



Newsletter Monday 18th November 2024

Headteacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first half of the new school year absolutely flew by. We now prepare ourselves for the busiest half term in the school calendar. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the coming weeks and we know that many will involve glitter, sequins, sparkles and songs!!

The older children will be visiting the theatre, and we are planning something similar for our younger children. More information to follow soon.

Thank you to all of you that have attended our recent Fun Friday's. Your support in school is always appreciated. Our next Fun Friday will be on Friday 6th December. Our focus will be on Christmas crafts and cooking. If you can, please do try to come along and join in the fun.

Please remember to borrow books from the lending library in the front garden. The books are there for you to take home and return once shared. If you have any books that you wish to donate to our lending library, we will gratefully accept them.

Thank you to everyone who is donating to our snack/cooking pot of money. Your kindness has been noted and staff have been able to provide more cooking activities for the children.

As we head into winter, please do dress your child in appropriate clothing. Hats, scarves and gloves do get misplaced so label items where you can. The outdoor water pump in the nursery garden will be turned off now for the winter. Children will still be able to access water for the mud kitchen areas using water butts, but they will not be able to immerse themselves in elbow deep water during the colder months. We do allow children to go outside in the colder weather but are mindful of the duration of time spent outside so that they are not cold. It is not possible to 'keep' children inside during the wintertime as

outdoor learning is part of our curriculum. Please do not ask your child's key person that we do this, as it is impossible to agree to.

Thank you to those of you that have donated to our staff appreciation advent gift calendar. We will keep you updated on the gifts that the staff receive on their allocated day to draw a prize!

Although we do not have school Parent Teacher Association (PTA) we welcome any parent who wishes to organise small events on the school premises, either during or after school or at weekends. I am happy to support any suitable activity that individual or group of parents wish to run such as coffee mornings, raffles, parent/carer social evenings etc. and even planning for next years school summer fun day. Although the staff team are always incredibly willing to lead on these events, it would be nice to work with parents to provide even more opportunities for fundraising and exciting social events. If anyone has any ideas or wishes to lead on hosting an event, please do let me know sally.franklin@islington.gov.uk. If we have enough interest, we could perhaps hold some PTA meetings to catch up and put some plans into place.

We are also in the process of promoting the nursery school as a venue for your child's birthday party or similar celebrations. There will be a cost involved but if this is something that you are interested in, please speak to Laura, laura.finch@islington.gov.uk.

Best wishes,

Sally

Baby Room News

The garden has been very popular with the children over the last 6 weeks. The staff have set up more challenging climbing obstacles to walk up and down and across planks as they develop their balance, motor planning and gross motor skills.

The children who are not yet walking have also been motivated to move around and challenge themselves commando crawling to reach for toys that they like.

Messy and sensory experiences continue to be a popular activity. The children have had opportunities to make their own play dough stirring and mixing the ingredients together using a large spoon. Not only is this a great activity to extend fine motor skills it is also supporting the children's understanding of following simple instructions.

Other popular sensory activities have been transferring cous cous, oats and corn flour with water using different sized scoops, containers and their hands to explore.

There are always a range of different opportunities to make marks in baby room using paint with water colours, large brushes, chalks and crayons on both a small and large scale.

With the clocks changing and it getting darker much earlier has been a great opportunity for the children to explore light and shadow with torches. They have loved exploring the coloured lights and shining the torches onto different surfaces.

To link with the festivals and time of the year the staff used autumn leaves and sticks for the children to find spiders hidden, clay pots using their hands and fingers to manipulate the ball of clay to shape into a Diya pot to link with Diwali (The Festival of Light) which they then painted in lovely bright colours. The staff and children also celebrated Black History Month with music, different dolls and books.















Toddler Room News

The end of the year is fast approaching, and during October and November the staff have been providing a range of activities to celebrate this time of year including Autumn, Diwali and Bonfire Night.

During October half term the children had had a great time creating wizard hats and cat masks which they were then using to extend their imaginative play. There were also many activities using pumpkins including making and eating pumpkin soup.

The children made Diya lamps with clay using their thumbs to manipulate and create sides to the pot, Rangoli patterns with coloured sand and watched a short CBeebies episode about this celebration.

