



Webbs Road Lavender Hill Old Town



Newsletter of the Year 2022

The Froebelian Approach at LTNS *Reflecting Five Years On...*

In the Autumn of 2017 we embarked on a journey that would begin a new era for the nursery schools. The Froebelian approach was introduced to us through training delivered by Froebelian Travelling Tutors. Since then, all educators at LTNS receive training which ensures they fully understand what it means to teach and learn in a Froebelian setting.

As we reflect on the past five years it is clear to see how the approach guides us all to learn alongside the children, build on what came before and tackle unknown futures.

At LTNS reflection is part of our daily work, but time can often be against us. Within the last five years we have been through social and global changes, inclusive of a worldwide pandemic. We are not protected in the early years sector from the lasting impacts that come with such events, yet we must learn to adapt and continue to prepare children for a future which is as unpredictable as ever. It can be difficult to partake in deep reflection, similar to meditation. It takes practice, patience and the hope that you'll come out the other side with

answers or new thoughts to guide you through the next phase of work or life or both. Looking back can better prepare us for what's to come. Learning from our own and others' experience is how we grow and develop. Having a framework to guide our planning is vital to that process. Froebel was no stranger to struggle and quotes that nothing comes without it. We choose to think of struggle as part of the learning process, the moment just before a baby rolls over after

'It is of course easier for them to have an answer given by someone else but it is far more valuable and stimulating for them to find it out for themselves'

-Friedrich Froebel

much persistence. The links being made as toddlers discover new words. The small worlds being created from blocks by pre-schoolers. Taking the time to reflect on these milestones keeps us focused on what is most important;

each individual child's own experience. The beauty of the Froebelian approach is the ability to slow down and focus on the little things (which are actually the big things) and make sure we are tuned in to the children, the environment, the community and each other. The principles allow us to ask ourselves

important questions, to strive to know and understand more whilst always putting the children at the center. The past five years have taught us that change is inevitable, we cannot control what happens outside of LTNS. But we can ensure that we learn and evolve. As Froebel says *'That which follows is always conditioned upon that which goes before'*. We must always remember what came before and never forget to celebrate where we are now.

Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852)

- Friedrich Froebel was a German educator whose work focused on the individual lived experiences of children
- He believed in child-centred education and saw play as fundamental to children's development
- He created the 'kindergarten' and was passionate about nature, the outdoors and the rich first hand experiences it offers young children

Froebel wanted to *'educate people to be free, to think, to take action for themselves'*

To ensure the Froebelian approach is relevant today, early years scholars (including Prof Tina Bruce, Helen Tovey and the Froebel Trust) have translated his work creating a set of principles which underpin the framework for early years practice.

At LTNS we follow the principles written by Helen Tovey. These are:

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



The Wonderful LTNS Team

Long Service Awards



This year we launched termly social events, the first was in April where we presented many of our staff team with long service awards. The awards varied in length from from one year all the way up to 16 years! To commemorate this amazing achievement we gave badges, cards, flowers and chocolates. We also went out for a meal to celebrate. We are very proud of our team and the wonderful work they do everyday. These small token of appreciation allows us to recognise their efforts and praise them for all they do.



2022 Staff Spotlight

Each quarter throughout the year a staff member is nominated by their manager, their colleagues (and sometimes the children) to be spotlighted for their outstanding contribution to LTNS. This is based on Froebelian practice, team work, positivity and overall amazingness!

We are so proud of everyone in the team, but these staff went above and beyond in 2022.



Rennell
Lavender Hill



Britney
Old Town



Rosa
Lavender Hill



Ava
Old Town



Harriet
Lavender Hill



Jasmine
Webbs Rd



Imogen
Webbs Rd



Neferti
Old Town

LTNS wouldn't achieve half of what we do if it weren't for our outstanding staff team. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Hands up everybody who was happy to get all three nursery schools together for the first time since 2019.....



That's right, the staff from all three nursery schools and our head office were able to get together for our annual staff appreciation event. This year we were back on the common for a sunny afternoon of rounders, food and prizes!

Staff Spotlight awards were given out, along with individual cards and gifts. Not forgetting of course, a Trophy for the winning team. Drum roll please....

Congratulations to Webbs Rd who came off on top. But of course, everyone is a winner to us.



A Selection of 2022 Highlights ...

LTNS Webbs Road – Ofsted October 2022 Outcome: GOOD

On an autumnal October day, Amreen (Webbs Rd Manager) received the midday call that an Ofsted inspector would be visiting the next day. All staff were informed and preparations began (mostly paperwork for the inspector to see).

