

Dear mums, dads and carers,

February 2018 Newsletter

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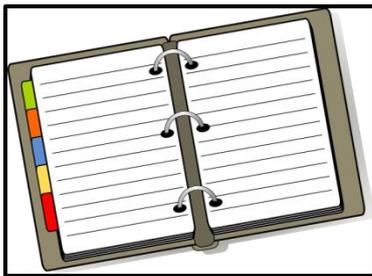
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Introducing Catherine and Julia's goodbye

Hopefully by now you'll all have met Catherine, the new teacher in Nursery 2/Squirrels, who joined us at the start of this term after a period volunteering abroad. We're delighted to have her and are sure all our families will make her feel welcome in this new role...

However, we're also very sad to be losing Julia Madu, our Early Years Education Worker in Toddler Room, who's leaving Ambler shortly after half-term to further her studies. We'll be saying farewell after more than a decade working here and we'll celebrate during one of our upcoming Friday singing sessions, so please see next month's newsletter for specific details.

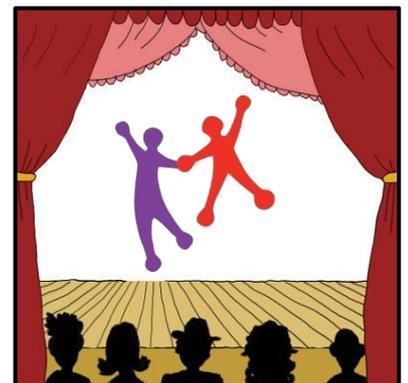


Term dates for next academic year

To help with everyone's forward planning, term dates for the next academic year have been agreed and are included at the end of this newsletter. Please make a note of the 5 Inset days which are taken within the term dates and when the Children's Centre will be completely closed.

Reception's upcoming trip to the theatre

Both our Reception classes are excited to be going on a trip to the theatre soon! Reception Blue and Green will be going to the Little Angel Theatre to see *The Singing Mermaid* puppet show on Tuesday 27th March. Please just return the permission slip to let staff know if your child can come and give Lorna, Margaret or Sofia a £3.50 contribution towards the ticket and travel costs. Friends of Ambler have kindly agreed to subsidise this trip which is reflected in the bargain price! There are some parent/carer helper places available so speak to the staff if you are interested in joining the trip...



Free meals at School and Free School Meals!



You may already know that all children who attend our Nursery are entitled to receive a free lunch. However, families must now register to receive this service using the Citizen Portal. Applying online in this way is very important because the amount of money that we receive from central government depends on the number of children registered as 'eligible' for Free School Meals. Even if your child doesn't actually stay at Ambler over lunch time, we may still be able to claim Early Years Pupil Premium funding and spend this extra money on resources or additional staffing for your child's education. Please don't hesitate to ask a teacher or the admin office for further details.

First Aid sessions for parents

Bright Start Islington have organized several First Aid courses for parents, which could be a good opportunity to learn more about how to react in an emergency situation or just how to best deal with all those run-of-the-mill grazes and bumps. Sessions are being held at New River Green Children's Centre on Wednesday 31st January from 9am to 12pm or from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Sessions are being held on Bemerton Children's Centre on Saturday 24th March from 9am to 12pm (for all parents) or from 12.30pm to 3.30pm (for fathers only). Please contact New River Green on 020 7527 4813 or Bemerton on 020 7527 4806 if you are interested.



Bright Start Islington opportunities for parents

The governance of local Children's Centres has changed from Advisory Boards to Early Childhood Area Partnerships (ECAPs). Islington Council are running an induction session to support parents, carers and community representatives to join the new organization and get involved in initiatives which are most relevant to their interest. There will be a crèche and light refreshments. The session takes place on Monday 19th February from 12pm till 2.30pm at Hungerford Children's Centre. To register,

just click on the link www.islington.gov.uk/brightstart.