The activities for Diwali led onto creating firework pictures using paint where the children made splatter pictures and printing with a range of colors and glitter. Many of these pictures are currently hanging up in the classroom.

Our October Fun Friday was a huge success. Thank you to all the parents/carers who were able to attend. Everyone loved creating picture frames using natural materials that the children had collected from the garden. They had an opportunity to ice and decorate biscuits and make their own autumn wands with sticks and collage materials.

The core books for this half term are "Whatever Next" and "Brown Bear" and the staff have started to link many activities in the classroom to these books including using props to retell and role play the stories, making rockets to go to the moon and using a projector to create shadows.

The children are showing great interest in using one handed tools. The staff have observed these interests and have provided a wide range of activities to develop their skills in this area. They have been learning how to use hole punchers in paper, scissors to cut through ribbon and card, threading ribbon through the holes that they have made, threading with wool through leaves in the garden with plastic needles and using glue sticks and glue spreaders.

The staff are also supporting many children's interests in mark making and recognizing and writing their names. Many children are already recognizing the initial letter and forming letter like shapes to represent their name.



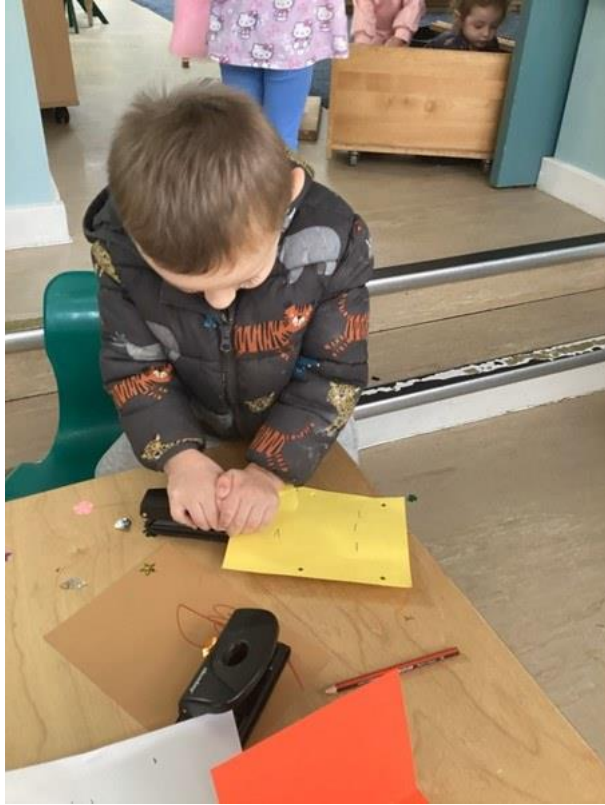








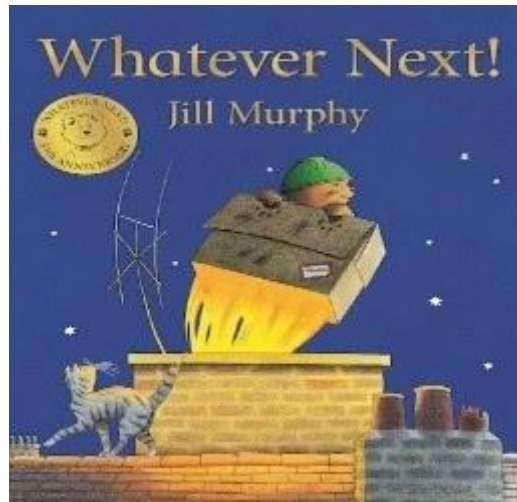






Ocean Room News

This month has been very busy in ocean room. We had an amazing visit from Safari Pete where the children were able to find out about an owl, a meerkat, a camouflaged frog, a rather smelly ferret some bearded dragons who were experts at catching beetles to eat and snake who we watched eat a mouse! Many of the children were confident in handling the creatures and Pete was able to share lots of interesting stories and facts about his collection of animals and creatures.



One of our core books this half term is *Whatever Next?* By Jill Murphy. The story is about a bear who wants to go to the moon so makes himself a rocket out of a cardboard box. The book lends itself well to exploring darkness, nighttime, nocturnal animals and space. The children have been exploring colour and light through paint, glitter, coloured sand, torches and our light box. They have made their own rockets, made their own books of *Whatever next* by sequencing the story through pictures and are now exploring space and the wider universe. They are learning about the different planets and have begun to make them out of paper mâché.









