

Dear mums, dads and carers,

June 2016 Newsletter

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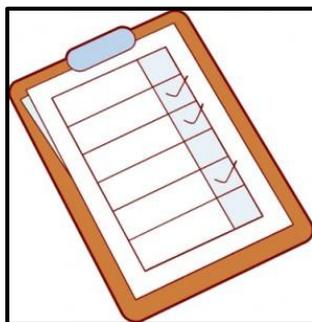
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Strike action on Tuesday 5th July

The National Union of Teachers have called for a day of industrial action to take place on Tuesday 5th July. There will be a significant impact at Ambler as all teachers will be striking. As such, the school will be totally closed from Year 6 to Reception. We apologise for the inconvenience caused by the industrial action. Baby Room and Toddler Room are totally unaffected though and Nursery will be open as normal, although without any teachers present. Please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you have any questions or concerns.



Parent consultation

Islington Council are running a consultation on proposals for changes to early childhood services. Unprecedented funding pressures mean that the council need to reshape their services to make savings. They say that no children's centres will be closing, although there may be changes to timetables and venues. The deadline is Friday 22nd July, so please make sure to give your thoughts before then. The consultation can be found at

www.islington.gov.uk/consultations and there will be a limited number of physical copies at Ambler. Please ask the admin office for details.

Nursery graduation on Wednesday 20th July

Our annual Nursery graduation is being held on **Wednesday 20th July at 10am**. This is a great chance for you to celebrate your child's progress in early education and help them say goodbye to nursery class. Parents/carers are invited and can take pictures of their own children as a keepsake. (You will also eventually be able to take their 'Learning Journey' home as a memento of all the fun times they've had at Ambler. The staff will give you more details on the day.) For those children who are moving up from Baby Room and Toddler Room, transition meetings will be held on Thursday 7th July at 9am or 5pm.

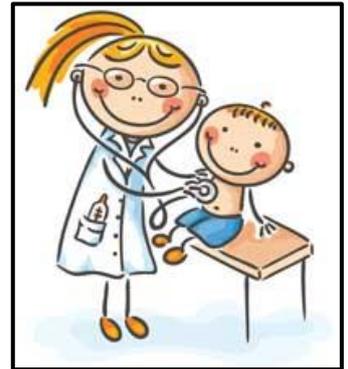


Reception class news roundup

The school are holding a 'Transition to Year One' meeting on **Monday 11th July** at 3pm for the Headteacher to go through all the changes your child can expect as they move up another year. This includes extended day services, PE, attendance and punctuality. Please just come to the Children's Centre admin office (via the Romilly Road entrance) in time for the meeting to start. Parent Consultations for Reception Class will begin from Monday 11th July while there's also a Funday on Monday 18th July at Clissold Park. Further information will follow about both events. The end of year celebration involves an African dance show on Wednesday 20th July (although parents/carers can't attend).

Healthcare plan reviews

Can all parents/carers please check the dates on your child's medication, as we are not allowed to administer any pumps/inhalers/creams that are out of date. Also, if your child is moving into Year One in September you will need to book an appointment with Hazel Lambert, the lower phase leader, to review your child's healthcare plan. The meeting must take place this term – so before the summer holidays. Please call the school office on 0207 226 4708 to book an appointment that is suitable for both you and Hazel, so your child stays safe at school.



School fair reminder

This year's School Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 9th July** from **1pm to 4pm**. 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.

News from Friends of Ambler

Friends of Ambler are still running the Penny Challenge right up until the end of term so please carry on bringing in your small change. The Children's Centre tub is at the admin office and all proceeds go straight to the charity, which helps improve all sorts of things on our whole campus. Friends of Ambler are also holding an Annual General Meeting on Friday 15th July at 9am in the bottom hall and it would be great to see as many parents/carers in attendance as possible.



Leaving for other settings/schools

If your child will be moving to another setting after the holidays please make sure to tell your keyperson, Room Lead and the admin office so we can make sure that this big change in circumstances is marked in the most appropriate way. This could just be ensuring your child gets to say a proper goodbye to their friends but we're also happy to mark your child's last day at the Centre by handing out fruit you've supplied during carpet time. (Please remember that paying places require a four week notice period before withdrawal)

End of year reports

End of year reports will be given out across the Children's Centre for those children moving to a new room or setting. They will go out just before the parent consultations. You will have a chance to discuss these and your child's progress and development during these meetings. Please check your child's pigeonhole for further details on how to book.

Early closure on last day of term

Thursday 21st July is the last day of term and the Children's Centre is closing at 2.00pm in line with the school. However, there will still be a reduced child-care service for our working and studying parents on this day. We would appreciate it if working and studying parents can collect their children early, preferably before 4pm. If you expect difficulties on this day please speak to Honoria Lukulay, the assistant head of Centre.



