SACC Newsletter

Autumn 1, 2026

Castle Close, Acton. W3 8RX
www.southactoncc.com
0208 992 0724

Hello everyone,

Welcome to all of our new families and welcome back to our returners.

What an amazing summer London had. I hope you were all able to enjoy the weather and keep cool when required.
Now as the nights are getting darker sooner and the weather turns colder, please do make sure that the children come with the appropriate clothing, jackets, gloves and hats. DO NO FORGET to put the child's name inside all of their clothing, especially their jacket and cold weather accessories.

Sadly, we said a goodbye to Thalia our SENCO in July as she and her family moved back to Greece, we wish them all the best. But I am happy to announce that Deborah is our new SENCO. If you need to talk to Deborah, you can book an appointment at reception.

We are focusing on Communication and Language project this academic year. This is a Nation Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) project, during the year you will be asked to fill out surveys. These will be available either online or in paper form from reception. Please do share your thoughts and views about how the project and what the work that the staff are doing with your child and how it is impacting their communication development. Do speak to your key person to find out about what your child will be exploring. Also, remember to read the notice boards outside your classroom, to keep up to date.

I would like to remind all parents about the importance of exceptional attendance. If your child is ill, PLEASE DO CALL THE NURSERY, to inform the staff of why they are off ill. **Our Attendance policy** highlights that any child that is absent and no one has called in, we are now required to call and ask why they are absent. This is a requirement from the Department of Education, (DFE). Thank you for your support.

This December we will be running our first ever raffle! We would like to use the funds raised to put towards reducing the cost of school trips. If you would like to donate a prize, please speak to Reception staff.

See you at the gate!
Seibina

Seibina Downes, Head of Centre

Did you know…

**** as parents, YOU are your child's main educator? ****

you are their first teacher, and their main teacher for the rest of their lives! You teach them how to behave, how to play, how to interact…just by the way you do those things yourself! If they see you reading…they'll read too! So simple and yet so powerful…

REMEMBER!!

On our first day back after October half term, we will be CLOSED due to a

STAFF TRAINING DAY.

This is on **MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER** 2026.

Please make sure you put this on your calendars, in your diaries, just somewhere so you remember!

Outdoor and water play is for all children

and at this time of year, the weather can be raining and cold in the morning, and sunny and warm by lunchtime!

Please try to make sure your children come to their session in appropriate clothing, as they **all** have access to water, outdoor play and exploration during the sessions.

Please also make sure your children's clothes have their names written on, even their shoes and welly boots.

School Photographer

The school photographer will be here on **Thursday 22nd October**. Children in the nursery will have their individual photos taken while they are in their sessions.

If you come to Sally's groups, or have other children outside of the nursery, you can come at these times for photos:

- 8am - 8.30am
- 3pm - 4pm

Spare clothes and names in clothing

Please remember to send in enough spare clothes for your child, including spare shoes if possible. The weather is getting wetter and colder now, and children still play with water - especially puddles!

Please also remember to label children's coats so they can be found. You can write on the label with Sharpie or normal pen, you don't have to buy special labels – and it'll take just a moment to do, but save you LOTS of time at the end of sessions!

Diary Dates

All of October - Black History Month
12th October Parents Workshop - PSED
22nd October School photographer for individual photographs
26th-30th October October Half Term
26th – 30th October Holiday scheme – pre booked only
2nd November INSET DAY **WHOLE CENTRE CLOSED**
Throughout November – all Nursery children to visit Fire Station
4th November Housing drop in at Stay and Play
17th December Christmas parties
18th December Christmas concert 10.30am & 2.30pm
18th December Last Day of Term
21st – 23rd December playscheme – pre-booked only
24th December 2026-1st January 2027 **WHOLE CENTRE CLOSED**
4th January 2027 All rooms open and all sessions back on

New Logo!

Did you notice our new logo at the top of the first page? It was drawn by children and stands for *Acton Early Years Federation* – which we announced this time last year. The federation covers South Acton Nursery and Children's Centre and Maples Nursery and Children's Centre.

Nappies & Wipes Reminder

If your child or children still uses nappies or wet wipes, please remember to make sure that the centre has enough of them at all times. Thanks so much for your co-operation with this.

Starting primary school in September 2027

Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 start primary school in September 2027. You must apply using the eAdmissions website by 15 January 2027. Late applications will only be considered after the national offer day.

National offer day for on time applicants is 16 April 2027. If you apply online, you will get an email in the evening confirming the school that has been offered.

Before you apply

Read the admissions process and timetable in the 2027 starting primary school prospectus available from 1 September 2026.

Check the primary school open day events for children starting Reception in September 2027.

You can also read the guidance on deferring, delaying and part time attendance for reception.

You will need to create an account on the eAdmissions website before applying.

How to apply

Apply online at eAdmissions from 1 September 2026

Offer day guidance

If your application was received by the closing date, you will receive an email with the outcome of your application.

More information on what to do next is on our post offer guidance for primary school page.

Need help

For more information, or if you need any help or guidance with a school application contact the school admissions service

Nucleus are an advice service that are offering 1-1 **free** appointments here at SACC every alternate Monday morning.

They can help you with any questions you have, from a benefit checker, legal advice, housing, debt and money advice family advice…all kinds of advice! Just make an appointment by scanning the QR code on the next page, or speak to Irene or Hasu on Reception who will be only too happy to help you.

