



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

Newsletter of the Year 2024

Nurturing, Knowledgeable Educators Prioritising professional development

'Froebelian educators facilitate and guide, rather than instruct. They provide rich real life experiences and observe children carefully, supporting and extending their interests through freedom with guidance.'

(The Froebel Trust)

Froebel was clear in his vision to prioritise early childhood education when he proclaimed that young children are entitled to knowledgeable educators. Educators who have an excellent understanding of child development and are tuned into their individual needs and interests. At LTNS, we understand that ongoing training and coaching fully supports this principle. Our dedicated Learning and Development team have been working across our four sites to ensure all staff are supported and development plans are specific to their needs. By observing and completing peer observations, the managers can offer opportunities to support career progression at Linden Tree and beyond. We are very proud of our team, who are always keen to learn. The more we can assist them on their journey with us, the more meaningful experiences they can offer the children. Along with keeping them inspired and motivated which supports job satisfaction. This year we have supported more staff to complete higher level qualifications than ever before. This includes Level 3 Early Years Educator (EYE), Level 5 SENCO and Level 6 Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT). Individual nursery schools are

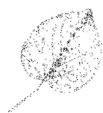
'Building positive and authentic relationships ensures children are able to learn and explore from a trusted, secure base'

participating in projects, linking with Oxford, Durham and Coventry Universities. These projects support the professional development of the staff who are involved as well as informing key research. We have also partnered with the NDNA and Education Endowment Foundation. These links allow our staff to be involved in current research which supports our mission in providing quality provision for all children. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year it is easy to recognise the hard work of all our staff. From educators to managers, everyone has an important role to play. This is evident in the 'key person approach'. Key people build bonds with children and families and ensure all children settle as smoothly as possible into their new nursery environment. Building positive and authentic relationships ensures children are able to learn and explore from a trusted, secure base. It is a very important job and one which we do not take lightly. Ensuring staff have the knowledge to perform in their role is one thing, but you cannot train people to care, or to be genuinely nurturing. It is fostered and nourished, over time, in an environment with colleagues who genuinely care for one another.

'Young children are entitled to knowledgeable and well-qualified professionals who are deeply informed about and attuned to the distinctive nature of young children's learning and development'
Tovey (2015:4)



Linden Tree Educators



Health and Wellbeing A holistic approach

The health and wellbeing of our staff team has always been important to us. Monika (our Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator) works closely with the managers to ensure all staff are listened to and cared for. Together, initiatives are implemented which have proved to boost team morale as well as supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of everyone involved. Staff particularly noted how much they enjoyed 'National Walking Month' in May. Staff happily logged their step count at the end of the week and shared these with one another. A bit of friendly competition was in the air. The overall winners were the Webbs Road team (must be all those stairs in the nursery!) and special mentions were given to those who had the highest step counts. All staff responded positively to the challenge and enjoyed the sense of connection and togetherness that it fostered. Some met for walks on the weekend to get their step count up!

October to December has been all about physical health, focusing on sleep, exercise and diet. Monika has created a staff newsletter highlighting the benefits of these aspects which all have an impact on physical health. Staff have been sharing tips with one another about inducing quality sleep and cooking healthy snacks to enjoy together. A small group met at the Kindergarten at Old Town to take part in a yoga session while others joined via Zoom. These small but important initiatives remind the team how important they are to us. We are so grateful for the wonderful Educators across LTNS and the role they have in the children's lives. We endeavour to listen and learn from one another so LTNS continues to be a wonderful workplace to learn and grow. We can't wait to do more alongside the team in 2025.



