

St Edmund's

Early Years

Stronger Practice Hub

April 2023 Newsletter

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR LAUNCH EVENT

It's been 4 weeks since our launch events and we're thrilled how they went! A **great mix of Early Years Practitioners representing maintained nurseries, PVI settings, childminders, and schools** joined us for two exciting mornings of professional development, networking, and play. We've received some amazing feedback:



As our feedback demonstrates, it was great opportunity to network with others, to be inspired by the amazing work being done in the Early Years, learn about evidence informed practice, and to be reassured that your challenges are not unique. Our team had a wonderful time meeting everyone and we hope to work with even more of you in future! The event acted as a reminder that **we really are "Stronger Together"**.

Didn't make it to our launch events? Click below to read more about what you missed!

[Read about our launch event](#)

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR NETWORK OFFER

We are developing our offer of **five communities of practice-style opportunities** for best practice sharing, development of peer networks and buddying systems. Responding to your feedback, our initial networks will support the communities of:

- SENDCOs and SEND workers
- Leaders and Emerging Leaders
- Childminders
- Practitioners leading on and with an interest in Outdoor Play and Learning
- Practitioners interested in developing and sharing their skills on Social Communication and Regulation

Network meetings and communities of practice CPD offers will be facilitated as a mix of **face to face and remote access** opportunities. Get in touch and let us know which networks you'd like to be involved with! You can join as many as you like.

Email us: SPH@stedmundsbradford.org.uk

Our very first meeting for the **Leaders and Emerging Leaders network** is happening next week on **Tuesday 25th April**. Join us in-person at St Edmunds Nursery School, Bradford from 1pm - 3pm or virtually on Zoom from 7pm - 9pm. **Click here to sign-up.**

ACCESS FREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

TWITCH

Talk With Tales For Children has had a great response so far with 28 Early Years settings expressing their interest in the programme, a number of whom have joined the first cohort, ready to begin their programme journey with Sheffield Hallam University and Twitch the rabbit.



If you would like to get involved, it's not too late! Click below to register your interest:

[Sign-up for TWITCH](#)

Maths Champions

We have heard from many early years educators that want to embed maths into their everyday practice, they have committed to completing the NDNA's Maths champion programme. This is an online course, which can be completed flexibly at times that suit you best!



If you would like to get involved, you can register your interest here:

[Sign-up for Maths Champions](#)

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

This time we're showcasing our very own St Edmund's Nursery School and Children's Centre! Here, Sian Hudson, Executive Headteacher of St Edmund's and Lilycroft Nursery Schools, tells us about the exciting 'Nursery at Night' event that they run for children and their families:

One of our favourite annual events at Lilycroft Nursery School is 'Nursery at Night'. We love it so much that this year we decided to hold it at St Edmund's too!

Children and their families come back to the Nursery in the dark to find that everything has been magically transformed with fairy lights, lanterns, and projections. We also have UV lights so that everything glows in the dark - face paint, drawings, playdough, and even water!

We run a range of activities for everyone to enjoy. The disco is always popular – the children love dancing with ribbons and glo sticks! Also firm favourites are: toasting marshmallows over an open fire (enjoyed with hot chocolate!); a treasure hunt with torches, and candlelight stories. Delicious food is available to buy, supplied by local people who rent a stall for a small fee.



We ended the evening with everyone coming together outside to sing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' followed by a grand finale of fireworks! Many of our staff stay late to support with the event, and they all agree that the hard work and long day are all worth it. **The children's excited faces and the appreciation from all our families shows how much they enjoy and value our work and it gives us all a sense of belonging!**

**Do you have a story about some good practice happening in your setting?
Share your story with us**

Email us: SPH@stedmundsbradford.org.uk

VISIT THE ST EDMUND'S NURSERY SCHOOL TEAM

We welcome you to visit us at St Edmunds Nursery School in Bradford on Friday April 28th, 9am - 11am. This is a great opportunity for you to:

- Meet and share ideas with other Early Years educators
- Take a tour of St Edmund's and find out more about the ways that we work
- Meet some of the wonderful St Edmund's children, families and staff
- Ask questions and engage in professional discussions to develop your practice

We have 20 places available (maximum 2 per setting). Click below to book yours!

[Book your place](#)

Do you know someone who would benefit from being part of the Hub but hasn't signed up yet? Share this with them! **No matter what role you play within the early years sector, we would love for you to get involved.**

[Sign-up to the Hub](#)



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