



Children's Centre

Blackstock Road, London N4 2DR
Telephone: 0207 359 7628 Fax 0207 359 8947
Email: childrenscentre@ambler.islington.sch.uk

Dear mums, dads and carers,

February 2015 Newsletter

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Settling in to a new term and environment

The start of the Spring Term has seen a lot of 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. Please make any new families feel welcome at our Children's Centre and offer them the benefit of your experience. Existing parents and carers are just as important as staff when it comes to creating an atmosphere in day-care.

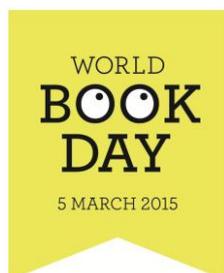
New Head of Centre appointed

We are delighted to announce that Michael Jarrett has recently been offered, and accepted, the permanent post as Head of Centre, following a final round of interviews. His start date is yet to be confirmed; therefore in the meantime he will continue to manage both Ambler and New River Green. We are all very happy to have finally found a candidate worthy of becoming our Head of Centre and are sure you will join us in congratulating Michael on his appointment.



Celebrating World Book Day

The Children's Centre will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. On that day, children can dress up as a character from a book of their choice to show all their friends what they love reading most. Parents and carers are encouraged to help their children join in the festivities, helping create whole costumes (like Wally from Where's Wally) or single props (like the Cat's Hat from Dr Seuss's series) which come from their favourite books.



Staffing changes across the Centre

There have been a few changes in our staffing recently, with Angela Hormoz becoming Baby Room lead and Anne Lahart-Tigrine joining our team in Toddler Room. Interviews for another position of Early Years Educator will be taking place later this month, so hopefully another new permanent staff member will be announced soon. Helen Bowe from Sanza Teaching Agency is also going to be covering Erica in Nursery 1 on Fridays, after a successful trial period.

Attendance and lateness

All families who receive funded hours of day-care have been given a breakdown on last term's attendance and lateness. Regular and timely attendance during the early years of a child's education is vitally important for achievement. In future Ambler will be sending half-termly letters home for children who are often absent or late without good reason. Please remember to tell the admin office if your child will be absent for any reason and discuss any concerns you have with your child's keyperson.



Claim lost property or it will go to charity

We have a large box of lost property in the atrium that is starting to overflow with jumpers, gloves, t-shirts and hats... Please check it as soon as possible if you think your child may have lost some clothing over the last few months. If items aren't claimed by half-term they will be donated to charity, which should not only help a good cause but also make it easier to find any other lost items in future!



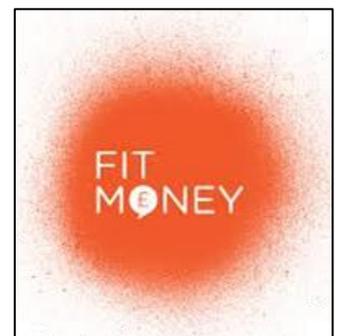
New face in Family Support team

Ruth Cookson has joined Ambler as Family Support and Outreach Area Manager, sharing the job with Karen Clark, who you may already know. She will be responsible for overseeing our Outreach activities, which aim to support local families in a variety of ways. She will also oversee our team of Family Support Workers, who are here to help or advise on a range of issues. Ruth will be around the Centre on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so please do say

hello.

Free financial health checks

Fit Money is a one-to-one financial health check that helps Islington council and housing association tenants make the most of their money. There are monthly sessions running at Ambler which can help you budget and manage your bills better, start to make daily savings or understand credit and how to use it. If you need help to deal with a change in circumstances, set up and manage a bank account or understand contracts, please see a member of staff, who can book you an appointment.



Vitamins

We distribute free vitamins at Ambler for all Islington children aged under four, breastfeeding mums and mums-to-be. Just ask at the admin office or speak to one of the Outreach team.

Good nutrition in pregnancy and early childhood leads to better health and helps children to grow and develop. Vitamins are essential nutrients that your body needs in small amounts so that it can work properly. It is difficult to get all the nutrients and vitamins you need, even if you eat a healthy balanced diet.

For neighbouring borough families, if you have your green healthy start vitamin coupons we can give you vitamins. If not please go to the healthy start website to search your nearest distributor.



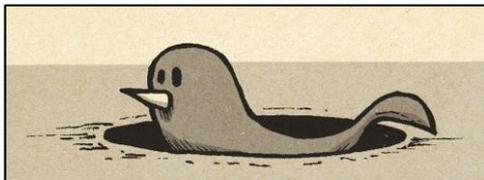
Where you can read our policies

We have now uploaded a range of policies which set out how Ambler operates in many different ways to our website. These policies are designed to show both our staff and our families how things are done in an open, transparent and fair manner.

These can be viewed at:

<http://ambler.islington.sch.uk/primary-school/our-school/documents-policies/>

Please also take your time to look at the policies in the foyer as these are specific to the Children's Centre.



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.

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, **Honorita Lukulay**, Assistant Head, or **Lorna Prynne**, Early Years Foundation Stage Co-ordinator.

Our Advisory Board parents are **Christine Langford**, **Ram Deb** and **Nasteha Mohamed**. **Alice Gwinnell**, parent of a child in the nursery, is also on the Governing Body.

Very best wishes,

The Ambler Team

Ambler CC term dates and holidays 2014-2015



TTO = Term Time Only

AYR = All Year Round

Spring Term

Last day of half-term for TTO: Friday 13 February

Half Term break: Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February

CC re-opens to TTO: Monday 23 February

Last day of term for TTO: Friday 27 March

CC closed for bank holidays: Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April

Summer Term

CC re-opens for TTO: Monday 13 April

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: Tuesday 26 May to Friday 29 May

CC re-opens to TTO: Monday 1 June

Last day of term for TTO: Friday 17 July

