

# Holiday Childcare Scheme Summer of Fun

Visit our  
website for  
information  
about our next  
scheme in  
October 2024.

Welcome to the Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme Newsletter! We are excited to share the wonderful experiences and activities that took place during this year's summer holiday scheme at St Mary and St Michael's Primary School.

Throughout the summer, our scheme provided a safe, engaging, and fun environment for the children to explore new interests, develop skills, and make lasting friendships. From creative arts and sports to cooking and themed weeks, each day was filled with exciting adventures that kept the children actively engaged and inspired.

In this newsletter, you'll find a recap of the amazing activities that made this summer truly special. We hope you enjoy looking back at the highlights as much as we enjoyed creating these memorable experiences for the children.

*Continued on page 2*



Children on a day trip to Thameside Nature Discovery park in Thurrock

## Figures from our Summer 2024 scheme bookings

**2,356**

sessions  
booked

**283**

children  
supported

**217**

total families  
supported

**160**

working  
families  
supported

**9**

vulnerable  
families  
supported

**64**

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](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs)



# Summer of Fun



## Week 1: Summer Fun

The first week was all about getting into the summer spirit with a variety of creative and sporting activities. The children released their artistic talents through clay modelling, creating fun badges and making their own comics. They also had a blast with urban golf, archery, tennis and fun hockey games, allowing them to learn new skills while enjoying the sunshine.

## Week 2: Messy Play and National Play Day

Week 2 was filled with messy play and the joy of building their own dens. A major highlight was our National Play Day celebration, where we were honoured to have Steve Reddy, Corporate Director

of Children's Services and Lisa Fraser, Director of Education, join us.

Lisa Fraser shared her thoughts:

**"Last week, I popped into our fantastic holiday childcare provision at St Mary and St Michael Primary School. It was brilliant to see children totally immersed in their activities and I was honoured to award the medals in their Play Day celebration."**

Steve Reddy also praised the event:

**"I also visited the Holiday Club run at St Mary's and St Michael's schools – it is an excellent example of positive inclusive summer fun for our young people."**

In addition to the festivities, the children enjoyed designing their own cushions and T-shirt printing, sparking their creativity in unique ways.



# Summer of Fun

## Week 3: Competition Week

Week 3 brought out the competitive spirit in the children. They participated in various creative and athletic competitions, from "Be the Best Artist" contests to a Science Club session where they made active volcanoes. The fun didn't stop there – children had a blast making slime, creating papier-mâché faces and getting their faces painted. The older children in teen space offered to share their expertise and painted the children's faces.

The sports activities were equally exciting, with team challenges in nerf battles, athletics, baseball and tag rugby. The week included a refreshing water balloon fun activity, perfect for cooling down after a week of competitions.

## Week 4: Carnival Fun

Our final week was a vibrant celebration of carnival fun. The children crafted fancy feather masks, musical shakers, and even their own carnival costumes. The grand finale was a fancy dress party, where the children showcased their creations and enjoyed a day filled with laughter and dancing. The sports activities continued with archery, dodgeball, mini-golf and more Nerf fun, providing the perfect blend of creativity and physical activity.

## Daily Cooking Activities

Throughout the scheme, cooking was a daily delight. Children got hands-on experience, learning how to make a variety of foods from scratch. They loved making pizza, from kneading the dough to choosing their favourite toppings. Other culinary creations included gingerbread cookies, vegetable pizzas, cheesy wholemeal bread, fruit tarts and carrot cakes. These activities not only taught them valuable cooking skills but also encouraged them to try new foods and flavours.



**We are proud of the enthusiasm and creativity the children brought to every activity. It was a pleasure to see them grow, learn, and have so much fun over the four weeks.**

**The Holiday childcare staff are thankful to be part of the experience for all the children who attended this summer. We look forward to more adventures in the future!**



# Exciting Summer Trips: Exploring Beyond the Borough

One of the highlights of our summer Holiday Childcare Scheme was the series of trips we organised for the children. To ensure everyone had the opportunity to explore new places and enjoy the great outdoors, we hired a mini-bus and ventured to several exciting locations, both within and outside the borough.

Here's a look at the wonderful places the children visited:

- **Wat Tyler Country Park, Essex:** A day of adventure in nature, where the children explored the beautiful park, learned about local wildlife, and enjoyed the open spaces for play and relaxation.
- **Belhus Country Park, Essex:** This trip offered a mix of woodland walks, lakeside views, and plenty of green space for the children to run, play, and engage in outdoor activities.
- **Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets:** A local favourite, the children enjoyed the playgrounds, open spaces, and a picnic in one of London's most beloved parks.
- **Gray's Beach Riverside Park, Essex:** The children had a fantastic time at this riverside park, enjoying the sandy play areas and the unique setting along the Thames.
- **Thurrock Thameside Nature Park, Essex:** A day of exploration and discovery, where the children learned about the environment and enjoyed the stunning views across the Thames Estuary.



