

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Summer of Play

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Summer 2021 Scheme took place at St Mary & St Michael Primary School. Although Covid restrictions have now been relaxed, children remained in groups to keep everyone safe.

We provided four themes for our exciting summer activities programme. Week 1 the children learnt about our environment where they could take part in a range of activities such as learning about pollution, global warming, making capsules to take home and bury, and much more. Week 2 we celebrated the Olympics, whereby the children could take part and develop their athletics and sports skills. They also celebrated National Play Day on Wednesday 4 August, and took part in our very own Olympics! Week 3 we took the children to our virtual circus where they were able to create circus clowns and some circus acts. Week 4 we finished off the scheme with our superhero theme, the children made their own comic books, learnt how to become and dress up as their favourite superhero.

We joined children and adults across the UK to celebrate Playday



2021. The 2021 theme, Summer of Play, recognises the challenges children and young people have faced over the past year and the need to make time for play and having fun with friends. The theme was 'encouraging families and settings to celebrate children's right to play in your local communities'. Children took part in sports and athletics challenges such as relay races, shotput, javelin and new games such as target tennis ball toss. The children were involved in discussions on why play is important to them, see our **short clips** from the scheme.



The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme is Ofsted registered and provides childcare for children aged three to 13-years-old. We continue to support families who may need the scheme the most. Places are also provided for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and vulnerable referrals from children's social care, schools and other partner agencies.

Figures from our summer 2021 scheme bookings

2,047

sessions booked

200

total families supported

163

working families supported

62

LBTH schools represented in bookings

Visit our website for information about our next scheme in October see on page 5 for our exciting October activities

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

Children activities

Archery was a new sport that was introduced this summer scheme. The children were enthusiastic about learning this sport. Children learnt how to hold a bow and shoot their arrow at a target. They took it in turns and worked in groups to guide each other and share their skills.

The children were supported by staff to learn to ride bikes. Some had never been on bikes before and demonstrated great bravery to overcome any fears, such as being able to balance, get on the bike, pedal or stop!

The children participated in various virtual trips throughout the scheme.



The most popular being the circus, where they enjoyed seeing what happens at stage show Cirque du Soleil. The children even practiced some circus acts of their



own — showing them to their friends.

Children donned their aprons, following the reintroduction of cooking activities to the scheme.

They worked together to measure out ingredients, mix them and bake. They made oatmeal cookies and low-sugar vanilla sponges.

Victoria and Albert Museum sessions

We welcomed the V&A Museum of Childhood — who delivered some exciting play sessions. These were themed around our Summer of Play and drew upon the museums galleries whilst encouraging children to be creative in their play. They worked in groups to create large sculptures and imaginative pieces of design, making cars, buildings, water features and more. Children were really excited by the new challenge.



Quote from the V&A museum of Childhood: "At the V&A Museum of Childhood, play and creativity go hand-in-hand. We are delighted to be working with the Children and Culture Directorate of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to invite children to play and explore design ideas through their summer childcare scheme. The collaboration offered safe, accessible and creative activities that built confidence and skills for children after the challenges of a difficult year."

Food for parents

The scheme continues to work in partnership with the Felix Project and community food enterprise, who provide a variety of food ranging from fresh fruit, vegetables, smoothies, tinned food, and more - giving families the chance to take home free food during the holidays. Please look out for a stall outside the reception area at each scheme and help yourself to any food on offer.



Children's feedback

I liked archery because it's like darts and I love darts.
Jago, age 6

I really enjoyed the clay activities because it's something I have never done before.
Ceren, age 7



Archery was my best activity as I have always wanted to do it but only saw other people do it.
Rainbow, age 7

I really loved making my comic book.
Yakoub, age 8

Cricket was so much fun the best game on earth.
Jeanre, age 10

I have loved the competitive football matches between all my friends.
McKenzie, age 10

Arts and craft was my best activities as I am very creative and love to learn new things.
Sophia, age 8

I enjoyed my superhero shield.
Daniel, age 3

I love to play on the climbing frame.
Arifin, age 4

I like playing in the mud kitchen with my friends.
Maia, age 4



I like to play football with my friends.
Arran, age 5



I love painting and creating new things from junk modelling.
Sylvia, age 5

I really enjoyed archery and practising to get better at it.
Spence, age 6

You said... we did



Feedback from Children

Childrens response to what they liked the most

"Making new friends and playing different activities"

"We learned new skills like cricket and basketball."

