

20th October 2023

# PARENT NEWSLETTER



## Key Information:

- **October half Term Monday 23rd –Friday 27th October—School closed to TTO children**
- **Friday 10th November—INSET school closed for all children**
- **International Evening—Friday 17th November 5.30-7pm**
- **Friday 8th December—Development session, school opens at 10am for all children**

## HEADTEACHER'S SECTION by Sally Franklin

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Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful getting to know so many new children and families this half term. We now move into the second part of the Autumn term with many seasonal activities and celebrations to look forward to.

After half term we will be focussing on celebrating diversity. We ask for you send in photos of your family and extended family with a little note explaining the picture/family background. We hope to create a school world map showing where our families live/were born. We would like to also explore foods, songs and music from around the world. This will also tie in with our International Evening celebration on November 17<sup>th</sup>. We would love parents/carers to come into school to help us cook, sing songs, read stories with the children at some point over the next half term. We know that your time is precious but even 20 minutes to pop in and read a story to a small group of children would be wonderful.

### Cookbook

Louise is organising a North Islington cookbook. The form has been sent to you on ParentMail. We would love for you to share your favourite family recipe that we can include in our book – photos as well as the recipe would be fab! We have made cookbooks in the past and they have made a lovely gift to pass on.

### Raffle Winner

Congratulations to James and his family who have won the wooden kitchen via our raffle competition. We managed to raise £68.00 which will put towards purchasing Christmas gifts for the children. Thank you to all of you that purchased a ticket and thank you to Joni for donating the kitchen.

### Christmas Cards

If you would like your child to design a Christmas card which we will get printed for you, please take a form from the reception. Closing date for sending off the designs will be **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November**.

I hope that you all have a lovely half term,

Best wishes,

Sally

## BABY ROOM by Becky Powell

The first half of the Autumn Term has gone very quickly, and it's been another busy few weeks in the Baby Room.

Schematic play is always one of the predominant ways that children learn at this age and the staff observe many different schemas that the children are exploring including: -

**trajectory** where the children are interested in dropping things, throwing objects, climbing up or jumping off objects.

**enveloping**- covering themselves or objects, posting objects and covering hands with paint/other wet materials

**transporting**- moving themselves or objects from place to place, bringing objects to show adults and carrying around toys in bags/containers.

There have been other creative activities to explore including an apple collage using autumnal coloured materials for the children to select, pick up using their fingers and then glue onto a different surface.

The children continue to love playing in the mud kitchen using natural materials to mix and explore including leaves, cones and conkers.

Several children are also enjoying taking physical risks with their gross motor movements to challenge themselves physically.

Staff have also commented on how many of the children are making progress with their language to communicate. Children are copying words, using single words and some are putting two words together independently. This is very encouraging to see and can be supported at home by:-

Singing songs and rhymes with actions.

Playing Ready, steady go games e.g., bubbles and rolling cars/balls.

Repeating and extending what your child has said e.g., if your child says "duck", you can say "big duck" or "yellow duck" or "duck swimming".

Sharing picture books and using a short and simple sentence to comment on what you can see.

"The Tiger who came to tea" has been a popular story book in Baby Room and a song "Crabs and Starfish" to the tune of Frere Jacques.





# TODDLER ROOM by Becky Powell

It's half term already and what a busy time it has been in Toddler Room.

All the new children have settled in very well and are making relationships with the staff and other children and enjoying exploring the different areas and activities available.

Several children have been talking about travelling to different places and the staff have followed these interests to create a role play airport for the children to recreate some of their own experiences. The children were supported to make their own passports with staff modelling different scenarios such as getting to their seats on the plane, putting on their seatbelts and taking off!



The staff have continued to celebrate Black History Month playing the Traffic Light Game which the children love and listening and dancing to Bob Marley and Afro Beats music.

