

Dear mums, dads and carers,

October 2016 Newsletter

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Welcome to the Autumn Term!

There's been lots of new children at Ambler since the start of this academic year and many of our existing children have moved into different rooms. We hope that by now most will have settled into comfortable routines as the final few admissions begin their time at the Centre. We know you will all make any new parents/carers feel welcome...

Core day consultation

All families who have core day places are being consulted on potential minor changes to their 9.30am-3.30pm times. We're concerned that the current hours mean the youngest of children don't access their full entitlement of early education, especially those with siblings in school. The deadline for responses is Friday 4th November, with results being shared at an upcoming coffee morning. Any change will take effect in the Spring Term 2017. If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact a member of the senior leadership team.



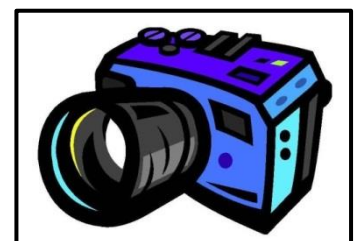
Primary school applications

All our children in Nursery are due to start primary school next September, so please apply online before the deadline of **15th January 2017**. To do so, Islington residents need to go to **www.islington.gov.uk/admissions**, while non-Islington residents should apply directly with their local council. If you need support, call the School Admissions team on 02075275515. Internet access is also available at local libraries and on public computers at 222 Upper Street.



Photograph reminder

Having seen the results of this month's individual 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 proof cards from Ward Hendry by now, so this is a final reminder that the deadline for purchase is Tuesday 1st November. 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.



Reception news

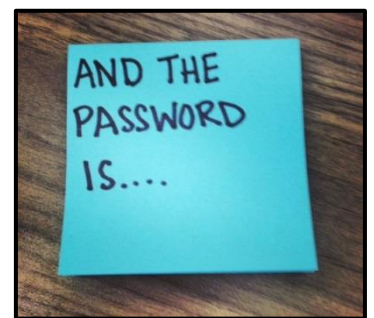
The first month of Reception class has gone smoothly, so thank you to all families for their patience with the settling-in period. It really makes our children feel safe and secure, helping them get off to a great start. Reception is the best of both worlds as it's part of the Children's Centre and the School – we're always the first point of call, but the School admin office can also be contacted on 02072264708 if required.



Parent consultations will take place mid-November for a chance to speak to your child's keyperson. Reading workshops for parents will follow shortly afterwards – please just speak to the room's staff nearer the time to book a place.

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.



Extended day procedures

Families who use our extended day services should be aware we've introduced tighter arrangements for dropping off and collecting children. The door to the Outreach hall should be kept closed at all times. On arrival (drop off or collection) please ring the bell and a member of staff will come and meet you. The member of staff will then complete the register. If there's information you need to pass on to us, please do so at this point so the appropriate staff member can be told. These new arrangements ensure greater safeguarding practices.



Festive card project

It might seem a bit early, but it's always best to get prepared for the festive season in plenty of time! Friends of Ambler are running a project where our children can get their creative juices flowing by designing their very own cards. These will then be professionally printed for parents, friends and family to treasure forever. If you haven't already received your artwork and order forms, please speak to your keyperson. The deadline for paying online is Wednesday 2nd November, while the completed artwork and order form must be returned by Friday 4th November.



Learning Journey activity

Children in our Nursery and Reception classes have been given a page from their Learning Journey to complete over the holidays. These capture 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. Please enjoy this creative activity and return your completed page to the teacher on the first day back after half term.

Free vitamins available

We distribute free vitamins at Ambler for all children aged under four and pregnant women. 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.



Why we are nut-free



You are welcome to supply fruit for your child to share with their class on birthdays, but please ensure that no nuts are brought into Ambler at all! The site is nut-free in response to various allergies and this includes any food brought in just for your own child's consumption. We are also a 'Healthy Children's Centre' and want to maintain this from Baby Room to Reception class. Children are happy to celebrate with a range of fruits and it's a lovely idea to buy some unusual fruits for the special occasion!

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

AUTUMN TERM – 2016/17

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