



Webbs Road Lavender Hill Old Town



Newsletter of the Year 2019

'The nurturing of children's interests... brings, in very meaningful ways, a rich intellectual life, full of satisfaction - energising and harnessing the natural motivation that is intrinsic in babies and toddlers.'

- Tina Bruce (20:2012)

Kew Gardens



Expeditions throughout the year are embedded within our practice and the children this year have visited some wonderful places including Kew Gardens, The Transport Museum and Crystal Palace Park.

Welcome to our Newsletter of the Year

Fröebel and the Early Years at Linden Tree Nursery Schools

2019 has been a year of continual growth, both inside and outside of the nursery. We would like to welcome our new staff, parents and children as we use this newsletter to showcase the great year we have had. This includes all the wonderful activities the children have experienced along with the professional development of our staff which enables them to bring more knowledge and enthusiasm to their teaching everyday.

Since our rebranding in 2018 we have devoted time in further developing our Froebelian practice with more staff attending conferences and the senior team visiting

Keilhau, Froebel's first school, in Germany. Gatherings, conferences and events at other settings, such as the Annan Froebel School, allow the team to keep updated with changing legislation and reflect on their current practice. They also have the opportunity to

'I set my hopes on the small inner circles which ripple outwards and in doing so transform and grow, changing self and others.'

- Friedrich Froebel

network with other professionals and understand how the Froebelian approach is delivered in different environments across the UK and internationally. Staff within our settings are expected to have excellent knowledge of child development, however they also need to develop a holistic understanding of the Froebelian principles in order to truly connect with the purpose of

early years education. The opportunities offered can enrich their learning and allow them to make their own connections to what impact they can have on children's

experiences. **A key Froebelian principle is ensuring children have access to rich, first-hand experiences** and we believe this applies to our staff team too. In order for them to deliver exciting, engaging activities, they must have the opportunity to take part in rich and stimulating

play. By giving our staff the chance to grow and develop themselves, they can harness their ideas to help grow and develop others. As stated at a recent V&A conference, **'play is a mode of creative problem-solving, imagination and experimentation that helps us understand how we can impact the world and affect change.'** Only through our own understanding can we achieve this.

Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852)

Friedrich Froebel was born in Germany in 1782.

He believed in child-centred education and saw play as fundamental to children's development.

He created the 'kindergarten' and was passionate about the garden, nature and the outdoors.

Life, knowledge and beauty

Froebel was passionate about the interconnectedness of life (physically participating), knowledge (intellectual life) and beauty (emotional life of feelings and relationships). Through a holistic education relating to self, others and the universe children will have the tools to become a whole person (Bruce, 2012).



Principles

- Respect
- Community
- Connectedness
- Learning and Development
- Creativity
- Environment
- Positive Relationships
- Well Qualified Early Years Professionals



Children should be seen as 'essential members of humanity' and respected as 'living, loving and perceptive' people. Each child should be respected for 'who he is, what he has and what he will become' (Froebel, in Lilley 1967:95)

A Froebelian approach is not static but is continually evolving as ideas are reflected on and adapted for changing times and uncertain futures.

Our Froebelian Learning Continues...



We attended the annual Froebel Network Gathering in April which is chaired by the inspirational Professor Tina Bruce. We had wonderful discussions with like-minded Froebelians and shared excellent practice. The theme of this year was 'Link Always Link'. An important aspect of this year's theme was making sure we are always looking at what came before in order to develop and grow. As LTNS continues its journey, it becomes apparent that we cannot forget where we have come from as we continue to move forward building on the now. The same rule applies when it comes to children's learning, each child brings with them their own starting points and we must carefully tap into this to successfully cater for each individual.

In June the senior management team were honoured and excited to visit **Keilhau**, Froebel's first school in Germany. We hiked with Else, a local Froebelian, from Bad Blankenburg to Keilhau, just as Froebel did every day. We visited Froebel museums and Froebel's birth place. Following it's success, we plan for more staff to travel in 2020 as part of their CPD.



For the second year members of the management team attended the Edinburgh Froebel Network Conference in September. They used this opportunity to visit two Froebelian settings in Edinburgh including the CowGate Under 5's Children Centre which is a pioneer for the Froebelian Approach. The team returned very inspired and keen to share what they had learned with their team.



Elly, Alison, Dora & Yneska



Dora, Tina Bruce (Professional Froebelian), Anita, Holli & Yneska



Robert (Keilhau Groundsman), Else (Local Froebelian) & Holli



Delia, Anita, Kerrie & Yneska

"Froebel realised that... for the earliest stages of a child's development, the time when the child experiences the world primarily through movements, limbs and senses', [there was a need for] the compilation of the Mother Songs" (Baker, 2012:91)

In November we completed Element Five of the Froebel short courses. This element focused on the nursery rhymes we sing to the children ensuring they are developmentally appropriate for the age and stage of each child, especially when it involves complicated actions. We will be sharing more information on this in the New Year.

Activities and Experiences...

This year the children have travelled across London to visit gardens, museums and farms. They have also been involved in community activities such as visiting nearby nursing homes and caring for our commons. Other activities have included seasonal and cultural experiences as well as following the interests of the children. All of these rich, first hand experiences give children real life knowledge which allow them to make sense of the world around them. This helps them to understand their own thoughts and feelings, most of which we see reenacted in their play.