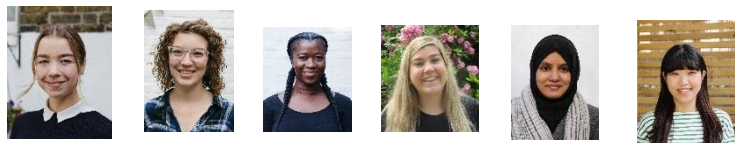
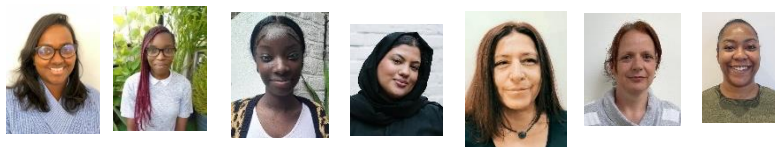
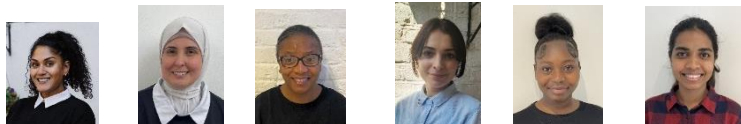
A Saturday yoga session
(left to right) Monika, Ryanne
and Menagha.

"Take care of your body, it is the only place you have to live"
Jim Rohn

2024 Staff Spotlight

We are so proud of everyone in the team, but these staff went above and beyond in 2024.

First row: Amreen, Racha, Francisca, Marsela, Adama, Methma
Second row: Hartha, Rennell, Adora, Shada, Monika, Nora, Chanade
Third row: Ryanne, Csenge, Samantha, Rosa, Nazmun, Yoonkyung
Fourth row: Josephine, Lu, Yee Wai, Marianna, Shazell, Suhaila



Professional Development in the UK and beyond

All staff have the opportunity to attend gatherings, conferences, webinars and lectures to support their continued professional development. The Early Years world is ever evolving and adapting to the cultural and societal context in which it sits. All staff are expected to keep up with these changes and continually strive to learn and develop. We often say that being a Froebelian is a life-long journey of learning. This year has been no different. With staff attending the Froebel Network Gathering in Roehampton, The Edinburgh Froebelian Futures conference and Webinars hosted by the Froebel Trust. We are constantly gaining knowledge from those around us and seeking to grow our networks.

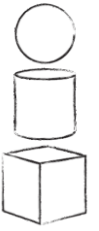
Fjordvangen bernehage



Last year we made links with a Kindergarten in Norway. They came to visit us and we shared our experiences of early education in our respective countries. This year a small group of the Head Office team were able to return the visit as we headed to Oslo, and on a ferry across the fjord to Nesodden. We met Constance again who gave us a tour of three Kindergartens and one school. Then in the evening we built a fire, wielded sticks and cooked dinner. We are excited to continue these links in the future and send more staff to embark on this experience.



Engaging in Meaningful Experiences



Practice Informed Research

This year we have had the privilege of being involved in research which has supported Early Years educational practice. The Head Office management team supported a project which explored Leadership through a [Froebelian Lens](#). The Lavender Hill team are part of an Early Years Emotions Programme which is an evidence-informed approach to build young children's emotional intelligence. Lavender Hill have also partnered with Durham University for the Early Years Conversation project which focuses on the communication and language of young children. Lavender Hill and Webbs Road have partnered with Oxford University to become Maths Champions. The Kindergarten are working with the NDNA to focus on SEND and children's communication and language as well as with Coventry University on a Story Choice project. We look forward to sharing the outcome of these projects with you once the findings have been published.

Real life, first-hand experiences

Offering children first-hand experiences that they can draw on and learn from enhances their minds and benefits their holistic development. Trips such as visiting the Zoo, Farm, Kew Gardens, Theatre and Science museum are just a few of the ways we support this at Linden Tree.

This year the children across all of our nursery schools and Kindergarten have explored their local areas. From visiting and donating goods to charity shops, getting in the mini bus to Kew to looking at the Christmas lights. They are making sense of the world around them and beginning to understand how they fit in.

We recently reviewed our values using Linden Tree as an acronym (see right) and we have highlighted first-hand experiences as being 'deeply significant'. Children learn best through what they do, with skilled educators on hand to guide them through and reflect on the experience afterwards. The key is to plan and prepare to make the experience meaningful for all. The children love going on adventures and we can't wait to visit more places in 2025.



