

Holiday Childcare Scheme

February Half Term 2022 – Zoo's

Visit our website for information about our next scheme Easter 2022.



The February Half Term Scheme took place at St Mary and St Michael School. This school has a large outdoor area with different play areas and is a bright and welcoming space.

Children took part in a range of activities throughout the week based on the theme 'We love Zoos' in the main scheme and 'Dear Zoos' in the Early Years scheme.

Activities involved the children using their own creativity, increasing their fitness levels, developing sports skills and baking delicious and nutritious treats. Read about our themed activities below:

In arts and crafts, clay modelling was very popular. Children enjoyed manipulating clay to create models

of their favourite animals. They used their hands and plastic tools to cut, mould, scrape and shape the clay. Once their clay models were dry, they used a variety of bright colours

to paint their creations. Children in the main scheme also built a whole city made of Lego.

In fitness, children had the opportunity to go bike riding, access outdoor play equipment, play musical chairs, build giant floor puzzles and many other fun activities to help them enjoy getting moving and having fun together, both indoors and outside.

In sport skills, children enjoyed archery, playing mini golf and taking part in a range of ball games and other sports that help to develop coordination and team-building skills.

In cooking, the children cooked a variety of savoury and non-savoury

food items.

These included pizza, shortbread, sponge cake and flapjacks. The children used measuring equipment to ensure the recipes were followed accurately and this part of the cooking process supported their developing numeracy skills.

We would like to thank The Felix Project who have supported the February Holiday Scheme with two deliveries. Families were treated to an array of fresh produce including plums, oranges, and tangerines. Families were also provided with pre-prepared meals and yogurts to take home.

Thanks again to Community Food Enterprise for their fruit contribution to the scheme, again parents enjoyed all that was available.



Figures from our February 2022 Half-term scheme bookings

514

sessions booked

155

children supported

133

total families supported

84

working families supported

71

vulnerable families supported

41

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



Story Time with the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A)

After a story telling session by staff from Young V&A, children used a variety of materials and resources to create their own characters. They used role play to act out the characters they had created and explored the space through movement and self-expression.



Children's feedback

I love the holiday scheme because it is amazing, and I love it. There are brilliant games and I feel safe when I am at the scheme.

Johnathan, age 9



The best part of this scheme was being in the video for online safety. I got to share my tips on how to keep safe online and this will help other children to stay safe online too. Also, I have made lots of arts and craft things this week.

Kara, age 9



I liked doing filming with Denise, I got to talk about online safety, and it will help other children.

Jayden, age 6

The arts and crafts activities are good. We get to make lots of things and use different art things. I like taking my artwork home to show my mum.

Kyla, age 5

I like playing outside on the climbing frame.

Benedict, age 4

I have enjoyed playing penalties with my friends it was a lot of fun and we have loved the new air hockey.

Hasan, age 8



I like lunch with my friends.

Lulu, age 4

I come to most of the holiday schemes I like playing with new and old friends. The children that come to the scheme are kind and funny.

Charlotte, age 7

I love practicing my bike riding skills, the adults helped me when I found it tricky. I got lots of chances to get better.

Caitlin, age 9

Parents/carers feedback

My two daughters (3 and 5) attended the Holiday Scheme, and both enjoyed their time there and looked forward to going each day. Thank you to all the staff who looked after them and made their week a lot of fun.

The team answer every query and quickly (Gavie)

Great value and so much appreciated given the crippling costs of childcare in London the rest of the year round!! (EC)

Activities are varied and always engaging and staff always friendly & engaging, we are made to feel special! (JB)

Really great staff. welcoming and calm (JC)

Boys really enjoyed the club and asked to go again. The archery and cooking were big hits. (NC)

All the staff were very friendly and cared about the children. (ET)