- **Local Parks (walking distance): Stepney Park and King Edward Memorial Park:** These trips were perfect for enjoying some fresh air and playtime without venturing too far from the school. The children loved the familiar settings and the chance to explore them with their friends.
- **Young and Victoria and Albert Museum, to celebrate national play day** (photo above). Children took part in a range of activities at the museum, including an active play session with Well One.

Each trip was carefully planned to ensure that all children had a choice to attend, and our staff worked hard to make every outing a safe, fun, and memorable experience. These trips provided the children with the opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy new experiences, and create lasting memories with their peers.

We look forward to offering more exciting excursions in future schemes!



# Children's feedback

I like coming here because my friends play tennis with me.

Layth-7

I have lots of friends and the adults help me when I'm sad.

Ejana- 7

I really like the arts and crafts, especially the volcano we made.

Sofia-6

When I come to the scheme I like to do archery.

Freya-7

I have lots of friends and enjoyed laser tag and dodgeball.

Sammy-9

I liked that we went on trips on the minibus.

Alexis



We loved baking and minigolf.

Shaniya and Casey-9

I really like the trip to Victoria Park.

Joey-10

I enjoy coming here because I have lots of friends and we get to go on trips.

Cailin-11

I really like being in the games room as I enjoy the construction toys. Me and my friends have been building dens which was so much fun.

Montague-10



I like being here because there's football games outside.

Abraham-6



# Parents/carers feedback

The kids always say positive things about the scheme. It's their first time there and they are really enjoying themselves.

The kids raved about their days activities.  
Great scheme and staff.

The children have a range of fun activities to do and enjoy the coach trips as well.

I have used the scheme once before and very happy with the service. My children are happy and safe and there are some familiar faces that attend the scheme that my children know. I have peace of mind when I leave my children in their care.

Information shared about the scheme is very good.

Definitely use the scheme again because it makes my life easy and my daughter is always looking forward to every single holiday time to attend.  
Thank you to you all!

My child enjoys all activities, mostly she likes cooking and arts and crafts.



# You said... we did

## YOU SAID...

“More availability of space. I was not able to book place for my child as they got booked out. Priorities for working families to enable us to work without the stress of looking for childcare.”

## WE DID...

We understand how challenging it can be to secure childcare, especially when balancing work and family responsibilities. We are aware that demand for our holiday scheme is high, and we strive to accommodate as many families as possible. Your feedback is invaluable, and we are actively exploring ways to increase the availability of spaces in future schemes

We already implement priority access for working families to better support those who rely on our services and to continue their professional commitments without added stress. Please visit our website which will give you dates of future schemes and when bookings open for working parents.

## YOU SAID...

“Guidance on packed lunches, and what to provide.”

## WE DID...

Children are required to bring a packed lunch/food which they will have at the scheme. We do have a variety of guides available on our website ([www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs)) that offer suggestions and tips for creating balanced, healthy packed lunches. These resources include ideas for incorporating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and protein, as well as tips on portion sizes and creative ways to make lunches appealing to children.

## YOU SAID...

“I would like to take my child into the scheme to drop them off.”

## WE DID...

We understand that you want to ensure your child feels comfortable and secure when starting their day.

However, for the safety and security of all the children in our care, as well as to maintain a consistent and



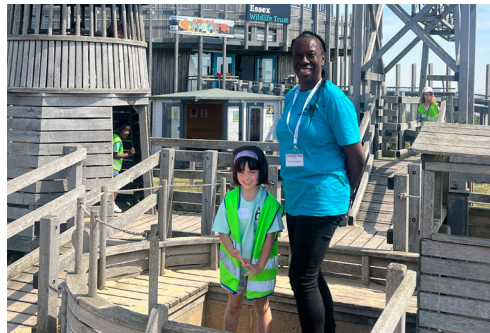
calm environment, we have a policy that restricts parent access to the site during drop-off times. Allowing parents on site can sometimes be unsettling for other children and disrupt the routine we've established to help everyone settle in smoothly.

Our trained staff are always on hand to greet your child and help them transition into the day with ease. If you have any concerns or if your child needs extra support during drop-off, please let us know, and we will do our best to accommodate their needs and make the process as comfortable as possible.





# Photo album



On behalf of the Holiday Childcare Team, thank you for being a part of our summer scheme. We look forward to seeing you and your children at the October 2024 scheme for more fun, learning, and memorable experiences.

For more information about our schemes and to stay updated on upcoming events, please visit our website:

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs)

