



Newsletter of the Year 2018!

Webbs Road Lavender Hill Old Town

‘Nurseries and schools should be democratic, respectful communities of learners, where adults and children can learn from each other. They should be closely connected to the wider community of people and places’

Froebelian Principle: Community

- Featured expeditions we’ve been on this year are...**
- Natural History Museum
 - Transport Museum
 - Vauxhall City Farm
 - Tooting Market
 - All Creature Vets
 - Windmill Lodge Care Home
 - Trinity Court Nursing House

We have also explored...

- Kew Gardens
- Brixton Market
- Social Pantry
- Omnibus Theatre
- Clapham Fire Station
- ACE Charity Shop
- Clapham Common
- Wandsworth Common





Welcome to our first ‘Newsletter of the Year!’ Here we round up of all the exciting activities from the year.

Linden Tree Nursery School Was Planted

We began 2018 as Baby Room Nurseries and we end the year as Linden Tree Nursery Schools! We were outgrowing our Baby Room name, although it suited us well for 13 years, the time had come to move on. As a team we were aware that as we became increasingly more Froebelian it was important that our name was a reflection of this.

For those new to our Nursery Schools the company Director, Alison Murray, opened Webbs Road Nursery in 2005. It was the first Baby Room and was not set to be the last. As the years progressed Lavender Hill was opened and then Clapham Old Town. Baby Room was a vibrant place for children 0-5 years to learn and grow. It became a much loved part of the community and gained lots of support from local families. Over the past decade, the early years sector has taken an important shift which includes renewed emphasis on the first five years as the most important period of a child’s life which requires exposure to well-qualified professionals who are able to encourage learning through meaningful experiences and are deeply knowledgeable in child development. As a Nursery School, we need to ensure our practice, teachers and ethos reflect this, thus resulting in us adopting a Froebelian approach. After researching, reading and debating with other early years professionals, we could see that it was the only approach for us because it put the child at the heart of their learning. Linden Tree staff needed to be able to fully understand this approach which required training. This was delivered through the [Froebel Trust](#). The first element; ‘Principles and Practices of the Froebelian Approach to Early Childhood Education’ gave us the foundations needed to fully understand what it means to be Froebelian. Once we learned, from the Froebel Trust, that the Linden Tree was one of Friedrich Froebel’s favourite trees it was a sign! We would become Linden Tree Nursery Schools offering children, 0-5 years a Froebelian approach to education. Our journey is just beginning and we thank you for being here with us.

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.



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.

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).

Froebelian settings may look different in different contexts but they are united by a set of guiding principles. They ensure childhood is respected, play and creativity is understood in relation to children's learning and the relationship of every child to family, community, nature, culture and society is fostered.

Our Learning Continues...

This year we have liaised with other settings and professionals who are already expert Froebelians and have been such an inspiration to us.

We attended the 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 next day we visited the wonderful Annan, Froebel School in Sussex on a lovely sunny day. We were able to talk with the headteachers of the school, join in with the children's activities and talk with the older children about their achievements throughout the year. Some of us were having so much fun (Elly) they didn't want to leave!

In September Alison, Elly, Holli and Dora attended the Edinburgh Froebel Network conference for its 10th year, lead by Professor Tina Bruce. All the speakers were thought provoking and gave us lots of information to share with the rest of the team.

Throughout September and into November it was time for us to complete another of the Froebel elements, this time element three; 'Engaging With Nature'. This ignited the budding nature enthusiast in all of us. The wonderful Dr Kathryn Solly and Dr Stella Louis were as inspirational as ever, proving just how far our practice has come and giving us the tools to continually ask, is this Froebelian?



Out and about in the Community...

We have made an extra effort to be out and about in the community this year, visiting and exploring lots of wonderful new places. Many parents have also accompanied us which has been a huge help, a big thank you to all those who have experienced how much fun a trip out of nursery can be!



The staff at Old Town have linked up with Windmill Lodge Care Home and Webbs Road have made links with Trinity Court Nursing Home.

There has been lots of discussion in the media recently about the benefits for both elderly people and young children spending time with one another, we couldn't miss the opportunity to see the impact for ourselves.

Liam from Old Town said 'I will make a picture to the grandpa's and grandpa's'. Denise from Old Town noticed there was soil in the garden but no flowers, so on the next visit they planted some flowers in their garden. (see below)



'Those working in the kindergarten were knowledgeable about nature and life in the immediate vicinity so they could introduce the children to them'

(Froebel in Lilley, 1967:118)



Lavender Hill at Tooting Market

For Black History Month the children shared the story 'Fatou Fetch the Water'.

They then talked about where they could visit in their local area to learn more. Tooting Market gave the the children a wonderful first hand experience to explore clothing, carvings and African materials. There were also new fruits and



vegetables to explore. Baptiste, Aturo and Augustine were keen to touch all that they saw and brought a coconut back to nursery to enjoy!



Lavender Hill at the Vets

We know what happens if we are poorly, but what about our pets? The children enjoyed finding out with Lea, the Vet, by practising on a toy dog and using a stethoscope!



Transport for Linden



Public transport is an essential way of travel for many of us everyday and it is important that the children understand how to ride the bus safely and how it can be a fun way to get around London.

The bus is also the easiest transport for us to catch as all of our nursery schools are close to bus stops. Travelling in the day means we avoid peak times so the children and staff can sit and enjoy the ride!

