

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Supporting children's wellbeing during the school holidays

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare (HCS) Easter scheme was held at Malmesbury Primary School. Following government guidelines the holiday childcare scheme operated at a smaller capacity. The children were grouped in small bubbles based on their age, the school they attended and family groups. They were encouraged to maintain a safe distance from each other.

The children were welcomed to the scheme at a new school site. The response from the children was very positive they liked the areas in the school and in particular the large outdoor playground where they had opportunities to carry out various physical activities. This scheme, the children had the opportunity to grow and plant their own vegetables and herbs to take home. They discussed spring and the care involved to look after living objects. Email and tell us how your vegetables/herbs grew.

Children had fun playing group games, which gave them the opportunity to make new friends. Children chose from a range of board games where they could challenge each other to get to the end. They also learnt new skills in physical team sports. They played lacrosse, learned bike riding skills and much more.

Children in the Early Years welcomed the worry monster to the scheme. They shared their thoughts and were given the opportunity to write down

their feelings. The worry monster will be a regular visitor within our Early Years and we hope all the children will welcome him to the next scheme.



Visit our website for information about our next scheme June 2021

612

sessions booked



131

children supported



95

total families supported



78

working families supported



42

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

Virtual trips

Once again the children had the opportunity to participate in virtual tours. This scheme the tours took place in Brussels where they visited a comic book museum, The Natural History Museum and The National Gallery.

"I liked the part we were able to move around the museum on the smart board, it felt like I was at the actual museum"

"I loved everything about the virtual trips because I don't get to go to the museums, but I liked watching them on screen"

Childrens feedback

"Easy to make new friends, as we play a lot of team games and all children are taught to 'Be kind to each other'"

"I would like to come back because I love the crafting and I am really good at it now" - Henry

"Yes, because it is a very fun place to play in and I love playing with my friends here" - Rainbow

"I enjoyed making my plants grow flowers"

"My favourite part was Playing in the playground because you can play with lots of friends and when I first started I wanted to make friends"

BBC London filming at the scheme

On Thursday 8 April The Holiday childcare Scheme were filmed for BBC London as a good news feature. It should be available to view on BBC iPlayer, where you might see activities taking place and hear directly from our children, staff and parents.



Parent/carer feedback

"My son needs additional help and was adequately supported by the scheme unlike many other holiday clubs we have tried."

"It's affordable for families on low income and providing outstanding service for the children."

"Eva loves going to the holiday club. We are so lucky that Tower Hamlets is providing quality childcare over the holidays."

"This was the first time my daughter has attended a holiday club and she really enjoyed it."

"My children are really enjoying the scheme and coming home with lots of crafts."

"My child loves the fun educating awareness games and learning about things like online safety."

"Thanks for the team for providing this service, a lifesaver for working parents in lockdown!"

You said ... we did

"Massive thank you to the whole team, who are consistently brilliant, even with all the extra COVID-19 restrictions. My youngest was a bit disappointed that there were not more kids her own age in her bubble, but the older two were very happy that there were kids their age to hang out with."

As restrictions begin to ease we will be able to support children to be placed in bubbles according to their age group as much as we can. We still need to maintain recommendations set out in the government guidelines and place children based on the school they attend and ensure social distancing is kept from other bubbles. We appreciate your patience at this difficult time.

"Would love to have more [board] games."

We will purchase more board games as this was enjoyed by all the children and it encouraged them to work together in their bubbles and meet new friends.

"Make the booking process easier on the website."

We have updated our website to provide more support for bookings. This is currently ongoing to ensure that the process is clear.

"It would be good to understand a bit more about what a day looks like in advance."

Activity plans are available on our website prior to each scheme.

Your ongoing feedback is important to us, we consider all comments to help plan for future schemes. Please continue to use the feedback forms available on our website to share any of your thoughts.



We are inviting parents to help us review our information and communication. If you would like to be involved please email holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk

June Activities



The June 2021 scheme theme will be Around the world.

Children will have the opportunity to play and create from activities planned around our theme. Staff encourage children to take part in circle time discussions each day to introduce themselves to the group. See below a range of activities for the week. All daily activities are planned to reflect the children's interests.

Early Years area (children aged 3-5)

The Early Years areas are set up with a range of activities, allowing the children to choose from messy play, construction, trikes, arts and crafts and more. The main activities for the week are listed below.

Areas	Tuesday 1 June	Wednesday 2 June	Thursday 3 June	Friday 4 June
Creativity Zone	Where we live, making passports to travel	Re-creating iconic structures using junk modelling	Re-creating iconic structures using junk modelling	Going on a safari Draw/paint your favourite animal
Fitness Zone	Mini Zumba	Parachute games	Mini Zumba	Parachute games
Outdoor Adventure Zone	Group games activities Duck Duck goose What's the time Mr wolf	Mini sports games	Group games activities Duck Duck goose, What's the time Mr wolf	Treasure hunt – hide and seek

Main Scheme and Teen space Area (children aged 6-13)

The scheme areas are set up with a variety of activities, allowing the children to choose from pool, bikes, table tennis and board games and much more. The main activities for the week are listed below:

Areas	Tuesday 1 June	Wednesday 2 June	Thursday 3 June	Friday 4 June
Creativity Zone	Mask making and making flags Capture the flag	Re-creating iconic structures using junk modelling	World map drawing	Making musical instruments from around the world
Fitness Zone	Mini team races	Mini circuit training	Mini get fit session	Dance
Outdoor Adventure Zone	Team Baseball	Team Football	Mini dodgeball	Lacrosse skills

The 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 were provided for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and vulnerable referrals from children's social care, schools and other partner agencies

On behalf of the Holiday Childcare Team we wish you well and look forward to seeing you at the next scheme in June. For more information about our schemes please visit our website: .

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs