

Dear mums, dads and carers,

June 2015 Newsletter

Page 1

Welcome back after half-term
Parents' Survey deadline
Class photos reminder

Page 2

Opening hours and when to arrive
Nursery graduation event
Holiday playscheme for Reception
Free places for two year olds

Page 3

Fee increase in September
School Fair
Upcoming activities
Who to speak to/governance

Welcome back after half-term

We hope you had a lovely half-term and are looking forward to the final few weeks of this academic year. It's always a busy period at Ambler as our Nursery children prepare for their transition into school, while many of our Babies and Toddlers are also getting ready to move into new rooms in September. We'll soon be arranging meetings with all parents/carers to discuss your child's annual 'report' but just speak with your keyperson should you have any questions.



Parents' Survey deadline

The deadline for this year's Parents' Survey is **Monday 8th June**, so please make sure you complete a paper survey or fill out the online version at www.islington.gov.uk/ccsurvey2015 by then. Your response is really important to us and helps the council understand how satisfied parents are with the services we provide and where we need to improve. You could also win £30 in Marks and Spencer vouchers just for responding! Please ask your Room Lead for details.

Class photos reminder

Having seen the results of last month's photo-shoots, I'm sure you'll agree we've got a particularly photographic group of children at Ambler! All our families should have received their packs from Ward Hendry by now, so this is a final reminder that the deadline for purchase is **Tuesday 2nd June**. You can order online using the ID code on your proof card or put cash/cheques in the pack and return it to the admin office.

Opening hours and when to arrive

Any new families to Ambler may not be aware that the Centre has strict opening times for insurance purposes. Please don't arrive until 8.00am as we are not covered to have parents in the building before then. You can come onto the premises from 7.55am to make sure you are prepared to drop off on time, but please don't press buzzers on entrances before then as we are not allowed to let you in!

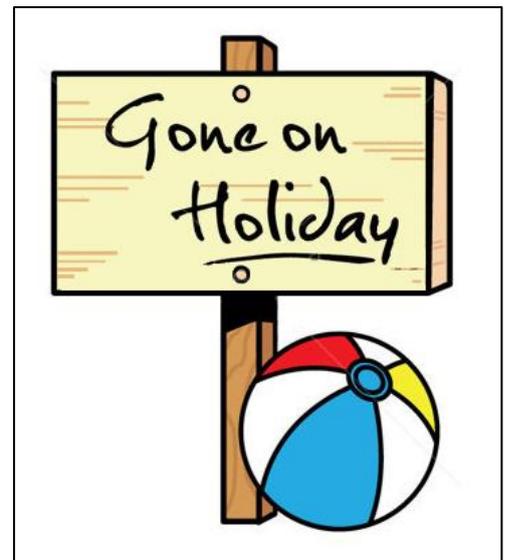


Nursery graduation event

Our annual Nursery graduation is being held on **Wednesday 15th July at 2.30pm until 3.30pm.** This is a great chance for you to celebrate your child's progress in early education and help them say goodbye to nursery class. It's also an opportunity to collect their 'learning journey' to take home as a memento of all the fun times they've had at Ambler with their first true friends. Parents/carers are invited and can take pictures of their own children as a keepsake.

Holiday playscheme for Reception

There will be a number of playscheme places available for Reception pupils at the Children's Centre during the summer holidays. These provide working and studying families with childcare when school is out. We can accept ex-pupils (children who were in the Nursery) and those who currently use our extended day services. Places are allocated first to Islington residents, second to those who work in the borough, and third to other applicants. A week's place from 8.30am-5.30pm costs £117.94 or a week's place from 9.30am-3.30pm costs £88.42. Concessionary rates are also available for those on benefits. Please speak to the Children's Centre admin office for more details.

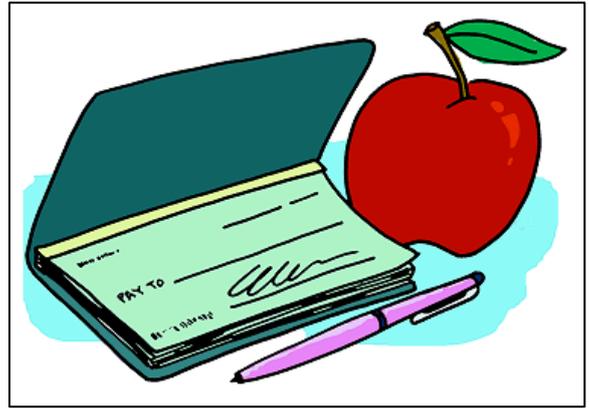


Free places for two year olds

We are going to have some 'free' day-care places in our Toddler Room this September. Your child could be eligible for one of the part-time government-funded places if: *you are on benefits, earn less than £16,190, your child has special educational needs/a disability, your child is adopted.* Just complete the form online at www.islington.gov.uk/free2 and see if you're eligible. We will be particularly keen to take children born between 1st April 2013 and 31st August 2013, but other settings and childminders will also have places for slightly older children.

Fee increase in September

The council has decided to increase day-care charges by 2% from September 2015, so everyone who pays for their place at Ambler will have to sign a new contract in coming weeks. We will also be asking some families to complete their 6-month reassessment, so please be ready to provide pay slips and proof of address. If you have any queries about this please speak to the admin office.



School fair

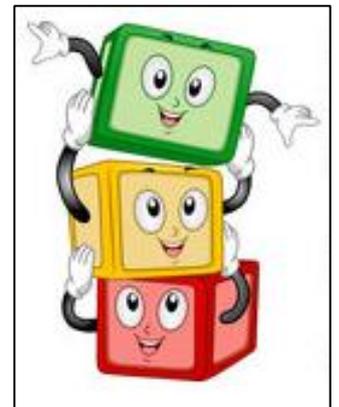
This year's School Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 4th July**. Please do pop the date in your diary and come along with your children for a fantastic day of family fun. We want to improve on last year's activities so if you're willing to help out by running a stall, overseeing an activity or donating food/bric a brac please see the admin office.

The Children's Centre will also be hosting a pediatric first aid course from **10am to 12pm** on the same day. This is designed by St Johns Ambulance to give parents the confidence that they'll know what to do in extraordinary circumstances. Please book a place at the admin office.



Upcoming activities

The Children's Centre has several upcoming activities that you may be interested in attending and we'd certainly love to see you. On Thursday 4th June there is an **Early Home Learning** workshop which is designed to enable parents to support their child with their learning through play at home. It will provide you with new ways of playing, helping to build a stronger relationship with your child and supporting their language development and learning. Please book your place with the admin office. On Wednesday June 24th there will also be another **Be Inspired** event, which helps parents/carers aim high and follow their career goals with lots of fun activities. Keep an eye out for flyers and posters nearer the time.



Who to speak to and governance

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

Our Advisory Board parents are **Christine Langford** and **Ram Deb**. **Alice Gwinnell**, parent of a Nursery child, and **Mary Stevens**, parent of a Toddler child, are also on the Governing Body.

Feedback

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



term dates and holidays

TTO = Term Time Only

AYR = All Year Round

Summer Term 2014-15

Last day of term for TTO: Friday 17 July

Last day of term for AYR: Friday 14 August

Autumn Term 2015-16

CC closed for bank holiday: Monday 31 August

CC closed for inset days:

Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September

First day back for Baby and Toddler Rooms:

Thursday 3 September

First day back for PAYING Nursery children:

Thursday 3 September

First day back for FUNDED Nursery children:

Monday 7 September

First day back for CURRENT Reception class:

Monday 7 September

CC closed for inset day:

Wednesday 23 September