Link, unity and connectedness
Importance of childhood in its own right
Nature, sustainability and the community
Deeply significant learning through first-hand experiences
Enriching and inspiring environments
Nurturing, knowledgeable educators
Talk, play and the power of symbols
Relationships matter
Empowerment through free choice and movement
Equality, equity and celebrating diversity

www.ltns.org.uk



Nature Kindergarten

We believe that the great outdoors is the best classroom of all. That's why we have our Nature Kindergarten—a weekly adventure where children explore the wonders of nature. Every outing starts with an exciting gathering in the classroom where we make predictions about what we might see and discuss what we hope to discover. And then... the fun begins! What can we see, hear, feel, or smell? These outings give the children the chance to use all of their senses. They develop their listening skills, broaden their vocabulary, and learn how to describe the world around them—whether it's the *crunchy* leaves underfoot or the *wiggly* worms they spot! "Can you feel the wind?" "Where do you think it comes from?" These are the questions that spark their curiosity and encourage critical thinking.

Nature Kindergarten isn't just about exploring nature—it's about developing life skills! From *problem-solving* to taking *positive risks*, children learn how to scan their environment and make safe choices. They gain confidence as they navigate the outdoors, which helps them build resilience and grow physically. Whether they're climbing trees, running through the grass, or skipping along a path, their gross motor skills are flourishing. And, as they use sticks for drawing or tweezers to pick up small objects, their fine motor skills develop, too! It's also a fantastic way to introduce maths and literacy, as we count what we've found or practice mark-making in the dirt.

Above all, Nature Kindergarten is about *child-led* learning. We step back and give the children the freedom to lead, make decisions, and interact with each other, always coming with guidance when necessary. Children set their own rules, discover the difference between the concepts of "good" and "bad", and feel empowered in their play. It's a wonderful way for their personal, social, and emotional development to blossom as they grow more confident and capable.



In 2025 we celebrate 20 years of Linden Tree!

The past 20 years have brought a lot of change for the Early Years sector, including a welcome increase in qualified staff and an emphasis on quality early years education. We look forward to reflecting on all of our achievements as Baby Room from 2005-2018, and Linden Tree from 2018 onwards. Look out for the opportunity to join us in our celebrations of our staff teams and Froebelian ethos. This would not be possible without all of you and we thank you for being here to support us on this journey. 20 years in this community of families and local businesses is a wonderful thing. Here's to 20 more!

Opening Spring: Bennerley Road Kindergarten

In 2025 Linden Tree will open its fifth site. Almost exactly 20 years since Webbs Road opened its doors, Bennerley Road will be open to new and existing families.

Situated at number 46 Bennerley Road, it was once a church building and it is only a few minutes walk from Wandsworth common. In order to ensure it is suitable for young children, it is currently undergoing a renovation to become our second Kindergarten. Which will be for children aged 2 to 5 years.

The Kindergarten will be an extension of Webbs Road, for the Twigs and Trees aged children. This will mean that Webbs Road will be for Seeds and Roots aged children only. Once they turn two years old they will begin their transition over to the Kindergarten. Just as happens successfully at our Old Town nursery and Kindergarten.

Bennerley Road will be opening in Spring 2025 and all existing families will be offered an opportunity to view the new Kindergarten ahead of its official opening.



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

"I wanted to write to thank you for giving Kai such a wonderful send-off today. Kai has grown into a confident and happy young boy, and I have no doubt that that is in large part thanks to the warm, nurturing setting he has been a part of over the past three years. Thank you for giving Kai the best possible start in life.

Wishing you all the best for the future and thank you again for everything.

-Lavender Hill parent

'I wanted to sincerely thank you for the wonderful time Heloise had with you - all our expectations have been exceeded! You made her first nursery experience the best it could have been! I wish she could stay longer and I really hope that she will soon be able to come back to you once we moved to Clapham Old town.'

-Old Town Kindergarten parent

2025 Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd January

First nursery day of the year!
Open at 8am

Monday 10th March

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

Friday 11th July

Staff Appreciation Event-
All Nursery Schools Closed

Wednesday 15th October

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

For the full list of 2025 dates please follow the link

[LTNS Diary Dates](#)



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[LTNS Brochure](#)