The government has issued new advice around how much **screen time** our small people should be having, for all different ages. Under 2's are recommended to have zero, and 2-5 years are recommended to have less than 1 hour per day, if possible. Ideally, when on a screen, try to use interactive platforms, such as FaceTime to family members. We have included a handy poster with all the information on, including how this impacts your child if they are SEND, and how screen time affects children's brain development.

Nursery Trips

We have got some trips to Acton Library and Acton Fire Station coming up, excitingly!

It is important for all families to be aware that for ALL trips, for a child to attend they need to have a parent/adult with them.

This means one child = one adult.

If you bring a baby in a sling, pushchair or pram, you also need to bring *another* adult, as this scenario will mean you are one adult = two children.

If a child does not have an adult with them, they will not be able to attend the trip/

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Free, Confidential Advice at Your Local Family Hub

nucleus
Legal Advice
Empowers Lives

We are bringing free, confidential advice and support to Family Hubs across Ealing.

If you or a family you are supporting is facing difficulties with housing, benefits, debt, money or other family-related issues, our friendly advisers can help.

Housing

Advice if you are facing eviction or homelessness
Support with housing problems and repairs
Help to understand your housing options and rights

Benefits

Check that you are receiving the benefits you are entitled to
Support to understand and challenge benefit decisions
Help with benefit overpayments

Debt & Money

Get Support with managing debt and bills
Advice on repayment plans and debt solutions
Access Breathing Space and Debt Relief Orders

Family & Other Advice

Access Family/matrimonial advice and support
Help with unpaid wages
Support with childcare costs, grants and options

Ask The Centre Staff to Book an Appointment: Appointments are available every Monday morning, with sessions alternating between our local Family Hub venues. All advice is free and confidential.

Or Complete a self referral form using the QR below

Call us on 0203 772 9321

Nucleus Legal Advice Empowers Lives. *We have been helping empower the local community since 1974, let's stand up for your rights together!*

Funded by the UK Government /DWP

Nucleus Community Action Ltd (NCA) is a limited company.
Registration no. 1202541 NCA is a registered charity -no 269325.
A member of Advice UK. Financial. Conduct Authority License 618813

ACTON FRFP

South Acton Children's Centre

Drop Off

Breakfast Club	8-8:20am
Willow Room	From 8am
Oak and Chestnut	8.30am/12.30pm
Holly and Acorn	8.30am/12.30pm

Pick Up

Willow Room	Arrive by 5.55pm
Oak and Chestnut	11.25am/3.25pm
Holly and Acorn	11.25am/3.25pm
After School Club	Arrive by 5.55pm

If you arrive after 8.45am/12.45pm, you will have to wait until 9am/1pm to drop off so the children can finish Group Time.

If you arrive after 11.30am/3.30pm, you will be charged a late fee.
The late fee is £5 for every 15 minutes or part of 15 minutes.

UK Government

NHS

A GUIDE TO SCREEN TIME

UNDER 5s

BEST START IN LIFE

How to help little brains develop healthy screen habits

How much screen time should my child have?

Limit total screen time, wherever possible.

Under 2 yrs: Avoid screen time except shared activities with family that encourage bonding and interaction.

2-5 yrs: Try to keep to 1 hour a day. Less if possible.

What content is better content?

Young children's brains are over-stimulated more easily than adults', so they need specifically tailored content.

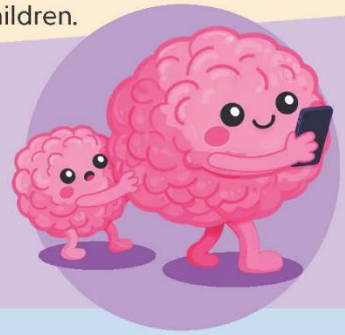
Slow paced content: Choose content with simple stories and clear, slow speech, so emotions are easy to follow.

Safe content: Use parental controls to block inappropriate, harmful material.

Social media: This isn't made for young brains, so it should be avoided.

AI: Don't let them use AI toys, tools, or chat-bots until we know more about their effects on children.

Safe screen swaps: Switch fast-paced style videos for slower-paced content with simple stories.



How does my screen use affect my child?

Lead by example: Children's brains are like sponges – they'll copy your screen use habits. Be mindful of how often you use screens around your child.

When and where is it okay for my child to use screens?

Set clear boundaries for screen use. This gives children time for activities and play that help them develop.

Avoid young children using screens alone. Try to keep bedrooms and mealtimes free from screens.

Why not try... watching and discussing content with your child? Conversation helps their development.

Safe screen swaps:

Mealtimes: Swap screens for music, games or conversation – make it social.

Bedtimes: Swap screens for bedtime stories 1 hour before sleep.

My child has SEND. Is the advice the same for us?

Children with disabilities or special educational needs may benefit from tailored screen use. And for some, assistive technology can be an important tool for communication and everyday participation.

They also need ample time for interaction, play, and sleep. Try to avoid screen time for these activities.

How does screen time affect my child's development?

Large amounts of screen time are linked with negative effects on children's health and development. It can affect social, emotional, language & brain development, sleep, eyesight and weight.

Young children learn best through warm interaction with parents and carers – reading, play and conversation. These early moments build the foundations for life.