

Dear mums, dads and carers,

## November 2017 Newsletter

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### New collection time at the end of 'school' day

To ensure all children get their full early education entitlement, at the end of the 'school' day we're only going to allow access to parents/carers **just before 3.15pm**. Families from Baby Room, Toddler Room and both Nursery classes will no longer be able to gather in the atrium area as the end of the day approaches and must wait outside instead. This stops any children being distracted by their loved ones and also prevents safeguarding concerns with adults having free access to the setting. If you need to pick your child up early, such as for a doctor or dentist appointment, please call ahead and inform us. A similar system is already used for Reception classes so they're not affected by this change, and doesn't apply to extended day children. The new policy begins on **Thursday 23rd November**. Please see Lorna Prynne or Selina Laville with questions.



### Transition meetings for children moving rooms

The end of Autumn Term is approaching and many children are moving rooms in January. If your child is one of them, there are meetings organized to discuss the transition process. It's very important you attend one as it'll provide an opportunity to ask questions in anticipation of the big change. You'll also be able to meet staff members who work in your child's new room. The meetings are being held on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at**

**8.30am and 4.00pm**. A lot of our families will also be contacted in the coming weeks to provide proof of residence and income, for new contracts. Please just liaise with the admin office to ensure everything is completed before the end of term...

### Why toys from home shouldn't be brought in

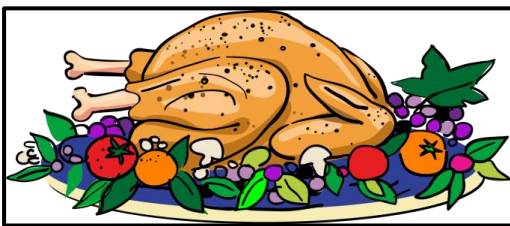
Children bringing their own toys in to the Children's Centre is prompting unnecessary conflict over ownership and possession. Unfortunately we can't be responsible if toys from home are broken or lost whilst at Ambler and staff can't spend time with families looking for them. It's impossible to ensure toys from home adhere to health and safety requirements for the wide range of ages we cater to, so please could all parents/carers make sure their child does **not bring any toys from home to the Centre**.

### Notification of early closure on last day`

The last day of term is **Wednesday 20th December** and we shall be closing at **2.00pm** for all 'term-time only' children, in line with the primary school. This means there will be no extended day services for Reception children. However, there will still be a reduced child-care service for our 'all year round' families on this day.



We would appreciate it if working and studying parents can collect their children early, preferably by 4pm, so staff can clean the Centre before it closes entirely for the Christmas break. If you expect difficulties on this day please speak to Lorna Prynne or Selina Laville.



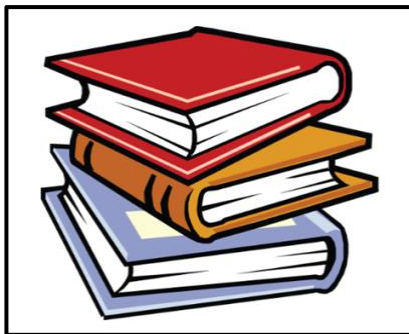
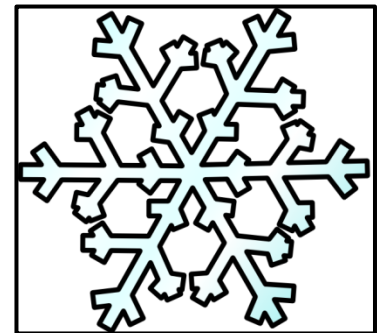
### Details of special 'Christmas Lunch'

Caterlink have settled on a date and the annual Christmas lunch will be served on **Tuesday 19th December**. The main course will be roast turkey breast served with chicken chipolata sausage, sage and onion stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy, or

baked butternut squash. Both options will be served with roast potatoes and seasonable vegetables. Meanwhile, desert will be gingerbread or mincemeat pie and cream or custard or a fresh fruit platter.

