

Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter

In this issue:

- Welcome back!
- What's On
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- High Trees
 Accredited course
 offer for Spring 2022

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all from the Streatham and Norwood Better Start Team!

We hope you all enjoyed a safe, happy and restful Christmas break and are looking forward to starting a new term with us. Our new timetable will provide you with all the information you need about our services, forthcoming groups and activities.

The booking system remains in place, so please do call one day in advance and speak to a member

of the Administration Team to book your place in any of your chosen activity sessions.

We are hosting ESOL courses again this term, facilitated by High Trees Community Development Trust. A free crèche is available, but places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Please call to speak with one of the Administrators at either Bentons Lane Children's Centre (020 4542 3520), Hitherfield Children's Centre (0208 835 9569) to book your place.

New activities include Circle of Security, Baby Massage and Making it REAL. Please see the timetable or respective flyers in your nearest Children's Centre for more information.

Chat and Play meetings with a Better Start Worker will also be available by appointment onsite if you wish to discuss a specific issue in confidence. Should you need advice regarding employment, careers or training, housing, finance, or immigration status, for example, please and speak to one of our Administrators who will be pleased to make an appointment for you.



Families working together to help build a den during our Autumn Forest School as part of our October Half Term Activity.



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We are all very pleased that in spite of the ongoing issues relating to the Covid 19 pandemic term we have been able to stay open and sustain the delivery of service to you. We therefore appreciate your support and cooperation in helping us to establish and maintain a safe environment for children and families.

We are now all required to wear a face mask or face covering while in public spaces indoors. We therefore ask that you are prepared, remembering to bring a face mask with you to wear for the duration of the session when you come to the

Children's Centre. You do not need to wear a mask when using the outdoor space with your children. We do ask that you maintain social distancing as much as possible. We also recommend that on arrival and departure from the building and during your visit, you take every opportunity to wash your hands and/or use the hand sanitisers that are readily available. We do have a limited number of small bottles of hand sanitiser. If you would like one please come to the Children's Centre office to collect on a first come first serve basis.

Please remember to let us know if you have developed symptoms of Covid 19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the Covid 19 or indeed Omicron, which is the new variant. We also ask that you do not visit the centre if you, your child or anyone in your household have symptoms of Covid 19. Children or adults who appear to have symptoms of Covid 19 will be advised to leave the centre and seek immediate medical advice and attention.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued cooperation and support in this.





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FareShare: From January 2022 the Hitherfield Children's Centre site will cease to be an official distributor on behalf of FareShare. Since the beginning of the first lockdown, we have been pleased to support the Felix Project, a charity organisation who save good food from going to waste, redistributing it to 224 charities and community groups across the capital, including Children's Centres, to ensure that the food they have collected is made available to families in need. We feel that since the position for has now changed, it is more productive to review individual needs more closely and ensure that we provide a pertinent response.

Parent Satisfaction Survey: I would like to thank all those who took the time to participate in the Lambeth Parent Satisfaction Survey. We are committed to providing the best possible service to local children and families. Understanding your views and opinions about our services will help us to ensure that our services respond to and reflect the changing needs of the community. Going forward I would like to create a forum where we are able to evaluate our services together on a more regular basis. The new term will see the re-establishment of the Children's Centre User Forum. We will meet initially once each half term to share and discuss our experiences of using the Better Start Services in Streatham and Norwood. I am seeking to have an established group of parents and carers who will represent the views of local families in the community at each forum. There will be more information in the New Year, but if you are interested in being part of the forum, please come to see me. The date of the first forum meeting is Wednesday 16th February at 10:00am at Hitherfield Children's Centre.

Streatham Hub: Unfortunately, we had to suspend the delivery of services at Streatham Hub for health and safety reasons. We have been working closely with Lambeth and the Board of Trustees at the Streatham United Reformed Church to resolve these issues and are looking forward to resuming activities from the week beginning 24th January. Scheduled activities for The Hub will





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take place on Mondays at Sunnyhill Children's Centre and Tuesdays at Hitherfield Children's Centre.

Site Developments: Later this term we are planning to undertake work to improve the outdoor space at Hillside Gardens to increase the potential of how we can use the space to provide positive learning experiences for children and families. We hope to start in March and seek to keep disruption to a minimum. We hope you will understand that for safety reasons, the site will be closed while the work is being done; some sessions may be

cancelled or relocated, so please bear with us during that time. We will keep you updated on the progress nearer the time. We are excited about the project and look forward to its completion and the opportunity to offer a wider range of outdoor play experiences for children and families.

Fundraising and Charity Support: We did have some outstanding items from those donated to support Afghanistan refugees. We were able to distribute these items between St Michael's Fellowship and Brixton and Norwood Foodbank; two fantastic charity organisations with whom we work closely to provide essential support to local families in need.

Childminders Group: We established a designated session for Childminders and professional childcare providers at the beginning of last term. This has proved popular and we are now seeking to consult with them and with the Local Authority to clarify expectations and ensure that we are effective in supporting the ongoing professional development of local childminders and the care they provide for children. Tracy Lattimore, Deputy Manager for Early Years will facilitate the group at Hillside Gardens every Wednesday morning from 9.30 – 11.30, starting on 12th January. For more information about this, please contact Tracy Lattimore or Phyllis Hayden. Contact details are available below.