There have been a variety of activities to support and develop fine motor skills and hand eye coordination including targeting small pom poms onto a sticky web, threading with pasta, several opportunities to cut with scissors and pouring and filling with containers in the water tray. Another very popular activity this week was a mix of different types of beans (e.g. black eyed beans and haricot beans) for the children to tip, pour and explore. Not only is this a supportive activity for physical development but it prompted many questions from the children about the different varieties of beans and what they are used for and comments about what they looked like.

Building with large blocks both indoors and outside in the garden has been another interest from the children that supports fine motor skills and problem solving. The children have been wanting to make high towers putting the blocks on top of one another to see how high that they can make them. This also encouraged lots of questions and use of mathematical language about size and comparison.

Outside in the garden the children continue to love looking for minibeast in the garden using magnifiers, spades and rakes. It always encourages lots of opportunities for communication and exploration.

At group times the children have had opportunities to play musical instruments and the staff have been sharing books that support personal, social and emotional development including "Hands are not for hitting". These stories are helpful in prompting conversations about children's feelings and what they can do when things happen that they don't like.

It was an Autumn themed Fun Friday today and the staff had a range of lovely experiences for the children to play with. There were autumn leaves in bright coloured corn flour, collage using dried materials, play dough and cooking with many of the children making fruit tarts.



# OCEAN ROOM by Nikki Fuller

We can't believe we've already reached the end of our first half term! Time sure does fly when you're having fun!

Some of the things we have been enjoying these past 2 weeks are playing doctors – tending to our “wounded” friends and adults with bandages and shots, hairdressing – spraying and styling, playing paleontologists - digging for dinosaur fossils in the sand, being musical with claves, and creating colourful collages at the creative table.



We started out our week by making pizzas on the smart screen by choosing a pizza base template and adding toppings of our choice. A few friends then went to the shops to buy real pizza ingredients and together we mixed and kneaded the dough, chopped and placed our toppings, added cheese and popped them into the oven to be enjoyed as a special snack. Yum!

We have explored Black History Month through books - like *I believe I can* by Grace Byers and *The Colour of Us* by Lezette Rivera – and videos of *JoJo and Gran Gran*. We spoke about how wonderful it is that we are all so different and unique and how boring life would be if we were all the same.

We hope you had a wonderful Autumn-themed Fun Friday today for those who participated and have an amazing half term break for our term time only friends!

## Ocean Room Reminders:

Please make sure to check the whiteboard above the pegs at the entrance of the room for reminders about nappies and spare clothes. There are a few children who need extras added to their bags.

Wellies! Please send in a pair of labelled wellies to be kept at school for wet weather fun!

Family photos – these have gone up in our home corner! Please send one in if you have not yet done so.





# BUSINESS & ADMIN By Laura Finch

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## Early Concerns

If you have any concerns about your child's progress and development, please get in touch with your child's key person. We are lucky to have highly experienced staff working at the setting who will be able to talk through your worries and concerns and if necessary we can sign post you to the relevant agencies. We work very closely with other professionals who may be able to help you and your child.

## International Evening

A reminder that we are holding an International Evening on **Friday 17th November** between 5.30-7pm.

We are looking forward to celebrate the diverse community that makes up our school. Please join us on this occasion where we will share food from around the world, listen to music and participate in some dancing!

We welcome parents contributing food dishes from home and the children will be also making foods from around the world. Please let Noreen or Louise know in reception if you are able to attend and what food/drink contribution you will be bringing. On this occasion, children are welcome to attend and join in the celebrations. Therefore, we cannot permit foods/drink that contain alcohol or nuts.

## Nursery Fees

All families should now have received a new contract for this term and an up to date fee statement. Fees can be paid weekly or monthly by standing order, tax free childcare or via card/Paypal on ParentMail.

Statements will be emailed to you each half term or can be requested at any time by emailing us at [northislington.eyc@islington.gov.uk](mailto:northislington.eyc@islington.gov.uk).

Thank you to those of you who pay your fees on time, it is greatly appreciated.