"Playing with my friends and making new ones."

"Having fun and lots of equipment to play with."

"I like playing with dinosaurs."

Childrens response to if they would like to come back to the Holiday Childcare Scheme

"To do more art and craft as I don't have any materials at home."

"Yes because it is very fun and I like playing with other kids."

"I like when the staff are kind and help us if somebody hurts our feelings."

"I think it's excellent and I will recommend it to all of my friends."

"Yes I want to see new friends again."



Parents/carers feedback

"We appreciate the external people coming in (Museum of Childhood) today. This does not happen often enough. Likewise, trips or even a special water play day with sprinklers would be great (kids would need a change of clothes)."

Helen S

As Covid restrictions begin to ease, we will gladly start to reintroduce trips for the children at the scheme to experience. We will look into some water games for summer days.

"We found that the council also had free activities organised over the summer to entertain the kids."

Marc L

We will continue to share information of other activities on offer in the borough

"Very friendly and open to giving advice/support. My child really connected well with several of the staff and was happy to be left there because of this. I think one issue that was not ideal was the institution of bubble groups mid-way through his time there (he said he missed Petra, for example) but we know this is unavoidable given the guidance and pandemic restrictions."

Jane C

We hope as restrictions begin to ease we will not have to use "bubbles" or group children for their own safety.

"Lovely to be able to see activities and timetable to year group and day."

Beth C

All activity plans are displayed on our website, as well as in our newsletter, a link is sent to all parents who have booked on. There may be changes to the activities, so please keep looking on our website for more exciting activities and photos from the scheme.

Parents comments:

"Affordable for low-income."

Lorrell Davis

"Reasonable and affordable cost for 1:1 special education needs."

Punita

"My child loved the scheme. We were apprehensive as he is only three-years-old and has had a lot of disruption due to Covid-19 but he settled very well and was happy to attend daily. I think this is down to the skilled and welcoming staff. Very grateful to all the team and Joe's guidance and management of it all."

Jane C

October 2021 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. Staff facilitate 'circle time' discussions each day for the children, where they can discuss different topics. Below is an example of some of the main activities on offer.

Early Years

Autumn Theme: The very helpful hedgehog (book about forming friendships)

AREAS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Creativity Zone	Make your own animal friend for hedgehog from junk modelling.	Creating animals that could be new characters in the book.	What animal people can you create	Making a home for an animal using clay	Fancy dress party games Pumpkin carving
Outdoor/ Fitness Zone	Walking races Scavenger hunt Kick	Fit jumps Bowling using different size balls	Race your friends Parachute games Fun obstacle course	How long can you skip? What's the time Mr Wolf Basketball	Dance fit Mini races Football
Sports Skills	Fun hockey	Fun hockey	Fun hockey	Fun hockey	Fun hockey tournament
Baking and cooking	Healthy blueberry muffins	Leaf shape apricot sugar free cookies	Bonfire fruity oat flapjacks	Wholemeal apple and sultana loaf	Scary low sugar vanilla cupcakes

Main Scheme Autumn Theme: We love Autumn

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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Creativity Zone	Enjoy finding leaves and design crowns	Firework colours in a jar	Bonfire colouring on picture frames	Woodland animal clay models	Fancy dress party games Pumpkin carving
Fitness Zone	Walking races explosion	Shake up Games	Race your friends	How long can you skip?	Dance fit
Sports Skills	Archery Learn to how to hold a bow and take aim	Cycling skills — how to ride a bike	Archery Learn to how to hold a bow and take aim	Cycling skills — how to ride a bike	Archery tournament Cycle course
Baking and cooking	Healthy blueberry muffins	Leaf shape apricot sugar free cookies	Bonfire fruity oat flapjacks	Wholemeal apple and sultana loaf	Scary low sugar vanilla cupcakes

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.