

Dear mums, dads and carers,

June 2017 Newsletter

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A message from Michael Jarrett, Head of Centre

I wanted all families in our Ambler community to know I will be leaving my current role at the end of August to take up the position of Head of Early Years and Children's Centres at Slough Borough Council. I've enjoyed every day of my three years here at Ambler and know our 'Outstanding' provision will continue to go on to bigger and better things under the new umbrella of Bright Start Islington. (Please see the letter from Penny Kenway, Head of Early Years and Childcare at Islington Council, for further details on developments with BSI.) There's still a few weeks until the end of term though and I'll be on hand, as always, if you have any questions or concerns.



School Fair on Saturday 8th July

This year's School Fair will be taking place on **Saturday 8th 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. There is going to be a carnival theme, with live music alongside the traditional bouncy castle, raffle, BBQ and visit from Gunnersaurus. There will also be an Ambler Bake Off competition, with adults invited to enter a special celebration dish and children asked to submit their cup cakes! Keep an eye out for posters and further information on Twitter.

Fun Day on Tuesday 11th July

We'd love to see as many families as possible at our last ever cluster event with Conewood, which is being held on **Tuesday 11th July** from **11am to 2pm** at Birchmore Hall. The Fun Day on the Highbury Quadrant Estate has a 'Let's Get Healthy' theme and will involve a raffle, sport for under 5s, meditation, a bouncy castle, mini head massages and taster dance sessions. There'll also be face painting, glitter tattoos and music at the event, which is being run with Islington Council and Whittington Health.



Nursery graduation on Tuesday 18th July

Our annual Nursery graduation is being held on **Tuesday 18th July at 2pm**. 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.) Please just make sure to enter via Romilly Road and come to the Children's Centre in plenty of time before the ceremony.

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)



Early closure on last day of term

Friday 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.

Applying for 30 hours childcare

From this September some working parents will be eligible for an additional 15 hours of free childcare for their three and four year olds. These families will be able to access up to 30 hours of free childcare a week, rather than the universal 15 hours. If your child will be in Nursery next academic year you can check their eligibility by going to <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk> If you are eligible, you'll receive an 11 digit code (called a DERN number) that we need to see. Before starting your application it is also worth checking out the government's information portal at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> to investigate your options on issues like childcare vouchers and tax-free childcare.

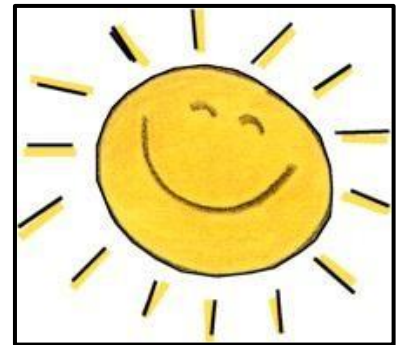


Reception class news roundup

The school are holding a 'Transition to Year One' meeting for parents on **Monday 17th July** at **2.30pm** 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. The children themselves will also get a chance to meet their new Year One teachers on the same day. Parent Consultations for Reception Class will begin from **Monday 3rd July** while there's also a Funday on **Tuesday 18th July**. Further information will be given via letters about all these events.

Sun protection for children

Please ensure your child has a sun hat and wears clothing that covers their 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 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 instead.



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-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 – 2017

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

Friday 18th August to Friday 1st September

SUMMER CLOSURE – Children's Centre is completely closed

AUTUMN TERM – 2017

Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September 2017

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Days

Wednesday 6th September 2017

First day of term

Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2017

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

Wednesday 20th December 2017

Last day of term

Thursday 21st December 2017

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Day

SPRING TERM – 2018

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

First day of term

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018

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

Thursday 29th March 2018

Last day of term

SUMMER TERM – 2018

Monday 16th April 2018

First day of term

Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018

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

Friday 20th July 2018

Last day of term