



Headmistress: Mrs Z. Sylvester

19 Greencroft Gardens,
London NW6 3LP
www.broadhurstschool.com

Tel: 0207 328 4280

zsylvester@broadhurstschool.com

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Dear Parents

It has been a busy week in all classes. Half Day classes have been exploring quantities by counting groups of animals and matching the numerals. To support their fine motor skills, they have been using pipettes to fill the holes in Duplo blocks with coloured water. Full Day classes have been exploring bar graphs, number formation and counting out groups with one-to-one correspondence.

ISA Spring Conference

Mrs Sylvester has been away from school yesterday and today, as she has been attending a two-day conference run by ISA.

World Book Day

Thank you very much for your generous donations of books which will be delivered to The Royal Free Hospital. The children were delighted to be dressed up in their costumes and it was exciting to see such a wide variety of characters from different books and stories.

Harriett Barnes, from Creative Movements, lead a session in each class and the children were captivated by the story about a whale. She told the story through music and dance. The children explored different ways of moving and learned some facts about whales.

"The whale was washed onto the beach by a storm and I was the whale"

Stamos

"I was a baby whale. A baby whale is called a calf"

Kimia

"We were all baby whales. I liked the dancing. At the end the calf found it's family"

Arya

Curriculum News – Sensory Play

Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates your child's senses: touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. Because young children's senses are still developing, each new sensory experience builds pathways that grow the architecture of the brain. The brain growth that occurs through sensory play enhances children's senses, and their enhanced senses in turn make them better able to use those senses for learning. For example, as children engage with various textures, they learn which ones are rough or smooth, hard or soft, wet or dry. This awareness is a first step in learning to classify and sort objects.

Sensory activities facilitate exploration and encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore. Spending time stimulating their senses helps children develop cognitively, linguistically, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively. Tactile materials allow children to use all of their

senses to explore ideas and concepts. As an open-ended activity, children have the opportunity to develop their imagination and experiment. Children learn to engage in new experiences, take a risk and learn by trial and error.

Further benefits of sensory play include:

- **Language skills** – children develop their language skills, including new vocabulary, as they talk about their experiences
- **Social skills** – children who engage in sensory experiences alongside others learn to share, negotiate, and plan
- **Fine motor skills** – as children manipulate small objects, they develop their fine motor skills
- **Gross motor skills** – children develop gross motor skills by squatting, jumping, or otherwise moving their bodies
- **Dramatic play skills** – children frequently use sensory materials to engage in dramatic play such as by “baking cakes” or “building roads”
- **Scientific reasoning skills** – children learn about cause and effect when manipulating sensory materials
- **Self-control skills** – children develop self-control as they learn to respect the rules and boundaries for sensory play



Class 6 News

This term Class 6 have been learning about Outer Space. The children have been introduced to the basic structure of the solar system. We have studied the men who first landed on the moon and space probes which have allowed close studies on the planets. Currently, we are learning about life on board a space station. Stars and constellations will follow from this. The children have also been exploring their imagination by discussing the possibility of alien creatures in space and what they might look like.





I wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Miss Belzer
Deputy Head

Proprietor:
Mr. B. J. Berkery