

Holiday Childcare Scheme

October Half Term Autumn Fun

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

During October we hosted the half term scheme at St Mary and St Michaels Primary School. Children participated in activities based on the theme 'We Love Autumn'. There were a range of creative activities where children made firework colours in a jar, created their own bonfire picture frames, made their own woodland clay models and at the end of the week they dressed up for our fancy-dress disco and carved a pumpkin.

Active play was very popular this scheme, the children learnt cycling skills and practised them on our cycle course. Archery was again a firm favourite where children learnt new skills before taking part in an archery tournament at the end of the week.

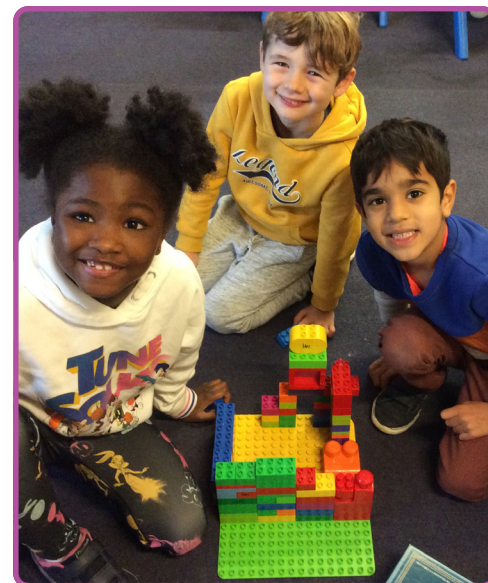
We welcomed back our cooking sessions, which was a highlight for most children. They learnt how to work together in groups to mix, chop, bake and cook some tasty treats. The snacks were based around the autumn theme and included bonfire fruity oat flapjacks and leaf shape apricot sugar free cookies.

After a successful residency during summer and enthusiastic feedback from the children we welcomed back the Young V&A (Victoria and Albert Museum). They



brought back their play equipment with more additions to create a fun filled space for the children to be creative and imaginative in their play. The children worked together in groups to create large structures and shared their creative experience with the group.

Each scheme we focus our early years activities on a book. This scheme it was the Very Helpful Hedgehog. The children read and discussed themes from the book, and even decided to have a friendship week, just like the friendly hedgehog they read about.



Figures from our October 2021 scheme bookings

520

sessions booked

164

children supported

121

total families supported

92

working families supported

46

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

Children's feedback

I enjoyed making glitter balls and frames, I can't wait to put pictures in it.

Theodora, age 8



I always end up doing something new when I come here.

Erica, age 4



Playing football with my friends that I haven't seen since the pandemic is the best, this is my first time back for nearly two years.

Kaci, age 11

I really enjoyed being creative at the scheme and I want more art time.

Emma, age 7

What I liked most about the scheme was making a campfire in the hall and playing hide and seek with my friends.

Xaia, age 5

Making new friends and playing pool was lots of fun.

Noah, age 11



I have enjoyed being able to do things that I can't do elsewhere like archery.

Stanley, age 8





Parents/carers feedback

Activities were great - I like the themes and topics, and the activities built around them. My kids did stuff they wouldn't be able to do at home and really enjoyed it.

Joanne

I felt a genuine lovely energy from all the staff, I was really impressed. It stood out to me that everyone was calm and happy and this helps children and parents so much when leaving a child in an unfamiliar setting.

Suzy

The fees seem fair and is explained clearly.

Definitely value-for-money!

Jane

C is super happy. Very good staff .

Yannick

I would like to thank all staff involved it is a huge help for us working parents

Luci

E really enjoyed the baking activities and the playground. She has already asked if she can go again next time. Thank you for organising such a brilliant holiday club.

Jo

Amazing staff - so lovely kind and helpful. Amazing people I was so impressed.

Robyn

You said... we did

YOU SAID...	WE DID...
<p>Since we can't come in and look around I'd love a bit more info on activities, maybe some photos? Other than that I think it was great. Ellie seemed to really enjoy it. (Claire Y)</p>	<p>An activity list, photos and a video of the scheme are available on our website. Our newsletter is emailed to parents before the scheme starts.</p>
<p>I am a single parent with current low-income so this childcare enabled me to work and was super fun for my son and built his confidence up to try new places even when his usual friends aren't there. (Suzy C)</p>	<p>We aim to support Tower Hamlets parents access high quality childcare, particularly those on low income.</p>
<p>I think there should have been discounts for people on UC (Carmela M)</p>	<p>We currently have fees for working parents on benefits and aim to support all Tower Hamlets parents to access high-quality childcare, particularly those on low incomes. We will look into how we can further support parents on universal credit.</p>
<p>Would be great if you could provide food for kids, snacks, lunch (Marija S)</p>	<p>We have reintroduced cooking sessions, and the children have an afternoon snack whilst attending the scheme.</p>
<p>I would have loved to be able to pop in and see the place, of course I understand why this might not be possible right now but hopefully next time (Claire Y)</p>	<p>We restricted access to the scheme in response to COVID-19 and hope to see everyone back at the scheme soon.</p>
<p>The link with the activities listed archery but only to be told that was for the older group. Really disappointing as my son was very excited. Need to have the list of activity per year group (Sophie)</p>	<p>Some of our activities are not appropriate for all age groups. Information for the activities in both areas, main scheme and early years is available to download from our website and displayed in our newsletter.</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

February 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: Theme – Dear Zoo

AREAS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Creativity Zone	Create a mask of your favourite animal	Make your favourite zoo animal using junk modelling	Create a place for your animal to live	Paint/draw your favourite animal	Fancy Dress Bring your favourite stuffed toy for a lunch picnic
Fitness Zone	Parachute games	Mini football	Learn to skip	Parachute games	Mini circuits
Outdoor	Penguin run	Zookeeper	How many miniature animals can you find in playground	Act like your favourite animal for duck duck goose	Zoo animal drama club
Baking and cooking	Gingerbread cookies	Homemade vegetable pizza	Fresh cheesy wholemeal bread	Fruit tarts	Healthy carrot cake

Early Years Foundation Stage – all activities above follow the EYFS.

Main Scheme: Theme - Zoo

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	Choose and make your own animal finger puppets	Create your favourite animal	Create your own word search of animals	Make your own comic using your favourite animal	Fun fancy dress, fun party games
Fitness Zone	Hula fun	Mini fitness races	Fun to dance	Bench steps	Double dutch skipping
Sports Skills	Mini urban golf	Fun hockey games	Archery Learn to how to hold a bow and take aim	Basketball games	Football
Baking and cooking	Gingerbread cookies	Vegetable fun Pizzas	Fresh cheesy wholemeal Bread	Fruit tarts	Carrot cake

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.
Activities can be changed at short notice due to changes in government guidelines.