**The council operate a no arrears policy.** Fees for each week should be paid by the previous Friday. In line with council policy if your fee account is in arrears you will be issued a weekly arrears notice. If your account is in arrears and you have not already done so, please speak to Laura Stoodley to discuss your account.

**Please note your child's place at the setting is at risk if your account is in arrears.**



### Christmas Dates

**Friday 8th December 2023, Fun Friday,** Christmas Crafts 10-11am all parents welcome

**Wednesday 20th December 2023,** Christmas Dinner for children

**Thursday 21st December 2023,** Christmas party and visit from Father Christmas. Children to be collected at 1pm

# BUSINESS & ADMIN By Laura Finch

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## School Admissions

Please be reminded that children who turn 4 prior to 31st August 2023, need to apply for a reception class place before **15th January 2024**.

A member of the School Admission team will be hosting a meeting for parents on **Tuesday 14th November at 9.30** to answer any questions you may have. The meeting will be held at the school.

## Funded Childcare for 2 & 3 year olds

Please can we remind all parents who are currently accessing 30hrs funded childcare to renew your eligibility each term. HMRC will email you a reminder. If you do not renew then you risk losing the additional funded hours.

**3 year olds** If your child has turned 3 between 1 September and 31 December 2023 then you will automatically receive 15hr funded childcare from January. You are not required to do anything to receive the reduction in fees, we will issue you with a new contract in due course. Some families are entitled to 30hrs funded childcare. In order to receive 30hrs both parents need to be working more than 16hrs per week and earning under £100K per year as individuals. If you think you are eligible for 30hrs funded childcare you must complete an online form prior to the 31st December in order to receive the funding for January. If you are eligible you will be given a code and you will be required to complete a form which you can collect from reception.

To apply for 30hrs funded childcare or for further details please follow the link below:

**30 hours free childcare - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

Please note if your child currently attends nursery less than 30hrs per week we can only extend to 30hrs subject to availability. Please ensure you let us know as soon as possible if you would like to increase your hours.

**2 year olds** If your child has turned 2 between 1 September and 31 December 2023 then you might be eligible for 15hrs funded childcare from September. Families who are non working or those who are working but the family income is less than £16K per year might be eligible for the funded hours. You will be required to complete an online form and provide us the code if you are eligible. To apply or for further details please follow the link below:

**Free early learning for 2 year olds | Islington Council**

## Book Fair

Our annual school book fair will arrive on Thursday 2 November and remain in the Reception area until Thursday 9 November. There will be a selection of books aimed at children aged 0-5 years for you to purchase. The more books families purchase the more books we are able to receive from the company for the school. Last year we managed to receive over £300 worth of books for the children at North Islington!! Thank you in advance.



# DIARY DATES Autumn Term

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## **IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE**

Due to the availability of the training provider our January INSET has been rearranged. The INSET will now take place on **Thursday 11th January** and not Monday 8th January as originally planned.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

## Autumn Term

**Monday 23 - Friday 27th October 2023**, Half term, school closed for TTO children

**Friday 10th November 2023**, INSET, school closed for all children

**Friday 17th November 2023**, International Evening, 5.30-7pm

**Friday 8th December 2023**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Friday 8th December 2023**, Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts, parents welcome between 10-11am

**Thursday 21st December 2023**, Last day of term for all children, **school closes at 1pm**

## Spring Term

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024**, School reopens for AYR children only

**Monday 8th January 2024**, INSET CANCELLED

**Monday 8th January 2024**, School reopens for TTO children

**REARRANGED DATE Thursday 11th January 2024**, INSET, school closed for all children

**Monday 22nd January 2024**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Monday 12 - 16th February 2024**, Half term, school closed for TTO children

**Friday 8th March 2024**, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

**Thursday 28th March 2024**, INSET, school closed for all children

**Friday 29th March 2024—Monday 1 April 2024**, Bank Holiday, school closed for all children

*Happy to be here.....*