Proposed plans for the Hillside Gardens One O'Clock Club improvement works.



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Forest School Activities on Streatham Common:

Thank you all for your positive feedback on the Forest School activities on Streatham Common during the October half term. Thankfully, the weather was good and the children and families who took part enjoyed a day of exploring and learning about the environment. Thank you to Tracy and the rest of the team for organising a great day out filled with activities, which helped children to make their own connections to nature.

Coming to the Children's Centre is also a great way to be involved in the community. Our services and activities will provide you with the opportunity

to meet with other parents and speak to experienced practitioners about any specific concerns you may have. Of course, it is also a great opportunity for hours of fun and learning with your child or learning a new skill for yourself.

You will find more details about the rest of our groups, courses and activities at the end of this newsletter. If you do not see what you are looking for please call one of our main sites and speak to a member of the Administration Team who will help you.

Our very best wishes go out to those who have returned to work after maternity leave or are now settling their not so little ones into nursery school. We look forward to your next visit perhaps during the half term break in February. It will be wonderful to know how you are getting on.





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Diary Dates

- Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February -Half Term holiday programme
- Monday 11th Thursday 14th April Children's Centres closed Easter Holiday
- Good Friday 15th April Children's Centres closed
- Easter Monday 18th April Children's Centres closed

We look forward to seeing you all again and to welcoming new families to services and activities at Streatham and Norwood Better Start in this new term.

Best wishes

On behalf of the Streatham & Norwood Better Start Team

Phyllis Hayden

Better Start Area Manager

Phyllis Hayden Better Start Area Manager

2020 8835 9569 phyllishayden@hitherfield.co.uk

Mark Gillard Better Start Area Deputy Manager

2020 4548 2561

markgillard@hitherfield.co.uk

Tracy Lattimore
Early Years Family Practitioner Deputy Manager

2020 4542 3520

tracylattimore@hitherifield.co.uk

Jessie Hammans Senior Administrator

2020 8835 9569

jessiehammans@hitherfield.co.uk

For general enquiries please contact **_ccadmin@hitherifield.co.uk**(N.B Bookings cannot be made via email, thank you)





Thank you for your support!

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Fundraising and Charity Support

We would like to thank those joined in the fundraising events in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. We all enjoyed meeting with each other, face painting, games and activities, and of course the delicious cakes! Thanks to everyone who baked and donated cakes and treats, and to those who also contributed so generously on the day.

We raised a total of £210.00 for the charity, which is sufficient to pay for a Macmillan Nurse for the day.

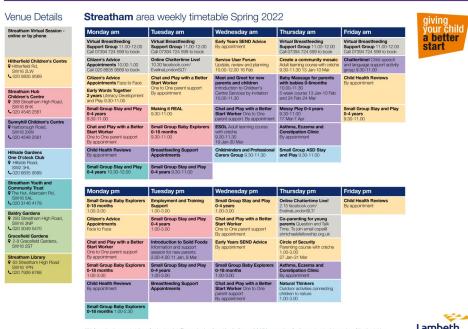


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Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter

Streatham Area Weekly Timetable Spring 2022



Lambeth

Click here to view the full timetable





Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter

Norwood Area Weekly Timetable Spring 2022



All information is correct at time of going to print. Please check online at lambeth.gov.uk/childrenscentres for the most up to date version of the timetal



Click here to view the full timetable



giving your child a better start

What's On!

Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter









Circle of Security Parenting

An 8 week group course supporting you to

- Understand and respond to your child's needs
 - Support your relationship with your child
 - . Improve your child's self-esteem
 - Be a confident parent

Hitherfield Children's Centre

Hitherfield road
Streatham, SW16 2LW
Thursdays 1:15 - 2:45pm
27th January to 31st March
(no session 17th February - half term)

Sign up and find out more at

www.lambeth.gov.uk/COSP

For Lambeth families with children aged 4 months to 5 years





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Circle of Security Parenting

An 8 week group course supporting you to

- Understand and respond to your child's needs
 - · Support your relationship with your child
 - . Improve your child's self-esteem
 - Be a confident parent

Benton's Lane Children's Centre

18 Benton's Lane, SE27 9UD
Tuesdays 9:45 - 11:15am
25th January to 29th March
(no session 15th February - half term)

Sign up and find out more at www.lambeth.gov.uk/COSP

For Lambeth families with children aged 4 months to 5 years Limited creche places available for children over 6 months old



giving your child a better start

What's On!

Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter





Learn new skills and contribute to making a community mosaic that will be displayed at the children's centre.

No skills required. Absolute beginners welcome!

8 week course facilitated by Morley College.

Limited crèche available.

Thursdays 13th January - 10th March 09:30 - 11:30 am

Please call 020 8835 9569 to register your interest. Hitherfield Children's Centre, Hitherfield Road SW16 2LW Please note face masks are required unless you are exempt.

