

Dear mums, dads and carers,

March 2015 Newsletter

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Michael's start-date as Head

Following several months managing both Ambler and New River Green, Michael Jarrett (right) is going to take over full-time here at the start of June. We are all very happy to have Michael on board permanently and are sure you will join us in thanking him for his efforts in helping smooth the transition after Nicola's departure last summer.



Bilingual Family Support Workers

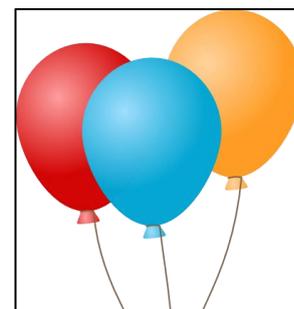
Fatima Mohamed (left) has joined Ambler as a Bilingual Family Support Worker for Somali speakers. She is around the Centre on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, so just approach the admin office if you would like her help. Meanwhile, our Turkish Bilingual Family Support Worker, Fatos Saglam, has also extended her hours at the Centre and is now available all day on Thursdays.

Introducing your child's 'Learning Journey'

Profile books, which all of our families will have contributed pictures and stories to in the past, are going to be known as 'Learning Journeys' from now on. We feel this captures the progress your children are making throughout their Early Years and recognises the skills and knowledge they are steadily building up. A Learning Journey shows important aspects of a child's development before starting school.

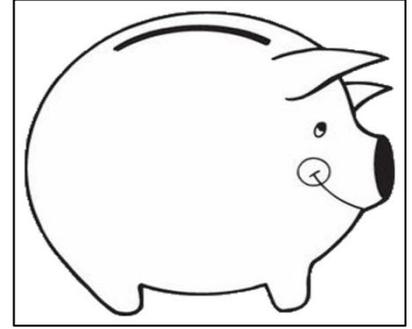
How we celebrate birthdays

We are happy to mark children's birthdays and we do this at the end of the day. You are welcome to bring in fruit for your child to share with the class, but please ensure that no nuts are brought into Ambler as the site is nut-free in response to various allergies. We are a 'Healthy Children's Centre' and want to maintain this from Baby Room to Reception class.



New bank account details

We have now switched our bank account to Barclays and the account name is Ambler School. The account number is 73765881 and the sort code is 200000. We are now going to send arrears letters to anyone who is behind in their payments every Friday. Cash and cheques need to be received by 6pm on a Wednesday to be included on your statement that week. If you think you'll have problems keeping your payments in order or just want to clarify things, please speak to the admin office.



Increase in fees from September

Penny Kenway, Head of Early Years for Islington has said "the council has decided to limit the increase in day-care charges to 2% for 2015-16 financial year.

Accordingly, day-care charges will increase by 2%, from September 2015." If you have any broad queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact her on 020 7527 5884, or please speak to the admin office about any personal impact.



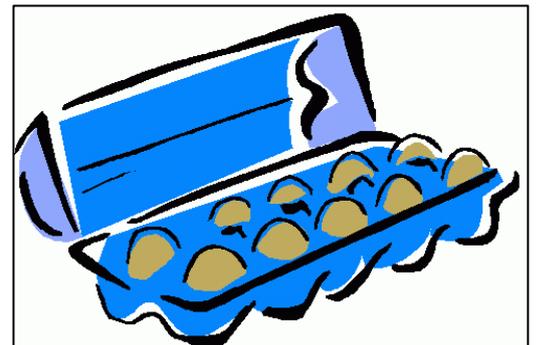
Claim lost property or it will go to charity

We have another overflowing lost property box in the atrium... Please check it as soon as possible if you think your child may have lost clothing over the last few weeks. If items aren't claimed by the end of term then they will all 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!

Thanks over Reception's Home Learning project

Thanks to families for returning the home learning project that was sent home over half term. We had a great response from you all and your pages are now in your child's Learning Journey if you would like to come and have a look. We will be sending out another in time for Easter.

Reception teachers would also like any cereal packets or egg boxes to use as classroom materials. Think of it as another form of recycling! (We can't accept polystyrene, any container that has come into contact with meat, or toilet rolls)



Celebrating World Book Day

Ambler celebrated World Book Day earlier this month and lots of our children (and staff!) showed their creative side by dressing up as characters from their most-loved books. We've included some of our favourites overleaf, but well done to everyone who got into the spirit of things:



Why Mobile phones are banned

Nobody at Ambler, including staff, can use mobile phones in areas where children might be present. This is because mobiles can cause problems when not used appropriately. Phones with cameras could lead to the inappropriate capture, use or distribution of images of children. They also allow unrestricted Internet access and bypass our security settings and filtering. Please put your phone away before entering the Centre to ensure the safety of all our children.



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, **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 child in the nursery, is also on the Governing Body.

Very best wishes,

The Ambler Team



term dates and holidays 2014-2015

TTO = Term Time Only

AYR = All Year Round

Spring Term

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

Last day of term for AYR: Friday 14 August