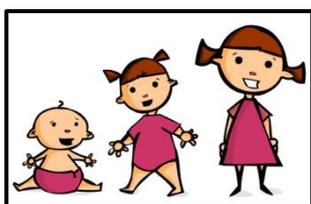
Special activities in Summer holidays

We are putting on a special set of summer activities between **Monday 25th July** and **Wednesday 17th August**. Please check the flyers for specific details, which include:

Stories and drumming on Mondays for creative activities with performing arts; **Baking time** on Tuesdays so children can help make tasty treats which will then be shared during a lovely communal lunch; **Large-scale messy play** on Thursdays where children can get engrossed in exploring different textures, colours and states of matter; **Creative Time** on Fridays where children can decorate wooden spoons and design their own clay pot murals (to join in with tie-dying you'll need to bring along an old white t-shirt)...

Holiday playscheme for Reception

Playscheme places are available for Reception pupils at the Children's Centre during the summer holidays. These provide working and studying families with childcare during school holidays. We can accept ex-pupils (children who were in daycare) and those who currently use our extended day services. Places are allocated 1st to Islington residents, 2nd to those who work in the borough and 3rd to other applicants. A week's place from 8.30am-5.30pm costs £120.30 or a week's place from 9.30am-3.30pm costs £90.19. (Concessionary rates are available for those on benefits.) Please speak to the Children's Centre admin office for more details. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 5th July.



September's Nursery places

We're now offering out our Nursery places for Autumn Term, which starts in September. If you get a letter please read it carefully, fill in the slip and return it to the admin office as soon as possible. This way we can make sure to reserve your child the offered place from next term onwards. Offers of full-time Nursery places (9.30am to 3.30pm) are being given in line with the council's admissions policy, so if you have any questions please see the admin office or a member of the senior leadership team.

Free places for two year olds

We still have a few 'free' part-time places in our Toddler Room this September. Your child could be eligible for one of the 15-hour government-funded places if any of the following apply: *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 2014 and 31st August 2014. Please ask at the admin office if you'd more information.

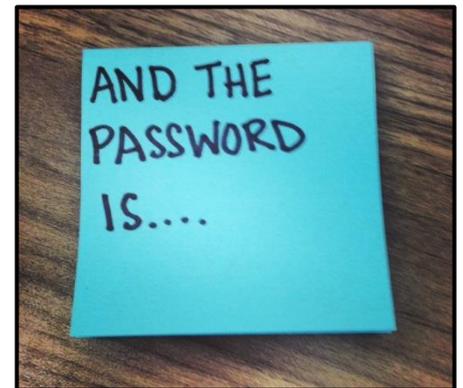


Fingernails to be kept short

We have a Dress Code at Ambler which ensures staff keep their fingernails cut short as long ones could be a health and safety concern when looking after children or changing babies' nappies. This is also true for children themselves, so please make sure your child's nails are trimmed to prevent anyone from scratching themselves or their friends by accident.

Picking up arrangements for all children

Please can all parents and carers remember to tell both the room and admin office if someone else will be picking up your child, giving that person's name and a password. This must be done on every single day that someone else will be picking up your child. The person must give the password on their arrival at Ambler or we will not allow your child to leave with them. If a nanny or family member needs to pick up your child on a regular basis please provide written permission for this along with a photo.



Closures for INSET days

Please make a note of the following INSET days in your diaries, when the both the Children's Centre and school will be totally closed for staff training: Monday 5th September, Tuesday 6th September, Tuesday 3rd January and Monday 20th February. As there are always five INSET days in a school year, there will be another date confirmed soon. Term dates for the 2016/17 academic year are included at the end of this newsletter.

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 **Honorina Lukulay**, Assistant Head, or **Lorna Pryne**, Early Years Foundation Stage Co-coordinator.

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

Communication and feedback

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. 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

BR = Baby Room
TR = Toddler Room
N = Nursery
TTO = Term Time Only
AYR = All Year Round

SUMMER TERM – 2015/16

Friday 8th July

Wireless festival in Finsbury Park – please allow extra travel time for pick ups

Saturday 9th July

Summer fair

Thursday 21st July

Last day of term – school and CC closes at 2pm for funded places
BR, TR and N open as normal for paying parents

Friday 22nd July to Thursday 18th August

SUMMER HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only

Friday 19th August to Friday 4th September inclusive

Closed for two week annual shutdown

AUTUMN TERM – 2016/17

Monday 5th September and Tuesday 6th September

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset days

Wednesday 7th September

First day of term for BR, TR and N/Reception (as Year One!)

Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October

HALF TERM HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only

Wednesday 21st December

Last day of term for all children

SPRING TERM – 2016/17

Tuesday 3rd January

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset day

Wednesday 4th January

First day of term for BR, TR and N/Reception

Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February

HALF TERM HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only

Monday 20th February

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset day

Monday 3rd April to Thursday 13th April

EASTER HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only

Friday 14th April and Monday 17th April

Children's Centre and school closed for Bank Holidays

SUMMER TERM – 2016/17

Tuesday 18th April

First day of term for BR, TR and N/Reception

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

HALF TERM HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only

Friday 21st July

Last day of term – school and CC closes at 2pm for funded places

BR, TR and N open as normal for paying parents

Monday 24th July to Thursday 17th August

SUMMER HOLS - Open for AYR children in BR, TR and N/Reception Playscheme only