Scan this code to register to Lambeth Better Start Children's Centres







Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter





Learn new skills and contribute to making a community mosaic that will be displayed at the children's centre.

No skills required. Absolute beginners welcome!

8 week course facilitated by Morley College.

Limited crèche available.

Fridays 14th January - 11th March 09:30 - 11:30 am

Please call 020 4542 3520 to register your interest.

Benton's Lane Children's Centre, Benton's Lane SE27 9UD
Please note face masks are required unless you are exempt.

Scan this code to register to Lambeth Better Start Children's Centres







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Hillside Gardens One O'clock Club Streatham Better Start

Natural Thinkers



Come along and enjoy outdoor activities with your child that aim to connect children to nature and develop their well-being, involvement and communication and language.

Thursdays 1-3pm

Please call 020 8835 9569 to book your place.
Hillside Gardens One O'clock Club
Hillside Road \$W2 3HJ

Please note face masks are required unless you are exempt.

Scan this code to register to Lambeth Better Start Children's Centres







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Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Early Words Together 2 Years

This 5 week programme is for children two years + and is designed to support parents identify learning opportunities within the home and wider environment, in order to support communication and language development and build the foundations for literacy.



During the session we will explore the importance of language and how to support children further develop their understanding, listening and speaking skills and the positive impact this has on later outcomes for literacy.

We will explore:

- Playing and talking together.
- Singing songs and moving together.
- Sharing books and developing early book skills.
- The path to becoming a reader.
- Mark making.
- The path to becoming a writer.





Mondays 09:30-11:00am at Hitherfield Children's Centre

020 8835 9569

Please speak to our Administrator for more information or to register your interest



Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter

Lambeth Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area

REAL is a 6 week programme designed to support you to identify opportunities for literacy within the home and wider environment.

Supporting early listening, understanding and speaking skills is known to impact children's later literacy.

Each session will involve:

Sharing books and story props

Singing songs and using song props



Mark making and early writing activities Looking at environmental text





Tuesdays at Hitherfield or Benton's Lane Children's Centres

Please speak to our Administrator for more information or to register your interest 020 8835 9569 (Hitherfield) 020 4542 3520 (Benton's Lane)



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January and March 2022 Streatham

Starting Solid Foods (for babies around 6 months)

In this 2 hour talk you will learn about starting solid foods with your baby in a practical and friendly session with an expert Early years nutritionist

Sunnyhill Children's Centre

Tuesday 11th January

Tuesday 8th March

Start time: 2pm

Please contact the venue directly for further information:

Sunnyhill Children's Centre

Harborough Road Streatham SW16 2XW

020 4548 2561





Streatham & Norwood Better Start Area Newsletter





February 2022 West Norwood

Starting Solid Foods (for babies around 6 months)

In this 2 hour talk you will learn about starting solid foods with your baby in a practical and friendly session with an expert Early years nutritionist

Benton's Lane Children's Centre

Tuesday 8th February

Start time: 2pm

Please contact the venue directly for further information:

Benton's Lane Children's Centre

> Benton's Lane West Norwood SE27 9UD

020 4542 3520



giving your child a better start

What's On!

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High Trees offer of free accredited courses - Open to all London Residents

High Trees new offer of free face to face and online courses, will include ICT courses, English and Maths Functional Skills courses, Vocational courses including Education and Training and Food and Hygiene. There are also Specialist and Employability courses - open to all London residents Mosaic Mandala for Wellbeing and Africology.

Please note that as **places are limited** and when courses are full High Trees will be operating on a waiting list basis.

You can also check out their <u>website</u> for more info or contact the team at <u>courses@high-trees.org</u> to refer your users. You can also speak with a member of the education team by calling 020 8671 3132 or 07305 080 995 from Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm.

See High Trees full course guide for Spring 2022 here.





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- Summer 2021Timetable
- What's On
- Mosaic At Bentons
 Lane
- Meet The Team
- Children's Centre Contact Details

Meet Your Streatham & Norwood Better Start Team

You may recognise some of our faces around the Children's Centres!



Executive Headteacher





Better Start Deputy Manager



Tracy Lattimore



Senior Administrato



Better Start Worker



Better Start Worker



Better Start Worker



Better Start Worker



Administrator



Early Years & Family Practitione



Early Years & Family Practitione



Early Years & Family Practitioner



arly Years & Family Practitioner



Administrator

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Streatham & Norwood Better Start Children's Centres

Hitherfield Children's Centre (Streatham Better Start Area) Hitherfield Road SW16 2LW

2020 8835 9569

(N.B This is also the contact number for Hillside Gardens)

Hillside Gardens Children's Centre (Streatham Better Start Area) Hillside Road

SW2 3HL

Sunnyhill Children's Centre (Streatham Better Start Area) Harborough Road SW16 2XW

2020 4548 2561

(N.B This is also the contact number for Streatham Hub)

Streatham Hub Children's Centre (Streatham Better Start Area) 388 Streatham High Road SW16 6HX

Bentons Lane Children's Centre (Norwood Better Start Area) Bentons Lane SE27 9UD

2020 4542 3520

☐ ccadmin@hitherfield.co.uk
(N.B Bookings cannot be made via email, thank you)

