

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Welcome to Spring

Visit our website for information about our next scheme – May 2022.



join creative arts and crafts activities and find quiet spaces to relax and be with friends.

Our scheme booking process

We manage up to 45 bookings per day.

Our online Magic Booking process helps you to:

- Check availability of places and select a day and time which meets your needs
- Book places at a time which suits you – the booking system is available 24 hours a day
- Provide information about your child to help us understand and meet their needs

We do our best to ensure the online booking system is easy to use. If you would like any extra help, please email us at holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 7364 0523. We are here to help.

Our online Magic Booking process helps us to:

- Book your child into the right scheme area for their age, based on the information you provide
- Manage our safeguarding responsibilities, including the collection of children at the end of the day
- Meet the individual needs of each child, particularly children with SEND and those requiring 1-1 or 1-3 support

Display board of children's work in the main scheme and early years for children and parents to take home.

The Easter Scheme took place at St Mary and St Michael School.

For all our new newsletter readers and for parents and carers wishing to find out more about the service we have gathered some information to help explain how it all works.

The holiday scheme has 5 key areas according to a child's age and needs.

- **Main scheme** - for children who are in school years 1 to 6
- **Teen space** - for children / young people in school years 7 to 9
- **Early Years** - for children aged 3 to 5 (but not in school year 1)

A range of structured activities are available in each area. You can find out what is happening each day in our activity timetable. Children can make choices throughout the day, join sessions inside and outside,

Figures from our February 2022 Half-term scheme bookings

1,053

sessions booked

219

children supported

160

total families supported

120

working families supported

8

vulnerable families supported

57

LBTH schools represented in bookings

The Holiday Childcare Team is part of the Parent and Family Support Service. For more information, to leave feedback or to book places visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs

Easter Scheme success

During this year's Easter Scheme, children participated in a range of activities based on the theme of 'Dinosaurs' in the main scheme and 'Spring' in the Early Years scheme.

Arts and crafts

Children in the main scheme created dinosaurs out of paper mache using toilet rolls and craft materials, whilst children in the early years used their imagination to become different spring animals, rabbits, and honeybees and enjoyed a variety of activities and indoor games.

Fitness

Trips are back and children in the main scheme walked to the local parks Stepney and King Edward and travelled by London transport to Victoria Park. They accessed outdoor play equipment, played football matches with the staff, and enjoyed a range of fun outdoor activities. (Parental consent is required for children to take part in trips.)



Sport

Children enjoyed archery, cycling, mini golf and indoor curling - a new activity at the scheme. T Curling develops co-ordination and self-confidence and the children loved learning something new.

Cooking

All children took part in our daily baking activities and enjoyed baking pizzas, biscuits, muffins, and fruit salads for snack time. Some of the older children also served their peers, enjoying the extra responsibilities.

Young V&A

Young V&A facilitated design sessions around a fashion show. The children used a variety of materials and resources and really enjoyed the fashion show.

Global learning

Global learning took children from the main scheme on a virtual journey. They learned about how dinosaurs lived, fossils and fossil fuels and the impact on the environment.

Children from early years had fun learning about spring, plants and flowers, lambs, and honeybees.

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to The Felix Project for supporting the Easter Holiday Scheme with three deliveries of fresh apples, vegetables, fruits and Hello Fresh with all ingredients provided. The Community Food Enterprise for the healthy smoothies.



Children's feedback



I really enjoy lots of football and I ride bikes with my friends. I have so much fun with them.

Kevin age 6

I am very popular. I enjoy the activities especially the art room..

Kazi age 7



I like the hill and tunnel.

Esmeralda age 4

I like it here; they have so many different toys and you get to go on trips.

Raphael age 6



I like the scheme because there is so much to do, and I have so many friends from my school.

Khadeja age 7

At the playscheme I get to play in the playground and on the climbing frame. Best of all I like the art room because I make things to take home.

Luca, age 6

I really enjoyed the curling – it's a sport that I have never done.

Sophia age 9



I like the climbing frame.

Marsha age 4

I like coming to play with my friends.

