

Newsletter Spring Term 2021

Welcome

We would particularly like to give a very warm welcome to our new children and families who have recently joined the BEYA community.

Whether your child is at home or attending one of our three nursery schools, we are delighted that you have joined us and we look forward to getting to know your child and your family over the coming months and years. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help for any reason at all - someone is available at the end of the line 0208 449 5466 from 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday. We will do all we can to help you and your family.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and kind messages during these challenging times.

We know that this has been a particularly difficult time for families with young children and work commitments. We really look forward to a return to some normality.

For those of you whose children are at home, we will be in touch with you all individually after half term to discuss your child's return to nursery from 8 March.

#saveournurseries

Theresa Villiers (MP for Chipping Barnet) has been working to help secure a long term funding solution for our schools. Last year supplementary funding was allocated for maintained nursery schools in the spending review however Barnet schools have been excluded from that funding. We have been informed that this is under active consideration which could open the door for our schools to get a share and we are awaiting a consultation on this reform. Please continue to support the national campaign to [Save Maintained Nursery Schools](#) – we need parents to get involved to ensure that there is a long term funding solution for our schools.

Please join our Facebook group

[Celebrating Barnet's Maintained Nursery Schools](#)

Would you like to become a Parent Champion volunteer?

Parent champions meet other parents and talk to them about local childcare and other family services. It's informal and you can share your own positive experiences about using local services.

It can benefit you too.

With free training, it would build confidence and you could use your volunteering experience to further your training or employment prospects or make a change in your career.

For further information and please email Sandie at sjeetoo@beya.org.uk





Stay safe

Please adhere to following guidance when onsite at nursery and in your day to day lives to protect yourselves and others.

- Wear a face covering that covers your mouth and nose, to protect yourself and others.
- Maintain social distance with all people that you do not live with.
- Avoid crowds, the more people that you come in contact with the more likely you are to be exposed to CoVID -19.
- Wash hands regularly.

If you, or your child is sick we ask that you do not come to nursery. You should stay at home and isolate to avoid exposing others to your symptoms. If you suspect that you may have COVID we advise that you should get a test. Please can you ensure that you share this information with us as soon as possible so that we can work together to protect all staff and families. It is essential that you do this.

The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are: fever, cough, headaches, fatigue, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, diarrhoea.

If someone has trouble breathing, chest pain or pressure, or difficulty staying awake, you should seek medical care immediately by calling 999 or NHS 111.

By working with us we really hope that this will help us see an end to this pandemic and ensure that our nursery environments remain as safe as possible.

The safety and health of the whole BEYA community, children, parents, and staff is absolutely paramount to us.

BEYA – Covid-19

In the two weeks before

Christmas, **12 members of our school community tested positive** for COVID.

Brookhill was closed due to staff members contracting COVID and many families were also affected during the holiday period.

Since our return in January, **14 members of the school community, including the Headteacher have tested positive**, leading to the part-closure of St Margaret's. (The school community includes our staff and their family, the children and their parents.) This is despite working in very small bubbles, with control measures in place.

We will continue to do everything we can to minimise the risk, but our environments can never be risk-free, particularly as we cannot socially distance from young children.

If you have a moment...

Maintained Nursery Schools would like to gather a better understanding of the impact of Coronavirus on families with under-fives, your experience of Covid symptoms, testing and early years settings being open.

Please could you respond to a survey here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeritSoCwYdI9evnDe3Q2dlegG4->

Moving to reception

If your child will be leaving us and moving to Reception in September 2021, you will find out which school you have been offered, by email, on the evening of 16 April 2021. Please log into your [Home | eAdmissions](#) for further information.



WELLBEING: Children's Mental Health Week



This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Week is 'Express Yourself'. **You can do this through art**, music, dance and doing activities that make you feel good. During lockdown many children are having to stay at home. It is harder all-round to stay calm, for both adults and children who are cooped up inside and not coming to nursery and seeing friends. Try keeping clear routines, and **BOTH** adults and children should try to engage in one each of these **PACE** activities per day:

- **Physical** - going outside, or even doing a Joe Wicks type video exercise at home together promotes well-being, releases endorphins and reduces cortisol and other stress hormones.
- **Achieve** - do something that leads to sense of achievement, be it for the child learning how to get dressed, or for the parent tidying a room. It is important to name the activity before and congratulate each other on getting it done.
- **Connect** – Chatting to somebody important, on the phone or online. Yes, it is not the same as being face-to-face, but it does make everybody feel better.
- **Enjoyment** - do something that you really like, and it doesn't have to be virtuous, it could be eating a slice of your favourite cake!

All these things will help our general well-being and also reduce the risks of developing more serious mental health difficulties.

Please [click here](#) for more helpful advice.