Expeditions throughout the year



Lavender Hill
Natural History Museum
February 2018



Webbs Road
Vauxhall City Farm
October 2018



Old Town
Transport Museum
November 2018

Partnership with Parents

'The family is at the heart of the educational process in the Froeblian tradition' (Bruce, T. 2012)

A huge thank you to all those parents who have been into the nursery schools to read stories, sing songs, talk about their jobs and introduce the children to cultural activities such as Japanese origami. The children and staff have all learned something new and we hope to welcome more of you into the settings throughout 2019.

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



Webbs Road

Thank you to Etelka's dad, Olivia's dad, Eleonore's mum and Marlowe's mum for reading stories with the children in the Seeds, Roots and Twigs rooms!



In 2019 we hope to have Froebelian workshops available for parents to attend. Where the Froebelian approach to education will be explained in more detail and give parents the opportunity to ask any questions. Please email info@ltns.org.uk if you would be interested in attending.

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:

"Now that Ada is moving up to the preschool room, I wanted to take the opportunity to say how fantastic I thought the care was that she received in the twigs room by all the staff"

- Jo, Old Town Parent

"I wanted to thank you all so much for taking the class to the farm last week, Georgia had a lovely time and has talked about it lots since ...I am sure it is much easier for you all to stay in the nursery setting, so thank you for making the effort to take them out for a trip, it is very much appreciated."

- Sarah, Old Town parent



If you would like to send us any feedback, please feel free to email info@ltns.org.uk

Lavender Hill



The children in Twigs and Trees enjoyed learning all about Emilia's dad's job. He works for Tim Hortons and showed the children the different packaging used for the food as well as letting them explore coffee beans! Charlie told us 'my mummy and daddy drink coffee' Noah added 'I like drinking coffee too!'



Sindara's Mum and her sister, Ariola, came in to talk to the Twigs and Trees children about Nigeria. Together they demonstrated a Nigerian dance. It was fantastic!

Old Town



Allie's Mum lead an amazing origami activity with the Twigs and Trees children. She also taught the children how to say hello in Japanese 'Ohayo' and sang 'Old Macdonald' in Japanese with the Seeds and Roots.



Our Wonderful Team



Red vs Blue Rounders Game!

It is a rare occasion when everyone can get together outside of the Nursery Schools for an event which is not work related, however this summer we were able to do just that!



During the scorching heatwave of July the teams from all three nursery schools and head office took to Clapham Common for an afternoon of rounders! We enjoyed alfresco dining before splitting into two teams and quickly finding out who the competitive members were.

The teams were fairly evenly matched and it took a tie break for the Reds to eventually secure the victory!

We look forward to a re-match next summer.



Staff Spotlight



Congratulations to Yineska Sanchez, Deputy Manager at Old Town, who became a British Citizen in October.

The staff and children were so excited they threw her a party to celebrate!

Upcoming Training

We are very excited to complete another Froebel element in 2019. Element five is titled 'Lullabies, Family songs and Movement Games - firm foundations for later literacy'. Singing is the foundation for communication and we look forward to understanding more within a Froebelian context.

Continued Professional Development

To ensure all of our staff team are up to date with current legislative changes they are required to complete training throughout the year. We also encourage staff to complete higher level qualifications and attend courses which will support their own professional development.

The table below highlights training completed throughout 2018.

Training	How many staff have completed training?	Staff completing higher level qualifications
Full Day Induction	All nursery staff	Dora Level 5 Diploma in Leadership
Safeguarding (incl Prevent Duty)	All nursery staff	Yinekxa Level 3 Management and Level 5 Childcare
Paediatric First Aid	All nursery staff	Zenova Level 5 Leadership and Management
Food Handling in the Early Years	All nursery staff	Vivian MA in Art and Design in Education
Fire Warden	Nursery Managers and Deputies	Elly Froebel Post Graduate Certificate
Froebel Element One	All Staff (except new staff who will complete in Feb 2019)	Zully MA in Early Years
Froebel Element Three	Room Leaders, Managers and Deputies	
Promoting Positive Behaviour	All Nursery staff	

We also offer First Aid courses for parents, carers, nannies and au pairs. If you would like anymore information about this please email Holli, our Training Manager, on Holli@ltns.org.uk

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 a fantastic New Year!

The Linden Tree Nursery Schools Team

Calling all green fingered family and friends...

We would like to invite you into your child's setting to help our practitioners lead gardening activities. We are all keen to learn more about different plants, vegetables and herbs and would very much appreciate some insight.

Please talk to your setting manager for the best time to join in.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Environmental March

During March 2019 we will be taking an extra special look at our environmental impact. This includes evaluating where our food and resources come from and paying attention to how we recycle all of our waste including food waste.

Each nursery has an Eco Warrior who will be leading the way with activities throughout the month.

At the end of the month we will have a march around the common to raise money for a selected charity which will be voted for by the staff, parents and children.

If you have any ideas or would like to get in touch then please email us or talk to your setting manager.



'If children can develop a sense of wonder about nature, can see the effect of their actions on things around them and can get to know their own small garden in deep ways, they are much more likely to want to help shape a sustainable future.'

(Tovey, 2017)

2019 Dates

Wednesday 2nd January

First day of the year! Open at 8am

March

Environmental March Event (more information to follow)

Tuesday 23rd April

All staff training day- Nursery Schools Closed

July

Staff sports afternoon- Nursery Schools to close early
Date TBC

Monday 2nd September

All staff training day- Nursery Schools Closed



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