Arifn age 5

Parents/carers feedback

"Absolutely fantastic staff members! Lovely, responsible, understanding towards SEN children. Great communication between organisers and parents. (MF)

"Without this childcare scheme I wouldn't be able to work during the school holidays. No other scheme will accept extra needs with the inclusion that this scheme does. This scheme and its staff truly make a massive difference to my family and our quality of life. Joseph and his team are amazing." (FN)

"The design activity/fashion show work was fabulous." (SK)

"Staff are excellent, highly competent. What is SO great and hugely appreciated is that the same staff work each scheme. This is so important for continuity for the children." (HS)

"My son has been attending since he was 4 years old and now, he is 13. One of the safest places for a play scheme and very well organised and structured for special needs children." (AJ)

"My child enjoyed all the activities especially decorating a lamb. She also enjoyed learning some British Sign Language (BSL). She is a bit familiar with sign languages as I have a BSL level 2, so she was very excited showing me she could sign as well. Next time, she'd like to play with Lego." (AQA)

"A wonderful service - as working parents it's such a relief to have a support network that enables us to give our child the best opportunities and build positive memories." (JA)

"My three-year-old son didn't know anyone before coming to the scheme but comes home more excited than from his regular setting and can name his new friends."

You said... we did

We listen to your feedback and made changes where we can

YOU SAID...	WE DID...
<p>"I have not seen the facilities inside; it would be nice to be able to see them." (AS)</p>	<p>For the May half term scheme we have taken internal and external photos of St Anne's and Guardian Angels Primary School and have created a link on our website so parents can see what the school looks like.</p> <p>During the past year due to Covid guidance we have limited access to the building to help us manage the scheme safely. Managing access to the school site is also a safeguarding requirement. We are currently looking into ways to share more information about our facilities and activities and hope you enjoy our newsletter. Watch this space and we will share ideas with you all</p>
<p>Shame that the school is on a main road (HS)</p>	<p>We work in partnership with schools to deliver the scheme and use different school sites across the borough. We try to use schools that have good access to public transport to support parents/families travelling across the borough access the scheme.</p>
<p>Some flexibility about cancelling would be really appreciated.</p>	<p>Through our booking system you can cancel at any time 5 working days before the scheme starts. However, please remember we charge a £15.00 cancellation fee to cover administrative costs.</p>
<p>Some outdoor trips would be nice, farm, playground, beach etc. My son loves biking, but early years don't have that option. He has been riding for a year now (since he was 3.25 years) (SM)</p>	<p>We will review our resources and budget and try to invest in bikes for future schemes. More trips are now taking place and we will be offering this to children in the early years from the summer scheme.</p>
<p>There could have been more structured group activities my children did the same thing each day and were left to make their own entertainment (TC)</p>	<p>We are disappointed your children felt that way. A range of structured group activities were facilitated by the Victoria and Albert Museum and Global Learning. We do hope your children will attend the May scheme and help us to start planning activities for the summer.</p>

On behalf of the Holiday Childcare Team we wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the next scheme. For more information about our schemes please visit our website: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs

May 2022 Activities

Early Years: Farms

All daily activities are planned to reflect the children's interests. The Early Years areas are set up with a range of activities, allowing the children to choose from sand, construction, trikes, arts, and crafts and more. Circle time discussions each day children will have circle time, where they can discuss different topics. Focussing on children's wellbeing, supporting them to understand feelings and share their thoughts. Below is an example of some of the main activities on offer.

AREAS	MONDAY 30 MAY	TUESDAY 31 MAY	WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE
Creativity Zone	Animal wind chimes	Farm animal finger puppets	Create your own farm from junk modelling
Fitness Zone	Mini races	Capture the flag	Dance away
Sports Skills	Dodgeball	Football	Baseball
Baking and cooking	Easy cornflake tarts	Homemade low sugar biscuits	Mini carrot cakes

Early Years Foundation Stage – all activities above follow the EYFS find information [here](#). Please note: if your child has any allergies to cooking ingredients, an alternative can be used. Local Park trips will be announced daily subject to weather conditions.

Main Scheme: Farms

All daily activities are planned to reflect the children's interests. Each morning the children are introduced to the staff and each other in their group through welcome games. The scheme areas are set up with a range of activities. Each day the children can choose from a variety of activities, ranging from pool, bikes, table tennis and board games. The main activities for the week are listed below:

AREAS	MONDAY 30 MAY	TUESDAY 31 MAY	WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE
Creativity Zone	Animal wind chimes	Farm animal finger puppets	Create your own farm from junk modelling
Fitness Zone	Mini races	Capture the flag	Dance away
Sports Skills	Dodgeball	Football	Baseball
Baking and cooking	Easy cornflake tarts	Homemade low sugar biscuits	Mini carrot cakes

Group discussions: Each day children will have discussion time where they are introduced to the scheme rules and children within their group. The group discussions focus on their wellbeing, supporting them to understand feelings and share their thoughts. Local park trips will be announced daily.

Please note: if your child has any allergies to cooking ingredients, an alternative can be used.