The day came and everyone carried on with their day as normal. With the support of our training team (Chloe and Monika) everyone was relaxed and when the feedback meeting was held, there was so much positive feedback we couldn't have been more proud. The inspector wrote that *'staff are nurturing and kind, which helps children to feel valued and secure'*. We are so pleased the inspector was able to see and document what we already knew.

Thank you to all those parents who spoke with the inspector on the day, she was inundated with calls and pleased to note how many parents were keen to give their positive experiences of the staff and nursery.

If you are yet to read the report, please do so by clicking [here](#)

Kew Gardens Summer Expedition

After pushing the Kew trip back by a week due to the 40 degree heat, we were very pleased to finally take the Twigs and Trees across all three nursery schools to Kew Gardens for the first time in three years! We all had so much fun, learning all about trees, seeing a bee installation and relying on our senses to explore the different flowers and plants. We found magnifying glasses to look closely at nature and had lots of conversations about how dry everything was and what conditions plants need to grow and thrive. We were so pleased to have this experience again and we look forward to visiting in 2023.



Training and Staff Development

Training and development is an ongoing occurrence for all staff at LTNS. Below is just a taste of the diverse workshops that have taken place in 2022:

- Speech and Language (INSET Day 2-external trainer)
- Behaviour policy (delivered in house)
- Froebel Element One (Froebel Trust)
- Intro to the Froebelian Approach (delivered monthly in house)



My First Poem 2022 Competition Winner: Trees class of 2022 at LTNS Webbs Road

Isabel (*Teacher and Admissions*) introduced the children in the Trees room to poetry. Together they created this wonderful poem which won first prize! Congratulations to everyone involved. Here is their poem:

*If we're lucky to be chosen,
As the winners of this prize,
Ophelia suggested we get books
Of every shape and size.
Phoebe would like some costumes
To dress up as we please,
As doctor, nurse or patient,
To treat a simple sneeze.
Basile and Max want train tracks,
And Charlie more 'kitchen stuff'.
Some puppets would be useful,
Interestingly enough.
George would like some dinosaurs,
Leif, animals for the sea.
A sensory table would be great,
As we can all agree.
Amelie thinks arts and crafts
Are the way to go,
We all like making silly things
That we can share and show.
Aleksi asked for building toys
To make a tower tall.
Isla's worried that they will
Wobble, tumble and fall.
Colette would like some instruments
To play her favourite tune.
Iman would like to join her
With a big bassoon.*

A HUGE Thank You to all of our staff and families

At LTNS, offering children a Froebelian education is a core part of why we go to work everyday. We couldn't even hope to achieve all that we do without the dedicated staff teams across all three nursery schools or the families who choose to send their children to our settings.

We thank you all for another successful year and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Open Call For Parent Participation

Chloe (Head of Training and QA) and Monika (Training assistant) successfully acquired a grant from the Froebel Trust to support research at LTNS. The project title is 'How does furthering knowledge of the Froebelian approach impact the relationships within our nursery community?' A key part of this project is parent participation. We believe that furthering knowledge of the Froebelian approach and early childhood development, as well as building and sustaining positive, trusting relationships between parents and teachers will result in a community who understand and question the quality and type of education that their children receive.

Two intersecting areas will need to be measured within this research, firstly the quality/type of relationships before, during and after the project and secondly, the level of expansion of knowledge of both parents and teachers during this process.

We are very excited to learn from the data collected and harness this to better understand the impact it has on our daily practice and relationships.

If you would like more information on how to take part, please email Chloe on chloe@ltns.org.uk.

Your feedback means a lot to us, so please email any comments you may have (such as the below) to info@ltns.org.uk

"I just wanted to build on the positive feedback I passed on after Annie's settles. She seems to be doing really well and the team have been really brilliant on handovers etc. Juliet is also really loving Trees. She asked me when she was next going to nursery yesterday (a first!).

Thank you for all you've done to build such a good team and for all the love and care you give the girls each day. It has really made going back to work easier knowing they are in your hands even if I do miss them both a lot!"

- Webbs Road Parent

Little Villiage Charity Collection

This year we partnered up with Little Village (Tooting Branch) who collect clothes, toys and furniture for families in need in the local community. Thank you to all of you who donated, Little Village were so grateful for everything received and showcased their joy on their Instagram page.

If you were not able to donate this year but would still like to, the next drives will be on 30th March and 21st September 2023.



2023 Diary Dates

Tuesday 3rd January

First day of the year!
Open at 8am

Tuesday 11th April

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

Friday 14th July

Staff Appreciation Event-
All Nursery Schools to
close at 3pm

Friday 22nd September

INSET DAY –
All Nursery Schools Closed

For the full list of 2023 dates
please follow the link
www.ltns.org.uk/diary-dates



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