

Dear mums, dads and carers,

April 2015 Newsletter

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Welcome to Summer Term!

The start of the Summer Term has seen a few new faces join Ambler and many of our existing children move into different rooms. We hope that by now most will have settled into comfortable routines, but we still have a few more admissions yet to start in Baby Room. We know you will all make any new parents feel welcome at the Children's Centre...

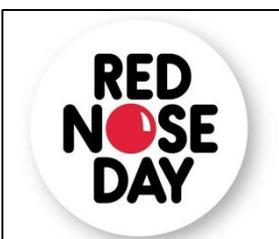


Sun protection for children

Please ensure your child has a sun hat and wears clothing that covers his/her shoulders during any sunny weather. We will ensure that children do not spend long periods of time in direct sunshine and staff will encourage children to drink plenty of water when the weather is hot. Please also apply sun cream to your child prior to coming in to the setting to ensure that they are protected. We will soon have our annual supply of hypoallergenic sun protection cream in each room, but please let your key person know if you would prefer to supply your own cream.

Recent Ofsted inspection

Our Baby Room, Toddler Room and Nursery provision had an 'Early Years' Ofsted inspection during Easter. This look at the quality of services we provide was welcomed by the Senior Leadership Team, while some staff members on annual leave came in to meet the Inspector. Thank you to parents who also contributed during the inspection. The report will be available to the public very soon, both online and in our foyer area.



Red Nose day celebrations

Last month our children helped raise money for Comic Relief by having their face painted and wearing red noses. We collected £70.91 for charity and had lots of fun doing 'something funny for money' on Red Nose Day. Please see over the page for some of our favorite photos from Reception Blue class. Which pupils can you spot?



Reading to your child

Please remember to read with your child as often as you can, whatever their age. Children in our Reception classes have a reading record, so do feel free to write your comments in, and do continue to enjoy the maths home learning packs. Learning at home has a big impact on children's achievement at school...



School Nurse visiting

The School Nurse will be visiting on Thursday 30th April to measure the weight and height of children in our Reception classes. This is part of the National Child Measurement Programme which assesses overweight children and obesity levels within primary schools. This data then supports local public health initiatives. Please speak to your child's teacher if you'd like more information.

Class photos in May

A photographer will be visiting Ambler on **Monday 11th May** to take group/class photos of our children. The specific times are:

9am – Baby Room
9.20am – Toddler Room
9.40am – Nursery 1
10am – Nursery 2
10.20am – Reception Blue
10.40am – Reception Green



Please make sure your child arrives in their normal room in plenty of time to be taken through to the hall by staff. If your child would not normally be at Ambler when their photo is due to be taken (such as afternoon children or those who come from Wednesday to Friday) you can still bring them in, but you must accompany them **at all times**. Details on how to order photos/prices will be provided as soon as the company informs us.

Home learning thanks

A big “Thank you!” to all parents/carers and children in our Nursery and Reception who completed their Easter home learning pages. They have been now inserted into your child’s learning journey and they have generated some marvelous conversations around the activities the children participated in...

Moving up to Reception

Congratulations to all our Nursery children who have been offered a place in a Reception Class of their choice. Remember that parents/carers have until Thursday 30th April to accept or decline places. That means there will likely be some changes to the current Reception list at every school, so if you want your child to go to a different school than the one offered that might still be possible.



Any Nursery children staying at Ambler will be introduced to their new classroom and teacher in advance, with notice to follow shortly. There will also be an opportunity to nominate which friends they would like to be kept with during their move up to Reception. Again, more details to follow shortly.

Communication

Each child has a pigeonhole labelled with his/her name. Please check this daily as this is where you will find any up to date communications from us.

New activities on our timetable

There are a few new activities on our Summer Term timetable, so please pick up a fresh copy from outside the admin office or have a look on our website. We now have a job club running every Wednesday from 9.30am to 1.30pm, offering help finding latest vacancies and training opportunities or support with completing job applications and updating CVs. There will also soon be a friendship group for single parents running on Saturdays from 10am to 12.00pm, providing a safe place for your child to play as you socialise.