### Reminder about Reception's winter show

Reception's performance of 'A Winter Show' is taking place on **Monday 18th December at 2pm**. Parents/carers are asked to arrive at either the School or Children's Centre admin office in plenty of time to be seated before the performance begins. You can take photos and film your own children but please use all pictures and footage sensibly, so don't upload anything to the internet or social media. Every child should be sent home with lines already, so please help our budding thespians practice them at home...



### Reading with your Reception child at home

We are offering workshops to Reception parents who would like more information about reading techniques you can use to support your child at home. They're being held on Monday 4th December at 9am and 4pm, as well as on Tuesday 5th December at 2pm. Discussions will be tailored around the actual reading of your particular child so questions can be answered in a more personalised way. To book your place please come and find Lorna in the Reception Blue classroom.

### **30 hours reminder for Toddler Room children**

All children in Toddler Room who are going to be transitioning to Nursery next term should find out now if they are eligible for an additional 15 hours of free childcare after the move. Some 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.

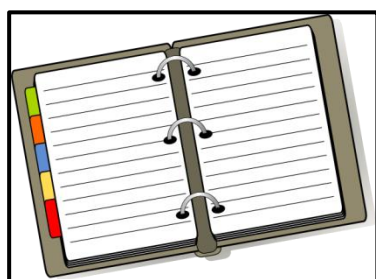


### **Open evening for primary school applications**

All children who are currently in Nursery class are due to start primary school next September, so please make sure to apply online before the deadline of **15th January 2018**. It is very important that applications are made on time as otherwise you may miss out on your favoured choice of schools. To do so, Islington residents need to go to [www.islington.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.islington.gov.uk/admissions), while non-Islington

residents should apply directly with their local council.

There is no automatic transfer from our Nursery to our Reception class, even if you already have other siblings in the school. If you are interested in joining the school and want to find out more, our Headteacher is hosting an Open Evening on **Wednesday 13th December at 5pm**, so just let the Children's Centre admin office know that you'd like to attend.

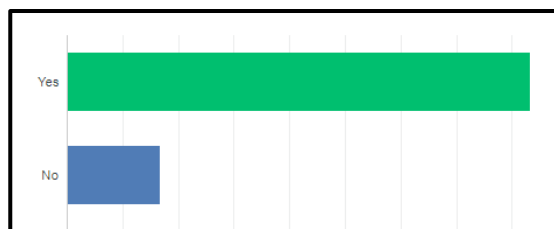


### **Final Inset day agreed for this academic year**

The final Inset day of this academic year will be on **Friday 15th June**. Ambler is totally closed with no childcare being offered on Inset days, although charges are still applied within the week they occur. Please make sure to read the 'Term dates and holidays' section at the end of each newsletter so you're aware of all our important dates.

### **Newsletters now published online 'only'**

Thank you to everyone who responded to last month's survey and voted overwhelmingly for us to publish future newsletters online only, with families being sent a link through the new '**School Gateway**' app. More than three quarters of families agreed that this idea was kinder to the environment and would save more than 500 pages of paper on every edition! We'll still print out a handful of hard copies for families without any internet access, which will be available from the foyer.



### **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 **Lorna Prynne**, Children's Centre and EYFS Lead, or **Selina Laville**, Daycare Manager.

### **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. The 'School Gateway' service also allows us to share information with parents/carers more quickly via email, text messages, online and smartphone app. 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 – 2017**

**Wednesday 20th December 2017**

Last day of term – school and CC closes at 2pm for TTO places  
BR, TR and N open later for AYR children

**Thursday 21st December 2017**

**Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Day**

### **SPRING TERM – 2018**

**Wednesday 3rd January 2018**

First day back for all children

**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 for TTO children

**Friday 30th March and Monday 2nd April 2018**

Children's Centre and school closed for Bank Holidays

**Tuesday 3rd April to Friday 13th April 2018**

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

### **SUMMER TERM – 2018**

**Monday 16th April 2018**

First day back for TTO children

**Monday 7th May and Monday 28th May 2018**

Children's Centre and school closed for Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 29th May to Friday 1st June 2018**

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

**Friday 15th June 2018**

**Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Day**

**Friday 20th July 2018**

Last day of term – school and CC closes at 2pm for funded places  
BR, TR and N open later for AYR children

**Monday 23rd July to Thursday 16th August 2018**

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