In maths, the children have been exploring how to make and represent amounts. They have used cubes to make towers to represent amounts 1-5 and they have experienced how to count out a set of objects, knowing that the last number said is the total. We do this every day at snack time when we remind the children that they can buy 3 snack items from the snack café with their coins. It is a harder task than you might realise – knowing when to stop counting or taking more! Practice this at home and ask your child to count out a set of objects and then ask them how many?





Clay has continued to be a popular activity, and many children have shown fascination with tools that can be used to make changes to malleable materials such as clay and dough. They have particularly enjoyed using, knives, scissors, the garlic press and pasta machine. All of these tricky to use gadgets not only help develop hand eye co-ordination skills but also build up the muscles in the fingers and wrists for when your child is ready to begin writing with a pen or pencil.





Before children learn to read, they need to be able to tune into and distinguish between sounds. These can be environmental sounds such as a car horn or the sound of rustling leaves. We play listening games to support children to be able to 'tune in' and pay attention. We usually then move onto playing games such as Eye Spy and Silly Soup, where we

encourage children to identify initial sounds that they hear in words. We are encouraging the children to be able to recognise their name and our older children are learning the initial letter and sound of their names. We teach a mixture of letter sounds and letter names so that the children can begin to distinguish between the two. For example, this is the letter M and the sound it makes is mmmm. If you would like any more information on how we support early literacy skills, please do ask.

Outside, we have been providing opportunities for children to develop their co-ordination and balance skills. Being able to manoeuvre over the A frame is a difficult task that many children find tricky. We will continue to lay out obstacle courses for the children to practice and refine their skills. Using the monkey bars and ropes to build upper body strength is also a valuable activity in the outside area. Children need to develop upper body muscles before the smaller ones required for establishing an effective pencil grip are ready. Activities such as large painting with rollers and brushes and pushing and pulling equipment also are experiences which enable children to become physically able to write.









Work with Cath – our artist in residence. **Using Sticks**



You can help us this term by sending in your recyclable materials such as boxes, cartons, fabric, envelopes, greeting cards, wool etc. We also welcome any donation of dying flowers and date expired spices. We use all these things daily. Also, if you have any unwanted Christmas decorations, we can re purpose these in our art area.

Thank you, ocean room team.

Business & Admin

Easy Fundraising - We have signed up to Easy Fundraising which is a way in which we can raise vital funds for the nursery simply by doing our shopping! We have 34 supporters so far and have raised £41 in our first week. Please follow the link below to join and support our school.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/north-islington-nursery-school/>

Children In Need - We have raised an amazing £75 for children in need this year - thank you for all your kind donations.

Bake Sale - We have raised an amazing £78 from our recent bake sale. A huge thank you to everyone who either made or bought a cake. This money will be going towards the Christmas celebrations for the children.

Book Fair - thank you to all parents who purchased books at our recent book fair. Thanks to your generous purchases you have helped us receive £178 to spend on new books for the children. We are very grateful for your continued support through these schemes.

Funded childcare places - Please remember to receive the funded entitlements you need to apply by certain deadlines. The deadline for January is 31/12/2024. Where applicable please apply and inform us of the code as soon as possible.

For further information or to check your eligibility please follow the link below:

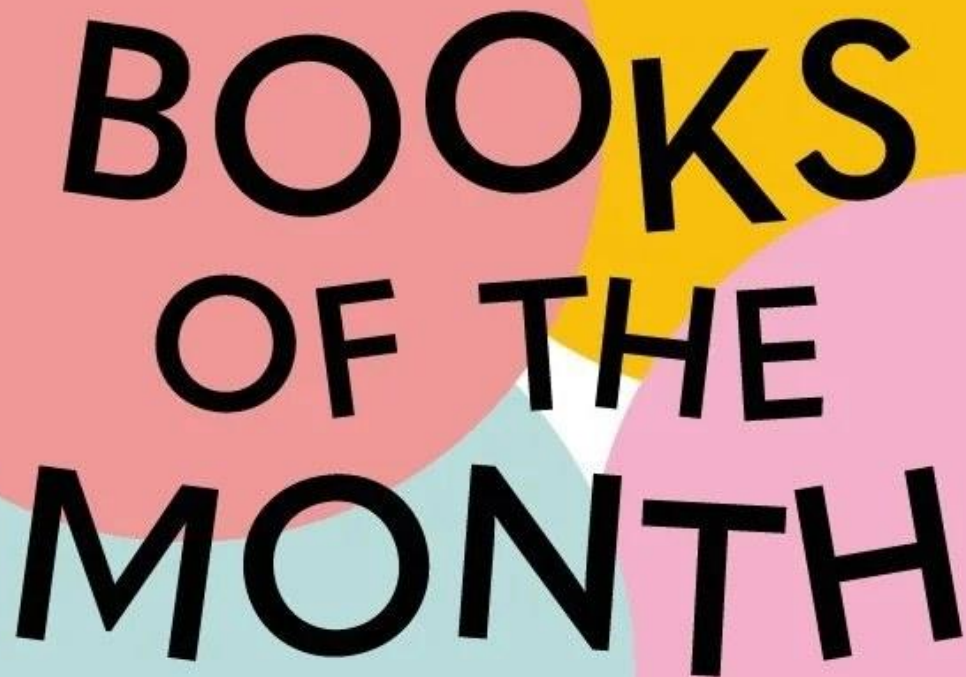
[Check you're eligible for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-youre-eligible-for-free-childcare-if-youre-working)

Christmas AYR provision - AYR parents only - if your child is not going to be on the 2nd or 3rd January please can you let a member of the office team know.

Can You Help?

Raffle Prizes - We are looking for any donations that we can use as raffle prizes for our Christmas raffle or for our staff advent calendar. All donations will be gratefully received. If you work for a company who might be able to donate a prize or are able to donate something yourself, please pass this on to a member of the office team. Thank you in advance.

Helpful Hygiene - As you may have noticed we have a Helpful Hygiene trolley in our main toilet. We aim to stock the trolley with hygiene products for those families who might be struggling financially and unable to purchase these products. Our supplies are running low and would welcome any donations. If you are able to donate any items for our trolley they would be gratefully received. Please hand items to staff at Reception. Many thanks.



BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Please take the time to look at the books in the Reception area with your child. Depending on what is going on in the world around us or what children might be exploring within the classrooms we will list a few monthly themes and change the books accordingly to reflect these topics.

Our topics for November are as follows:

- Divali
- Kindness
- Feelings/emotions

You are welcome to borrow the books to read them at home with your child.

Christmas Celebrations



- Friday 6th December, 9-10am - Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts. Parents welcome.
- Tuesday 17th December, 2.30pm - Ocean Christmas Carols. Parents welcome.
- Wednesday 18th December, Christmas lunch for children.
- Friday 20th December, Christmas parties for children.
- Friday 20th December, school closes at 4pm for extended day children.



October attendance:

Ocean - 88%

Toddlers - 86%

Babies - 80%

Lateness is becoming an increasing concern, especially in Ocean room. We are aware there are times where you have appointments and will be late, however outside of these times could you please ensure you bring your child to nursery on time.

October lateness:

Ocean - 51

Toddlers - 32

Babies - 8



- Please do not park your buggy in front of the entry buzzer.
- Please use the buggy cages provided either side of the main entrance. Please fold your buggy where possible.
- No mobile phones allowed in the building.
- Please do not push or pull the main door. The door is automatic and will open and close behind you.
- Please remember to keep your personal details up to date with the school office.
- Can we please remind all parents that children need to remain off school for 48hrs from the last episode of sickness/diarrhea before returning to school. The illness is very contagious and it helps reduce the spread amongst other children and staff if children are kept at home for the required time.
- Please ring the school office by 10am if your child will be late or not in school. If you arrive after 10am and we are not aware your child will be asked to return home until the afternoon session at 1.15pm.



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- **Friday 20th December - Development Afternoon, school closes at 4pm for all children (please note change from AM to PM)**
- Friday 20th December - Last day of term for all children
- Thursday 2nd January 2025 - School reopens for AYR children
- Monday 6th January 2025 - School reopens for TTO children
- Monday 3rd February 2025 - Development Morning, school opens at 10am for all children
- Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - Half Term, school closed for TTO children
- Monday 24th February - INSET, school closed for all children