Shopping for fresh fish to make fish fingers



Visiting the library



Discovering the Transport Museum



Exploring the Science Museum

The Spider*

The children in Trees at Old Town found a spider in the garden and then more at the common. They talked about what spiders eat and where they live by using a book they found at the library.



Leo found different things for the spider to eat and put them in a box using string to create a webb across the top. Leo and Ely then found selotape and created their own installation, connecting the tape to the furniture and walls. They told Vivian they wanted the children to stick to their webb.

**This is an example of an observation, these are conducted throughout the week for each child*

Care in the Community



Webbs Road visit Trinity Court Nursing Home



Old Town visit Windmill Lodge Care Home

More expeditions throughout the year



Webbs Road
Crystal Palace park



Lavender Hill
Crystal Palace park



Old Town
Vauxhall City Farm

Partnership with Parents

'[Parents] are respected and encouraged to be a part of a learning community, in close partnership with practitioners who are learning as much as the parents are about the best and most fulfilling ways of helping young children to develop, learn and flourish.' (Bruce, T. 18:2012)

During the year we have had some wonderful visitors from our families. Opening our doors to parents and siblings enriches the lives of children by hearing about others' first hand experiences and learning about diverse opportunities.

If you would like to know when is the best time to come into your child's setting please do speak to the manager of the setting or your child's key person.

The Tea and Coffee evening in July was a big success. Thank you to all those parents who could attend.



Webbs Road



Charlie's Dad is a pilot and came in to talk to us about his amazing job, flying all over the world. The children were fascinated!

Lavender Hill



Mariko, Issei's mum, came in to talk Twigs and Trees during International Week at Lavender Hill all about Japanese traditions.



Issei was very proud to show his friends his kimono and chop sticks.

Mothers and Fathers Day!

Parents, Grandparents and siblings came together for Mother's and Father's Day this year at all three settings. Here are some wonderful snaps below...



The teams at all three of our Nursery Schools, along with us as Head Office, really appreciate your feedback, both positive and constructive. We work on the constructive comments and here are some positive:

"I was lucky enough to have the chance to be very close to the nursery and join you to many trips with the kids and I could witness how all the people who work at Linden Tree are completely dedicated to their work."

-Claudia, Lavender Hill parent



"I just wanted to say a massive thanks to you and your team at Webbs road for such a fabulous experience for Cooper and myself and my husband. Cooper thoroughly loved his time at the nursery and a very special thanks to Lydia and Monika who have been extra special to him whilst he was there."

-Feila, Webbs Road parent



Our Wonderful Team

Staff Appreciation Day – 19th July

Last year we enjoyed a scorching hot rounders game on the common (which got rather competitive) unfortunately we were not able to do the same this year due to the good old British summer, the rounders was rained off! We did not let a little rain ruin our day and instead we gathered at our Webbs Road nursery, enjoyed team building activities and hosted an awards ceremony.

'Human Bingo' was one activity where the team found out more information about their newer colleagues



Continued Professional Development

Investing in our staff is embedded within our culture at LTNS. Each staff member has access to Noodle Now (online training) and are trained in Froebelian Practice by the Froebel Trusts travelling tutors. We support staff in completing higher qualifications from level 3 to Masters and are excited in all that we are learning from them. Two members of the team are currently studying level 6 in Froebelian Principles and Practice. Whilst completing the course this year Elly (Operations Manager) introduced woodwork to Lavender Hill which was praised in their recent Ofsted inspection ***'[Older children] show great concentration and dexterity as they learn to hold nails carefully against pieces of wood, and then use hammers to knock them in.'***

Parents Choice Award



We asked you to choose a practitioner who you felt deserved to win the 'Parents Choice Award'. The plan was for one staff member from each nursery to win, however Lavender Hill had joint winners!

Congratulations to **Lydia** (Webbs Road), **Fara** and **Delia** (Lavender Hill), **Nora** (Old Town).

Staff Spotlight

This year we introduced the Staff Spotlight award. The Managers put one staff member forward to win the award based on their Froebelian practice, outstanding performance and their commitment to their role.



Nora (Old Town) is wonderfully organised and spends lots of time listening to her children. She has also been working across Webbs Rd to train and support staff in their Froebelian practice.



Delia (Lavender Hill) is visibly committed to the children in her room as well as to the Froebelian approach, always reflecting and looking for new ways to update her knowledge and support the nursery.

A BIG Thank You!

The Nursery environment is a very busy place, open 51 weeks of the year and with children for 52.5 hours of the week. We wouldn't be able to achieve all that we do without the support of all of our parents, so from all of us at Linden Tree thank you all.

We hope you have a very Happy Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year!

The Team at Head Office

Environmental March

This year was our first Environmental March initiative. Thank you to all who participated and donated. The children chose to raise money for the London Wildlife Trust and staff reviewed improvements to become a more sustainable nursery.

£214 was raised in total!

We plan to continue Environmental March in 2020. We will send more details of this in January.



Christmas Carols



Thank you to all the families who joined the nurseries for their Christmas Carols. The children have spent so much time practicing and were very excited to sing with you all.

We were very lucky to host Mary and Joseph who performed at Lavender Hill nursery.

We offer First Aid courses for parents, carers, nannies and au pairs. If you would like anymore information about this please email info on

info@ltns.org.uk

2020 Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd January

First day of the year! Open at 8am

March

Environmental March Event

Tuesday 3rd March

Inset Day- Nursery Schools Closed

July

Staff Appreciation Day- Nursery

Schools to close early

Date TBC

September

Inset Day- Nursery Schools Closed

Date TBC



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