

Dear mums, dads and carers,

May 2017 Newsletter

Page 1

*Class photos taking place on Friday
Planning for upcoming summer fair
Sun protection for children*

Page 2

*Applying for 30 hours childcare
Consultation on admissions policy
Early Years transformation*

Page 3

*Moving up to Reception
Inset days for next year
Free vitamins available*

Class photos taking place on Friday

A photographer is visiting Ambler this Friday (26th May), to take group/class photos of our children. The times are:
9am – Baby Room, 9.20am – Toddler Room, 9.40am – Nursery 1/Foxes, 10am – Nursery 2/Squirrels, 10.20am – Reception Blue and 10.40am – Reception Green. Please make sure your child arrives in their normal room in plenty of time to be taken through to the hall by staff. If your child would not normally be at Ambler when their photo is due to be taken (such as afternoon children or those who come from Monday to Wednesday) you can still bring them in for the photo shoot, but must accompany them at all times.

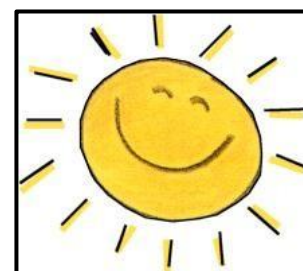


Planning for the upcoming Summer Fair

This year's Summer Fair will be taking place on the afternoon of **Saturday 8th July**. Please do pop the date in your diary and come along with your children for a fantastic day of family fun. If you'd like to get involved in planning the big day itself then don't miss the Friends of Ambler meeting on **Thursday 8th June at 9am** in Vince's Lodge. In the meantime, maybe you're able to have an estate agent board advertising the Summer Fair outside your home? As well as displaying the creativity of one of our very own pupils and advertising the fair, every single board raises a cash donation for Ambler. Just send your name and full address to friendsofambler@gmail.com

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.



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. Parents 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). You will then have to complete a form which includes the key details to allow us to verify the code, including your NI number and the child's date of birth. We won't be able to offer any families 30 hours childcare without this form being completed. 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.

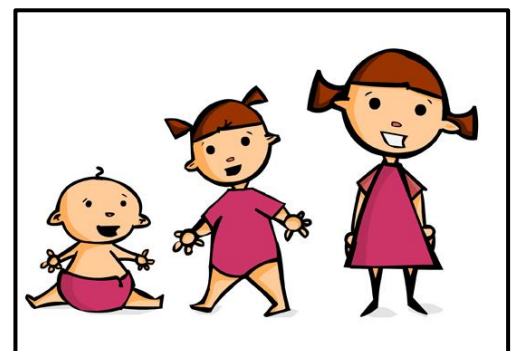


Consultation on admissions policy

Islington Council is proposing changes to the admissions policy for nursery classes in the borough's primary schools and children's centres. This is because of government changes to the way such settings are funded and the introduction of 30 hours free childcare from this September. The aim is to support providers to allocate full time and part time places, ensure a fair and transparent policy across Islington's maintained early years settings and to continue supporting the most vulnerable children to access full-time provision. You can view the proposed admission policy and complete the consultation by going to: <https://www.islington.gov.uk/consultations/admissions-policy-to-nursery-classes-in-schools-and-childrens-centres-consultation> The deadline is Sunday 28th May.

Early Years transformation

The borough's services for children and families from pregnancy to five are undergoing a transformation, with the new integrated service model on track to be implemented in September. The transformation will see the co-ordination and delivery of children's centre services organised across three areas of the borough. The next few weeks are going to be challenging, particularly for certain early years staff, with some employees being affected by the staffing re-organisations that are underway. The transformation aims to strengthen partnerships and work collaboratively to reduce duplication, ensure consistency and sustain high quality, while making the required savings in a tough financial climate. As soon as we're aware of any changes to the way we work at Ambler this will be communicated to all families in the community.

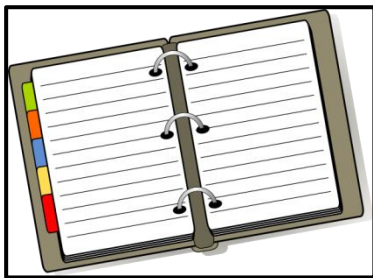


Moving up to Reception

Congratulations to all our Nursery children who have been offered a place in a Reception Class of their choice. There will likely be some changes to the current Reception list at every school, so if you want your child to go to a different school than the one offered that might still be possible.



Any Nursery children staying at Ambler will be introduced to their new classroom and teacher in advance, with notice to follow shortly. There will also be an opportunity to nominate which friends they would like to be kept with during their move up to Reception. Again, more details to follow shortly.



Inset days for next academic year

Three of the five Inset days allowed in the next academic year have now been agreed by our Headteacher, in consultation with the governing body. As such, Ambler will be totally closed with no childcare being offered on **Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September**, as well as on **Thursday 21st December**. To help with everyone's forward planning,

term dates for next academic year are included at the end of this newsletter but make sure to read future versions so you're aware when the remaining two inset days are announced.

Free vitamins available

We distribute free vitamins at Ambler for all children aged under four and women who are pregnant, trying to get pregnant or have given birth in the past year. Almost all of our children should be registered by now, but if you're not sure 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. We'll be handing out the latest batch of vitamins to our children this week...



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

Monday 29th May

Children's Centre and school closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 30th 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



Term dates and holidays

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

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

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

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

Friday 20th July 2018
Last day of term