framework comes from what we know and understand about the children who attend. Including them in our analysis and tuning into what is important to them. Both now and in the future to ensure the experiences we offer are meaningful and significant and make sense in their real world. Froebel recognised this and the impact it can have on later learning. As children see themselves in their environment their sense of identity deepens allowing for core connections between themselves, others and objects. 20 years ago we did not adopt the Froebelian approach, as 'childcare' was not the same back then.

Whereas now, there is more emphasis on 'getting it right' in the Early Years which means nurseries are becoming key beacons in communities, just like schools. This responsibility requires more qualified staff and quality assurance in key areas such as safeguarding, teaching and learning and social and emotional development. We are very proud of our teams and the environment offered to children every day. We hope to continue to be an important part of the community in the coming years as we open our new Kindergarten and welcome more children.

"The child is the most important part of the educational system; all that we do as educators is to guide the child's natural self-development through reflection and action."

Froebel



Linden Tree Educators

Learning and Development A year of success

As we come to the end of the year, I'm delighted to share some good news. Linden Tree Nursery Schools has been officially recognised as a Gold Partner Employer with Best Practice Network (BPN), which is one of our trustworthy training providers.

This award is given to organisations that show an outstanding commitment to staff development. By including other training providers, such as BeReady, over the last 24 months, 16 members of our team have been getting relevant qualifications in the sector across 4 different programmes, which has taken us into the Gold tier.

Being a Gold Partner means we benefit from dedicated support, regular visits, priority access to training places and a clear pathway for staff to progress – from Level 3 apprenticeships right through to leadership and specialist Early Years qualifications such as Coaching in Education Apprenticeship (level 5) and the EYITT (Early Years Initial Teacher Training).

We're proud of this achievement because investing in our staff ultimately means the very best experiences for the children in our care.



2025 Staff Spotlight

We are so proud of everyone in the team, but these staff went above and beyond in 2025.

First row: Lu, Samiha, Akida, Dora, Menagha, Georgina

Second row: Diana, Amy O, Chanade, Csenge, Leah

Third row: Hartha, Kim, Dong, Amy M, Muna, YY

Fourth row: Kay, Fathima, Edona, Madeeha, Teresa



The International Froebel Society Conference



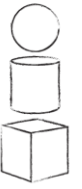
In July six members of the team embarked on a journey to Erfurt, Germany for the International Froebel Society Conference. Holli Williams (Head of Schools), Angela Fedi (Head of Learning and Development), Monika Kraszkiewicz (Learning and Development Coordinator), Alexander Djerovic (Kindergarten Manager), Ryanne Bijl (Webbs Road Deputy Manager) and Kim Meynell (Webbs Road Teacher) enjoyed the three-day conference which included Froebelian keynote speakers from around the world, interactive workshops and the opportunity to visit Froebel's first school in Kielhau. We explored the Froebelian museum (Froebel's first Kindergarten) and were able to see first-hand where it all began.

Staff Wellbeing

This year, we continued to prioritise the holistic wellbeing of our staff, beginning with the Staff Engagement Survey, where participation was high and feedback was positive. From this, several wellbeing initiatives were introduced and implemented, including three paid wellbeing days, access to up to six sessions with a professional counsellor, birthday leave starting in 2026, and coffee vouchers in each nursery. We also continued to strengthen workplace relationships through our Respectful Communication at Work workshop, helping to foster a positive, open, and supportive environment for everyone.



The Curriculum at LTNS



It stems from our values...

This year we have reviewed and evaluated our curriculum at Linden Tree. Throughout this process it became clear that we needed to take a good look at our values and what it means to be both a child and educator at our nursery schools. This process meant we looked at the Froebelian principles and their purpose. These principles derived from Helen Tovey (2016) and The Froebel Trust (2021). Both sets have similarities and offer a broad perspective of what the Froebelian approach looks like in practice, yet the time had come for us to graduate from these principles and look inward. By highlighting principles which directly impact everyone at Linden Tree we could make it more meaningful. These principles are outlined in our new curriculum document which we launched at our inset day on 15th October this year. Our staff teams came together to hear about and reflect on the document. Thinking about their current practice and how they are embedding the Froebelian principles into their everyday practice. Most importantly, thinking about how this benefits the children and keeps play at the heart of our routine.

(below from left to right: the principles in detail, the front cover of our curriculum)

Linden Tree Nursery Schools Principles

Our LTNS principles enhance practice, give us purpose and support our relationships with children, families and colleagues. They are guided by the Froebelian principles which underpin how we design and deliver our curriculum.

Link, unity and connectedness

Everything links, to separate or compartmentalise can disrupt children's natural curiosity. Educators should find the unity in everything, understand what we all have in common and harness this to better understand the children and families within our nursery schools.