WORLD BOOK DAY 4 March 2021

If you read just **ONE** book a day to your child, they will have read **1825** books by their **5th** birthday! Spending just **10** minutes reading together every day:

- Helps your child develop social and emotional skills as well as introduce them to new vocabulary.
- Strengthens their bond with you
- Helps them grow into confident, happy learners.
- Why not have a book themed day or make a den to cuddle up in with a book.

There are lots of free resources, activities and 'share a story videos' to watch together at <https://www.worldbookday.com/ideas/share-a-story/>



Make a memory book

Children love to read about things they have done or about people important to them, particularly during these difficult times. Making a memory book is a great way to build self-esteem and confidence. Use a scrap book or staple a few pieces of paper together. Help them stick in photos or drawings of a family party, a walk in the park, photos of pets and family. You could download and print their nursery photos from Learning Journals. Add their drawings or pictures they like from magazines of their favourite toy or TV show. They'll love sharing it with you.



Learning Journals

We hope you have been enjoying the stories and songs that we have been sharing with you on Learning Journals. Please get in touch if you have been unable to log in. It has also been so lovely to see all the wonderful experiences and learning that has been happening at home. They really do make us smile.



Home Learning ideas

We hope you have been enjoying our weekly home learning ideas that we've been sharing. We have had some lovely photos shared on Learning Journals of children doing some of the activities suggested. They can be accessed via [home learning page](#) on the school websites.



Instagram

For more inspiration and ideas, please follow us on Instagram. Feel free to tag us in any of your lovely home learning photos:

- @brookhillnursery**
- @stmargaretsnurserybarnet**
- @hampden_way_nursery**



Parent Governor Vacancies

There are two vacancies across BEYA schools for parent governors. The governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school, making sure its money is well spent.
- Holding Senior Leaders to account for the performance of the school and its pupils.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

As a governor you will be able to:

- Develop and utilise your skills
- Use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- Make a valuable contribution to education and to your community
- Support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- Bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision making in the interests of the school community

Barnet Local Authority are keen to promote ethnic diversity of membership of governing bodies. It is important that a school's governing body has diverse representation, to provide a diversity of perspective, enabling robust decision making.

There are two termly meetings held in the evenings and governor visits during school time. If you would like to know more or are interested in becoming a governor please speak to Caron or Kelly or email office@stmargarets.barnetmail.net

Chinese New Year

Friday 12 February

It's the year of the Ox!

Why not celebrate by making some stir-fry noodles with your child? You can have fun together chopping some yummy vegetables such as, carrots, courgettes, spring onions and peppers. Add some noodles to the pan and a dash of soy sauce. Enjoy!



Pancake day

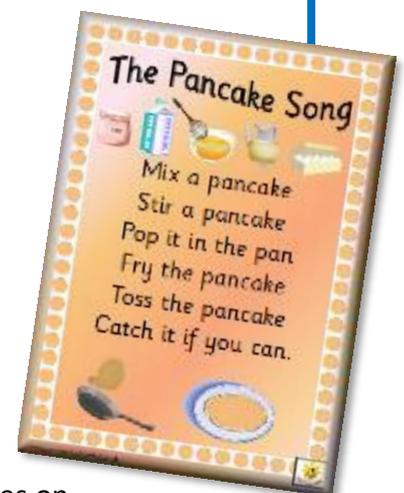
Tuesday 16 February

Let's celebrate by making pancakes with this simple healthy recipe!

1 cup of flour
1 cup of milk
1 egg

Mix ingredients together and fry in a pan. Add any toppings you like.

Enjoy! Sing along as you make them!
We would love to see some of your yummy pancakes on learning journals!



BEYA Term dates 2020-2021

Spring Term 2021			
First Half starts:	Monday 4 th January 2021	First Half ends:	Friday 12 th February 2021
Half Term starts:	Monday 15 th February 2021	Half Term ends:	Friday 19 th February 2021
Second Half starts:	Monday 22 nd February 2021	Second Half ends:	Wednesday 31 st March 2021
School Holidays:	Thursday 1 st April 2021	to	Friday 16 th April 2021
Inset Days: (School Closed)	Monday 19 th April 2021		
Summer Term 2021			
First Half starts:	Monday 19 th April 2021	First Half ends:	Friday 28 th May 2021
	(3 rd May 2021 May Day Bank holiday)		
Half Term starts:	Monday 31 st May 2021	Half Term ends:	Friday 4 th June 2021
	(31 May 2021 Spring Bank holiday)		
Second Half starts:	Monday 7 th June 2021	Second Half ends:	Friday 23 rd July 2021

Dates for your diary

Friday 12 February – Chinese New Year

Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February – HALF TERM

Tuesday 16 February – Pancake Day

Thursday 4 March – World Book Day