



## Banstead Bunnies Preschool Spring 2026 Newsletter

*Hello Bunnies Families!*

*We've been busy behind the scenes here at Bunnies and can't wait to share what we've been up to! Team Bunnies is made up of our wonderful staff, parents, children, and community, so keeping everyone connected and informed is really important to us. Grab a cuppa and enjoy catching up on all the latest news and updates from Bunnies!*

### **Learning areas**

Our exploratory learning areas have truly inspired curiosity as we blend natural resources to create imaginative scenes. We have let children lead the way with our continuous provision and it has been truly magical and many a times, hilarious! My favourite moments must be the pancake flipping, Red Nose Day challenges and having the BEST two weeks nurturing little ducklings.

### **Who are we planning for?**

Using daily observations and progress checks, we shape our activities to support and extend each child's learning.

### **The 3 I's of Learning:**

- **Intent:** What do we want the children to achieve?
- **Implementation:** How can we support their learning through resources and interactions?
- **Impact:** What worked well? What can we build on next time?

We will share weekly learning updates every Friday via *Baby's Days*.

### **Interventions**

Attention Autism has been a hit this term with all children. They have particularly enjoyed Bucket Time, a highly engaging intervention which is designed to improve attention and communication. The bucket is filled with stimulating, novel sensory toys that encourages shared attention. Click on the link below to watch an example of how you can create this activity at home:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/r50vB2EfRTQ?si=66jXF1y5dxaTK-Ok>

Some children benefit from extra time with an adult, either 1:1 or in small groups. These sessions focus on specific developmental goals and use targeted programmes to enhance learning.

Our interventions this term included:

- Attention Autism
- School readiness
- Cohort groups: *Play and Interaction, Listening and Attention, Speech and Language, Physical Development.*
- 1:1

The above interventions will continue in the Summer Term.

We will also be introducing emotional literacy support from our newly qualified ELSA, Maria! Maria completed the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training this

term and we are excited to have her working with children to support them on their personal, social and emotional development.

Catherine Frizzell, a Behaviour Therapist and previous parent at Bunnies, will be offering Duplo Play Therapy sessions. If you would like more information, please speak to a member of the team.

### **Training**

Team Bunnies prides themselves on their Continuous Professional Development. This term, the following training has been completed:

- **All staff:** Diabetes refresher training
- **Jo:**
  - Positive Touch
  - Domestic Abuse Level 1&2
- **Vicky:**
  - Autism: Practical Ideas for Practitioners
  - Domestic Abuse Level 1
- **Maria:** DSL and ELSA Training

### **School Readiness and Applications**

For children starting school in September 2026, Maria and Vicky are focusing on developing key readiness skills to support a smooth transition to primary school.

You can find out the outcome of primary school applications on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026, from 5pm onwards.

Please let us know which school your child will be attending so we can support with transitions.

Some children may benefit from additional transition support. With approval, Jo can arrange *school visits* with you and your child to help them feel confident and comfortable.

### **Goodbye to Rachel**

We are saying goodbye to our Early Years Practitioner Rachel on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026. I am sure that many of you know the inspirational ideas Rachel has brought to Bunnies and we are thankful for the support she has provided to the children, their families and our team. We wish her all the best in her new role as Room Leader!

### **Key Person**

Maria will be the key person for all 2-year-olds and Vicky will be the key person for all 3&4-year-olds. Jo will be the key person for children who require additional support. As a small team, I would like to reassure you that we all work very closely with all children.

### **Alpacas!**

We are excited to welcome alpacas to Banstead Bunnies Preschool on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026!

<https://mortimer-alpacas.co.uk/>

### **Preschool Library**

Please remember to return any books you have borrowed, thank you!

### Circle Times

Every morning, we come together for a cheerful start to the day! During circle time we:

- Sing our *Days of the Week* song
- Talk about our *Golden Rules*
- Explore the *colour and sound of the week*
- Discuss our *skill of the week*

### Show and Tell

Children are now welcome to bring in an item twice per week to share with their friends. Please encourage them to choose something linked to the *colour* or *sound* of the week and practise talking about it at home — this builds communication and confidence.

### Group Times

During group time, children share their show and tell or take part in interactive activities with an adult. Some love songs and games, while others enjoy conversations or story-sharing — each activity helps build listening, attention, and language skills, alongside the specific areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Our SENCo, Jo, has been working closely with outside agencies to strengthen our support for children with additional needs. She regularly attends Surrey SENCo Forums.

If a parent or the preschool has any concerns regarding a child's development, Jo can arrange a meeting to discuss how best to support them on their learning journey. It may be beneficial to complete a Surrey Support Plan which allows parents and professionals to identify a child's strengths and key areas of development, in more detail.

Jo works closely with the following agencies:

- Surrey SEND Team
- LEAP (Local Early Autism Programme)
- REMA (Race, Equality and Minority Achievement) supporting children with English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- STEPS (Supporting Targeted Education and Play Skills)
- RIPPL (Reception Inclusion Pathway Planning)

You can find out more about Surrey's Local Offer here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/local-offer/parents-and-carers/support-for-children-in-early-years>

Jo is leading on **EHCNA applications**, which assess whether a child may benefit from an *Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan*.

You can find out more about EHCNA applications on the Surrey CC Local Offer website:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/local-offer/parents-and-carers/ehcp>

### Safeguarding

Our updated Safeguarding and Whistleblowing Policies (including *Operation Encompass*) are available in our preschool folder and on our website.

If you ever have a concern, please:

- Email [safeguarding@bansteadbunnies.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bansteadbunnies.co.uk)
- Speak to Jo (DSL), Vicky (Deputy DSL), Maria Pailthorpe (Deputy DSL)
- Maria has completed her DSL training and is now part of the safeguarding team.

### **Nutritional Guidance**

New nutritional guidance reminds us that all meals and snacks should be healthy, balanced, and nutritious.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6839b752210698b3364e86fc/Early\\_years\\_foundation\\_stage\\_nutrition\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6839b752210698b3364e86fc/Early_years_foundation_stage_nutrition_guidance.pdf)

At Bunnies, children now enjoy:

- **Morning Snack:** Fruit, toast and milk or water
- **Afternoon Snack:** Crackers, fruit and milk or water

We also encourage healthy lunchbox choices. For ideas, visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

### **Best Start in Life**

The new **Best Start in Life** service replaces *Childcare Choices* and is full of useful information for families:

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

### ***And That's a Wrap!***

*Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We're so proud of our little Bunnies and everything they've achieved this term — and we can't wait for all the adventures still to come!*