Importance of childhood in its own right

Childhood is not just preparation for adulthood. Childhood deserves to be respected and valued. Starting from where the child and family are. Understanding what makes them unique and building on this is the most reliable starting point.

Nature, sustainability and the community

Being conscious of our impact on the natural world should be the foundation of decision making. How we are contributing positively to the community and wider world has moral and ethical considerations. The communities in which the nursery schools reside must be understood to effectively connect to them.

Deeply significant learning through first-hand experiences

Children learn best when they experience life holistically. This means that children need to be able to experience things first hand, with their whole body and senses to begin to make sense of the world around them. Linking the curriculum to events in children's lives, such as the seasons, becoming a sibling, moving house etc. Things that are happening now are more effective at developing learning and supporting children's emotional development of these events.

Enriching and inspiring environments

The way the environment is set up, what resources it holds and what educators are there dictates the learning that takes place. We must ensure the environment is suitable for the needs and abilities of each child. It should be carefully equipped with resources that will support and inspire learning as well as reflect and celebrate the children and families who attend.

Nurturing knowledgeable educators

Educators must be able to understand how to interact with the children, family and the indoor and outdoor provision to guide children's learning in meaningful ways. Educators should have a deep understanding of child development specifically for children from birth to 5 years old. Educators should make it their task to understand and care for each child as they are and not try to get them to a place where they think they should be.

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Talk, play and the power of symbols

Children learn through play, exploration and repetition. They need to be given the time to explore in a safe and secure environment which recognises and supports the benefits of symbolic representation. Educators should use symbols such as print in the forms of words and numbers and role play props to embrace the use of symbols as a tool for learning.

Relationships matter

Building good, supportive relationships is the foundation for success. Educators should ensure they develop trusting relationships with families and children as well as with their colleagues and any outside agencies. When relationships are nurtured and valued everyone benefits.

Empowerment through free choice and movement

Giving children choice during the day builds their sense of self-worth and allows them to take control of their actions. Routines and boundaries are important, but they should not overshadow a child's need to freely explore activities. Making time for children to move their whole bodies, in ways that are comfortable for them, is important as it lays the foundation for a healthy emotional and mental future.

Equality, equity and celebrating diversity

All staff, children and families have the right to thrive in a safe and secure environment where they are valued for who they are and where they come from. At Linden Tree we accept and support everyone, as we celebrate our differences and recognise the power in harnessing them.

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Connecting with parents, families and communities: a starting point



Holli Williams (Head of Schools) and Rachna Joshi (Early Years Consultant and Educator) teamed up to write a new pamphlet for the Froebel Trust. This pamphlet focuses on the importance of building trusting relationships with families and recognising the unique identities within it. It discusses practical examples and gives ideas for educators to enhance and improve their practice. If you would like to read more, you can download a copy [here](#).

Another year has passed, with much to be grateful for!

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary during our Staff Appreciation Day event in July. Here are a selection of photos of the event and our fabulous teams!



Bennerley Road Kindergarten- Update

We started 2025 with such high hopes of how our new Kindergarten would be open and full of children by the summer. However, due to some structural issues beyond our control, the project was delayed quite considerably.

I am pleased to report that we are moving into a more positive place. Once we have the keys from the builders we will register with Ofsted and begin to think about transitioning children from 30 months old to Bennerley Road from Webbs Road. We don't have any concrete timeframe as to when this will be as yet, but once we have more news we will keep those families who will be impacted informed.



In January 2026 we will be moving on to a new nursery software system called Family. This comes with a parent app and we are hoping it will streamline our digital information and strengthen our communication with families. We are very excited about this move and more information will follow via email.



We understand the important job we have and feedback such as the below demonstrates the wonderful impact it has on children, parents and families.

'We feel incredibly lucky to have been supported by a hugely talented team throughout their journey. We are acutely aware of this incredibly important time in their childhood development. We can see how they have been loved, cared for and nurtured during their time at Linden Tree and know they have thrived in the environment your team have created. These are relentless long days with sadly not enough financial reward and we are so grateful to see how the team consistently went above and beyond to care for the children.'

- Old Town Kindergarten parent

'We will miss Linden Tree dearly and are forever grateful for the trusting relationship we built with those of you who cared for our precious boy. We wish you all the very best for the future. Thank you so much for the incredibly kind words in the card you made. We will treasure it.'

- Old Town Kindergarten parent

2026 Diary Dates

Monday 5th January

First nursery day of the year!
Open at 8am

Thursday 26th March

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

Friday 10th July

Staff Appreciation Event-
All Nursery Schools Closed

Monday 26th October

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

For the full list of 2026 dates
please follow the link

[LTNS Diary Dates](#)



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[LTNS Brochure](#)