You said... we did

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>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>Activities do not reflect the activity timetable shown, but my child is having a lot of fun there. Staff are proactive during drop in and collection. I have been informed and received accident forms. Well done! (GQ)</p>	<p>The activities are a guide to the programme available. Some changes may occur due to weather, resources and staffing however we do our best to keep to the programme. We aim to inform all parents/carers of any incident that may occur during the scheme and thank you for your feedback that staff are proactive, and you feel informed.</p>
<p>There should be the option to change days or offer days when holiday plan changes. For example, if plans have changed and my daughter is going to visit her dad. I would love to be able to offer her place to another family in need rather than losing the place (CL)</p>	<p>The Magic Booking app is open throughout the scheme and parents/carers can book if any spaces are available. We are aware that some parent's plans may change, however we have to offer an equal application to everyone who wants to use the service.</p>
<p>Not much information about the activities (GM)</p>	<p>Our activity timetable, videos of the scheme and our newsletters are available on our website. We also display the activity plan in the main entrance with other important information that might be beneficial to parents/carers.</p>
<p>My child would like to go on trips out (HF)</p>	<p>We are planning to take children on more trips from the Easter scheme, now that restrictions are removed, and the weather is improving.</p>
<p>My 4 yr. old doesn't tell us what he's done, and the carers don't say anything at pickup time either. But he is happy and wants to go back the next day. (SM)</p>	<p>Our aim is to ensure that all the children take home anything they have worked on during the scheme so parents can see what the children have been doing. Photos are also included in the scheme newsletter, and we will be developing a display board of children's work where they will be able to add things that they wish to take home at the end of the scheme. We are happy that your child really enjoys the scheme and wants to return!</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

Easter 2022 Activities

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.

Early Years Week 1: Theme – Spring is Fun

AREAS	MONDAY 4 APRIL	TUESDAY 5 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL	THURSDAY 7 APRIL	FRIDAY 8 APRIL
Creativity Zone	Make your own animal bingo cards	Paint your favourite forest animal	Animal nests	Design your own farm	Clay animals
Fitness Zone	Mini dance	Parachute games	Mini team games	Beanbag fun	Mini dance
Young Victoria and Albert Museum		Design and creativity session	Design and creativity session		
Global learning				Interactive world sessions	
Outdoor	Group games/mini sports/physical activities				
Baking and cooking	Homemade cheese and veg pizza	Wholemeal cookies	Fruity muffins	Banana bread	Fun salad

Early Years Week 2

AREAS	MONDAY 11 APRIL	TUESDAY 12 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL	THURSDAY 14 APRIL
Creativity Zone	Egg-tastic collage	Chick in an egg activity	Mini egg decorating	Egg hunt & fancy dress
Fitness Zone	Mini athletics	Mini football	Fun chase	Mini tag
Young Victoria and Albert Museum		Design and creativity session	Design and creativity session	
Global learning				Interactive world sessions
Outdoor	Group games/mini sports/physical activities			
Baking and cooking	Carrot muffins	Cheesy baked rolls	Berry mini cakes	Fruit salad

Early Years Foundation Stage – all activities above follow the EYFS find information [here](#).

Local park trips will be announced daily.

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



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:

Main Scheme Week 1: Dinosaurs

AREAS	MONDAY 4 APRIL	TUESDAY 5 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL	THURSDAY 7 APRIL	FRIDAY 8 APRIL
Creativity Zone	Make your own dinosaur comic book	Papier Mache dinosaurs	Dinosaur T shirt printing	Junk modelling robot dinosaurs	Dinosaur crosswords
Young Victoria and Albert Museum		Design and creativity session	Design and creativity session		
Fitness Zone	Mini Obstacle races	Double-dutch fun	Hulla-tastic races	Fun to dance	Love to relay
Global learning				Interactive world sessions	
Sports Skills	Urban golf	Archery	Lacrosse	Archery	Urban golf
Baking and cooking	Wholemeal cheese and veg Pizzasaurus	Cookie dino-prints	Raptor fruity muffins	Rex baked banana bread	Tasty fun fruit salad

Main Scheme Week 2

AREAS	MONDAY 4 APRIL	TUESDAY 5 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL	THURSDAY 7 APRIL
Creativity Zone	Dinosaur bookmarks	Mini dino-egg decorating	Easter baskets	Mini egg hunt
Young Victoria and Albert Museum		Design and creativity session	Design and creativity session	
Fitness Zone				Interactive world sessions
Global learning	Fun to dance	Mini obstacle races	Hulla-tastic races	Double-dutch fun
Sports Skills	Cycling skills	Indoor curling	Cycling skills	Indoor curling
Baking and cooking	Raptor carrot muffins	Cheesy baked dino-rolls	Berry mini cakes	Tasty fun fruit salad

Local park trips will be announced daily.

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