Summer Term 2015 timetable					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9.30am—4.00pm Antenatal Clinic Referrals from Whitington hospital with our midwives INVITE ONLY</p> <p>9.30am—10.30am Aerobics Join an action-packed class with a mix of cardio, circuit and interval training, all in a friendly environment. Arrange attendance and classes with Jenny on 0787944942. *Free applicable for both class and crèche) PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>10.00am—11.30am New Parents Group Meet other new parents and Family Support workers to share experiences, ideas, questions and concerns, help or just socialising, for those with babies from 0-8 months. DROP IN</p> <p>10.45am—12.00pm Stay And Play For children under 18 months. Themed activities with toy library, including song bag (50p fee per family) DROP IN</p>	<p>9.00am—12.30pm Psychology Sessions Book to see Cathrine, our clinical psychologist, for any questions or concerns you have about sleep, child development or behaviour PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p>9.30am—10.40am Yoga Fun exercise class to challenge everyone regardless of health or flexibility. Arrange attendance and classes with Mel on 07813504388. *Free applicable for both class and crèche) PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>9.30am—11.30am ESOL English lessons with qualified tutor for speakers of other languages. You must register for courses in advance and book if/when needed PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p>1.00pm—5.00pm Growing Together A new psychology service supporting the mental health of parents and young children, from 1-5 years PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS</p>	<p>9.30am—11.30am Stay And Play For children under 3 years. Themed activities with toy library, including story time and song bag (50p fee per family) DROP IN</p> <p>9.30am—1.30pm Ambler Job Club Help finding best vacancies and training opportunities, with support completing job applications or updating CVs. Please contact SupaMums on 0203 837 3444 or info@supamums.co.uk for more information DROP IN</p> <p>1.00pm—3.00pm Workshops Look out for a series of workshops on a variety of topics throughout term. These will be advertised individually PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS</p>	<p>9.00am—12.00pm Welfare Benefits Advice Advice on welfare benefits by Islington Law Centre. New allocations out Fridays at 8am PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>9.30am—12.30pm Stay And Play For children under 3 years only, but any parents/careers looking for a child minder can also pop in DROP IN</p> <p>10.30am—11.30am Open Mornings Find out about the Children's Centre on 1st Thursday of the month. Tour of facilities and info on locations/fees etc. PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>2.00pm—3.00pm Little Leaps Fun speech and language group with therapist Ruth Hayes. Book place on 02033561897 PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>3.00pm—4.00pm Toy Library Borrow a variety of fun, educational toys and books. £5 refundable deposit to keep up to 2 for a whole fortnight DROP IN</p>	<p>10.00am—12.30pm Incredible Years Parenting Course Improve your parenting skills with crèche for 1-3 year olds PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS</p> <p>At Conewood Street 11.00am—12.30pm Chatterpillars 2-5 year olds only. Speech and language group for 4 weeks. Term time only PLEASE BOOK</p> <p>1.00pm—3.00pm Breastfeeding Support A group to share tips, techniques and support, with experts in mothers welcome DROP IN</p> <p>1.00pm—3.00pm Post Natal Clinic Referrals from Whitington hospital with our midwives INVITE ONLY</p> <p>2.00pm—3.00pm Baby Massage A relaxing, bonding activity for parents and babies as young as 6 weeks. Intimate group size, with oil included. £5 fee for entire 5 week course PLEASE BOOK</p>	<p>10.00am—12.00pm Stay And Play For children under 5 years. Themed activities with toy library, including story time and song bag. Term time only (50p fee per family) DROP IN</p> <p>10.00am—12.00pm Gingerbread Meetings Friendship group for single parents, with space for your child to play as you socialise. Please contact Gusty on info@gingerbread@gmail.com DROP IN</p> <p>At Conewood Street 10.30am—12.30pm Stay And Play For fathers and male Carers with children under 5. Term time only DROP IN</p> <p>FIT MONEY Are you an Islington Council or Housing association tenant? Book yourself in for a one-to-one money guidance surgery to help you budget, save and understand credit. Please phone 020773597628</p>



New bank account details

Our old Co-Op bank account will soon close entirely, so please make sure any standing orders or bank transfers are sent to our new Barclays bank account instead. The account name is Ambler School, the account number is 73765881 and the sort code is 200000. If you need to check that your payments are set up correctly in the new financial year please just see the admin office...

Vitamins

Ambler distributes free vitamins for all Islington children under four, but eligibility for adults has changed recently. Vitamins are now available to all new mums with babies under 1 year (breastfeeding or not) and women who are trying to get pregnant. Just ask at the admin office or speak to one of the Outreach team.



Who to speak to and governance

We aim to have open communication. Your child's key person and then the room leader will be the people you have most contact with. However, there may be times when you wish to seek more support from one of the senior leadership team of **Michael Jarrett**, Executive Head of Centre, **Honorika Lukulay**, Assistant Head, or **Lorna Prynne**, Early Years Foundation Stage Co-ordinator.

Our Advisory Board parents are **Christine Langford**, **Ram Deb** and **Nasteha Mahmoud**. **Alice Gwinnell**, parent of a child in the nursery, and **Mary Stevens**, a parent of a child in our Toddler Room, are also on the Governing Body.

If you have any compliments, complaints or suggestions to help us improve our services for all our children and families, please fill in a feedback form (available from the foyer).

Very best wishes,

The Ambler Team



Children's Centre term dates and holidays 14-15

TTO = Term Time Only

AYR = All Year Round

Summer Term

CC closed for bank holiday: Monday 4 May

Last day of half-term for TTO: Friday 22 May

CC closed for bank holiday: Monday 25 May

Half Term break (open for AYR) : Tuesday 26 May to Friday 29 May

CC re-opens to TTO: Monday 1 June

Last day of term for TTO: Friday 17 July

Last day of term for AYR: Friday 14 August