

9th October 2023

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Key Information:

- **Fun Friday—20th October 9.15-10am**
- **October half Term Monday 23rd –Friday 27th October—School closed to TTO children**
- **International Evening—Friday 17th November 5.30-7pm**

HEADTEACHER'S SECTION by Sally Franklin

Dear parents and carers,

We will be circulating a newsletter every fortnight. Classes will share activities that the children have enjoyed with photos, videos and captions. Printed copies can be found in the reception area.

Parent Governor

Due to the end of term of one of our parent governors, there is now an opportunity for the school to appoint a new parent governor. The school is led by a Governing Body of 10 members including staff, Community Governors, a Local Authority Governor and 3 Parent Governors.

North Islington Nursery School Governing Board is aiming to ensure the local communities of the school are represented on the board. Whilst all parents are welcome to apply, the Governing Board would particularly welcome applications from parents from a range of ethnic backgrounds.

What makes a good parent governor?

Someone who....

- is prepared to contribute to discussions and offer challenge and support to the head teacher
- has an interest in education and the welfare of children
- is willing to learn and attend relevant training
- has good interpersonal, teamwork and communication skills
- is committed to equality of opportunity
- is willing to fulfil their role with energy and enthusiasm
- is able to commit to 4 meetings each school year

If you are interested in this post, please email northislington.eyc@islington.gov.uk for more information or to put yourself forward. If more than 1 parent is interested in the position, we will elect a new governor via a vote.

Helpful Hygiene and Kind Coats

As most of you will be aware, the school provides hygiene products free to take which are situated in the reception area toilet. We also have a Kind Coat trolley outside the reception where you are free to take a coat if you should need. We ask for any donations of unopened hygiene products and coats for sharing with those in need. Thank you.

Book Lending

Please do make the most of our book lending library but be sure to bring the books back when you have finished with them.

Staffing

You may have notice that some staff have not been in school recently. Ubah is not at school due to personal reasons and Kirsten is sadly experiencing a bereavement. We wish them both well and hope to see them soon. If either of these two staff are your child's key person, please be assured that other staff in the room will continue the close work that they do and will feed back to you as usual.

Sally

BABY ROOM by Becky Powell

The children in Baby Room have been enjoying exploring and getting involved in many different creative activities. They have been using different types of blue materials to create collages for the water area, leaf and hand printing using paint and decorating their own cloth bags using fabric paints for their pegs.

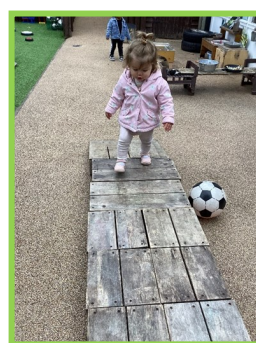
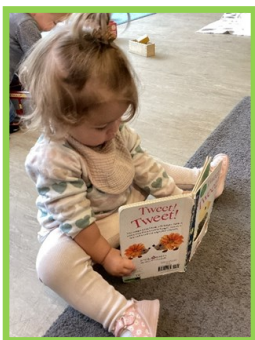
Outside the children have been using the resources in the sand pit to fill up the buckets and with support from the staff turning them upside down to make a sandcastle.

The climbing obstacles continue to be a challenging area for balancing along and jumping from a low platform. The staff have been modelling how to do this safely by bending their knees to land on both feet. They have also been enjoying the outdoor space to pretend that they are all going on Bear Hunt. The children followed the staff marching around the garden to the rhythm of the text from "We're going on a bear hunt" using all of the wonderful language such as "swishy swashy and "squelch squerch".

Outside the staff have also set up a small world bug home. The staff used shredded paper to hide the bugs in and the children have enjoyed searching for them amongst the paper with the staff modelling how to use magnifiers to extend this experience.

Fire engines have been very popular every day this week. The children have used the engines and fire people to move around the floor making the siren sound with the adults extending their play by introducing a simple story line to what they are doing.

There has been more of an interest in looking at books independently especially the lift the flap books and any books that have materials that they can touch and feel.



TODDLER ROOM by Becky Powell

We have welcomed many new families to Toddler Room during the past few weeks. The Stay and Play sessions were very positive and have supported the children settling into their environment and forming new relationships with the staff and other children.

Mark making using a range of resources on both a large and small scale has been very popular. The children have had opportunities to print with leaves using paint, making marks to represent their names using their name cards, mark making using their fingers and tools in dry sand and painting on a large scale.