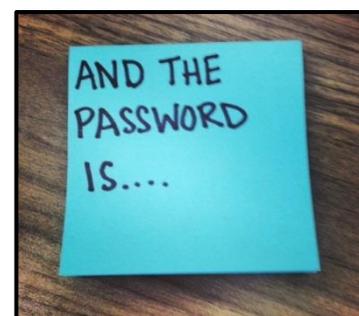
Islington Council are also recruiting volunteers to become Bright Start Parent Champions. This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to get skills, confidence, training and support to help others. The Parent Champions will talk to other parents and give them important information about childcare and healthy living, as well as encouraging them to engage and take up services/activities. The council will provide safeguarding checks, volunteering training and ongoing support to the Parent Champions. If you are interested, please contact Selda Aygun, Parent Involvement Development Officer, on 020 7527 6835 or selda.aygun@islington.gov.uk as soon as possible.

What to do if your child is sick or unable to attend

Please remember to contact the Children's Centre admin office to let us know if your child is sick or unable to attend for any reason. The number is 02073597628, but if you are unable to call just email childrenscentre@ambler.islington.sch.uk instead. It is very important that we are made aware of all absences for safeguarding purposes, especially following several recent tragedies where parents have fallen ill at home and their children were unable to contact anyone for help. We will call all available numbers, including emergency contacts, until we are assured that the absence is explained. In severe cases we will also be forced to undertake a home visit, so please consider the potential impact of not notifying Ambler promptly.

Picking up arrangements for all children

Please can all parents and carers remember to tell both the room and Children's Centre 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. However, if a nanny, friend or family member needs to pick up your child on a regular basis please complete a 'Collection Consent Form.' This written permission, along with a photo, means we don't need to be told about each day's collection arrangement and a password won't be required.

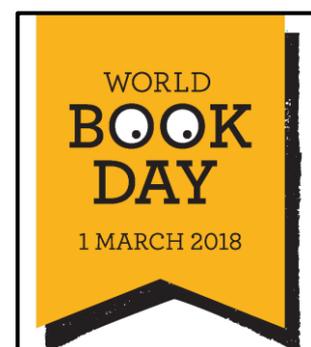


Promoting oral health by toothbrushing

The entire Children's Centre, including Reception classes, are participating in a supervised brushing programme being held in partnership with Camden and Islington Public Health. Children will be supported with 'dry brushing' their teeth during the day and our staff have received training from colleagues in public health. Please make sure you have returned a consent form for your child to take part in this positive activity with all their friends.

World Book Day being celebrated soon

We are celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 1st March. On that particular day, children can dress up as a character from a book of their choice to show all their friends what they love reading most. Parents and carers are encouraged to get their children involved in the festivities, helping create whole costumes (like Wally from Where's Wally) or single props (like the Cat's Hat from Dr Seuss's series) which come from their favourite books. Please also bring the book which relates to your child's character to Ambler so it can be shared with everyone else. It is a great day dedicated to books and a celebration of reading, so we hope you will all join in!



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. The 'School Gateway' service is used to share information via email, text, online and app. If you have any compliments, complaints or suggestions to help us improve our services, 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

SPRING TERM – 2018

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



Term dates and holidays

BR = Baby Room, TR = Toddler Room, N = Nursery

TTO = Term Time Only, AYR = All Year Round

AUTUMN TERM – 2018

Monday 3rd September and Tuesday 4th September 2018

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Days

Wednesday 5th September 2018

First day of term for all children

Monday 22nd October to Friday 26th October 2018

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

Monday 29th October 2018

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Day

Friday 21st December 2018

Last day of term for all children

SPRING TERM – 2019

Thursday 3rd January 2019

First day back for AYR children

Monday 7th January 2019

First day of term for TTO children

Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February 2019

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

Friday 5th April 2019

Last day of term for TTO children

Monday 8th April to Thursday 18th April 2019

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

Friday 19th April and Monday 22nd April 2019

Children's Centre closed for Bank Holidays

SUMMER TERM – 2019

Tuesday 23rd April 2019

First day of term for all children

Monday 6th May and Monday 27th May 2019

Children's Centre closed for Bank Holidays

Tuesday 28th May to Friday 31st May 2019

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

Friday 19th July 2019

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

BR, TR and N open till 4pm for AYR children

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Children's Centre and school closed for Inset Days

Wednesday 24th July to Thursday 15th August 2019

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