There are opportunities to make marks in all areas of the classroom and it is important to offer a range of ways for the children to explore this whether it is in sand, cornflour and foam and using different tools such as paints, pencils and chalks.

Staff also ensure that the children are encouraged to make marks on a larger scale. These larger movements are all supportive in developing the children's fine motor skills to eventually begin to form an effective grip to make letter like shapes and representational drawings.

Transferring materials into and from different containers is an experience always available for the children in the Toddler Room. They have recently enjoyed exploring coloured rice and dry sand using their hands, fingers and scoops and exploring dry pasta with objects that have holes in. These experiences provide many opportunities to develop skills and learning including hand eye coordination, fine motor skills, problem solving, sensory experiences, mathematical exploration with quantity (empty/full etc) and opportunities for the staff to extend play ideas, language and turn taking.

The month of October is Black History month. This week the staff have been sharing relevant books with the children, celebrating their uniqueness by sharing the children's profile books at group times, making individual handprints to represent the world and playing the "Traffic light" game.

This game is in honour of Garrett Morgan in 1923. He was an inventor responsible for the addition of the third amber colour in our traffic lights. Using a coloured cards to signal stop (red) get ready (amber) or go (green), challenge children to try and get across the garden as quickly as they can without getting caught moving through the red light.

Other popular activities have been using recycled materials to create models using tape and glue and making their own representations of pumpkins with orange play dough and collage materials.



OCEAN ROOM by Nikki Fuller

We have had another wonderful fortnight in Ocean Room! Some of the things we have been enjoying are powder paint mixing, puzzles, marble painting, jelly making, playing in the sand and more!

We have been talking and reading a lot about the different feelings and emotions we have and what to do with them if they get really big. The children are always encouraged to speak to an adult if they need help with this, but they have also been introduced to our new and improved 'Calm Corner'. If they choose to, they can sit quietly and try some of our calming strategies such as reading a book or finger tracing, or find ideas for things they can do around the room that might help them feel calm. If you get the chance, feel free to come in and take a peek at our Calm Corner display board - there are some wonderful photos and comments from the children all about their feelings.



We are fortunate to have an amazing art specialist, Cath, come into Ocean Room every second Tuesday to work with the children on various tactile media. This term our focus is clay. The children have been squeezing, bashing, cutting, mark-making and building with the clay using different tools. During each visit from Cath their exploration into clay deepens and develops.

Unfortunately, the transition meeting for new families that was planned at the beginning of the school year is not able to be rescheduled at this time. However, a letter with everything you need is attached and please feel free to ask any Ocean Room staff member if you have questions.

Reminders:

Thank you to those who have sent in your family photos. If you have not sent yours in yet, please do so as soon as possible as they will be going up in the next week.

Please also don't forget to send in a pair of labelled wellies for your child. These will be used on wet weather days in the garden.

Independence is something we encourage and strive toward in Ocean Room. Please help your child to be more independent by putting them in shoes they are able to take off and put on (we love velcro!) and in trousers they can pull up by themselves.

Sincerely,

Nikki Skye Fuller



DIARY DATES Autumn Term

Friday 20th October 2023, Fun Friday 9.15-10am

Monday 23 - Friday 27th October 2023, Half term, school closed for TTO children

Friday 10th November 2023, INSET, school closed for all children

Friday 17th November 2023, International Evening, 5.30-7pm

Friday 8th December 2023, Development session, school opens at 10am for all children

Thursday 21st December 2023, Last day of term for all children, **school closes at 1pm**

Wednesday 3rd January 2024, School reopens for AYR children only

Monday 8th January 2024, INSET—date to be rescheduled TBC later this week

Monday 8th January 2024, School reopens for TTO children



Christmas Dates

Friday 8th December 2023, Fun Friday, Christmas Crafts 10-11am all parents welcome

Thursday 21st December 2023, Christmas party and visit from Father Christmas. Children to be collected at 1pm

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Due to the availability of the training provider we need to rearrange the January INSET date. The trainer is not able to provide training on **Monday 8th January** therefore school will be open on this day. We are awaiting confirmation on their availability. The INSET will take place at some point in January and we are hoping to secure a date this week. Please ensure you look out for further information with regards to this date in the forthcoming weeks.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Happy to be here.....