



# Newsletter Wednesday 27 March 2024

## Headteacher Message

Dear parents and carers,

During this short Spring Term the children have managed to squeeze in so many learning opportunities from World Book Day, setting up a Toast café, cooking, karaoke and our Spring Terrific Tuesday. Our new children have all now settled and we have begun transitions for those children moving rooms after the Easter break.

There will be some changes in rooms for the Summer Term. Kirsten and Khadijah will both be commencing maternity leave and Nikki is leaving the school to secure permanent employment and gain her QTS. We have successfully completed our staffing restructure in a bid to save money over the next 5 years. Thankfully, there were no redundancies. The new staffing times will be effective from September 2024.

We hope that both Khadijah and Kirsten have a restful period before the birth of their babies and we wish Nikki success in her new venture.

I will be working in Ocean Room Monday to Wednesday and Becky will be joining the team in there on a Friday. Noorheza will be moving to Ocean Room with the children who are moving up. Alex, Patience, Shamma and Yasmin (along term agency) will remain with us until the end of the school year. We are currently recruiting for our vacancies and hope to have them filled by the start of the new school year.

It is important for us to retain a stable staffing team which is why I will be working in Ocean Room.

### **Budget**

We have now been allocated our budget which we will be working to set over the coming weeks. We can make some large savings over the next year which will hopefully ensure a more financially stable future for the school. Utilising Becky and I in the classroom will help enormously and it is our aim to minimise the impact of our teaching commitments on the running of the school. Becky will still be our SENCO and will be available Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

Thank you to everyone for your support and commitment during what was, a very difficult term. Thank you also, to all of the staff that work so very hard every day to ensure that our school is able to provide the most effective care and education for the children and families that attend.

Have a lovely, restful Easter break.

Best wishes,

Sally

## Baby Room News

Another very busy and fun half term in the Baby Room. The staff have welcomed and are currently still settling in new children to the school and a small group are getting ready to move to the Toddler Room after the Easter holidays.

“Old McDonald had a Farm” song has been very popular over the last few weeks with the children joining in with the song, suggesting the next animal and copying the actions. They love using puppets and small world animals alongside this interest and the staff have been including them in different areas of the classroom including the dough, sand and outside in the garden.

Another book that has been linked to the interests of the children has been “Lenny in the Garden”. The children have been fascinated in looking for and observing minibeasts including snails, spiders and worms. The staff have spent time talking about and sharing what they can see and then extended this interest by telling the story with props.

“The Three little Pigs” has been another very popular story with many children being able to remember and join in with the repeated refrains and make comments on the story, “its wolf”, “knock knock” and “go away big bad wolf”.

Outside in the garden the children have been interested in observing how the leaves on the trees are changing to green with the onset of Spring and they have also been planting daffodil bulbs together.

The children also had the opportunity to paint their own representations of daffodils which are on display in the baby room.

Vehicles continue to be a fascination of several children whether they are using trains to line up and move around the floor, rolling cars down ramps or watching and listening out for the rubbish trucks outside the nursery garden.

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us on Tuesday to share some Easter activities with the children and staff including decorating eggs, an egg hunt in shredded paper and making Easter treats to eat.

**A quick reminder**

Staff have asked if you can please remember to label all your child's clothing.























## Toddler Room News

We have come to the end of another very busy term in Toddler Room.

This term we have welcomed many new children and families to the nursery and there are a small group of children who will be moving to Ocean Room after the Easter holidays.

The children enjoyed celebrating Ramadan and the staff provided a range of activities to explore and prompt discussions including decorating moons, dressing up with scarves and saris and relevant books. Staff also shared information about how at Ramadan they only eat when the sun goes down and pictures of mosques. This then led to an interest from the children to create different types of buildings using wooden blocks including houses and castles with small world people.

The Mini Me's of children continue to be popular using them in their play whether they are transporting them around the classroom, using them with blocks, in the doll's house and to make up their own stories.

Many children love to use the dolls in role play scenarios whether they are in the home corner feeding and dressing them, pushing them around in buggies or using the water tray as a bath to wash and dry them.

The staff have also been encouraging children to join in with board games to support turn taking with "The Shopping Basket" being a popular choice which also provides opportunities for the children to talk and share information about food.

Outdoors the staff have been challenging the children's physical skills by creating different obstacle courses for them to move around. They have also enjoyed looking for minibeasts using magnifiers in the mud, under leaves and under tree stumps.

The last few weeks there has been a focus on celebrating Easter with the children having opportunities to create Easter baskets, decorating eggs and observational paintings of flowers which have been displayed in the classroom. These activities also support many other areas of development including fine motor skills to fold paper, manipulating paint brushes to create marks, picking up small collage pieces to decorate, using language to share ideas and observational skills.

A group of children enjoyed exploring pasta and ping pong balls in different ways and experimenting to see if and how they might roll down planks and guttering and the sounds that they might make when dropped into containers made of wood and metal.

Several parents were able to come in on Tuesday to join in with some of our Easter fun which included decorating eggs using coloured pasta, using yellow play dough to create chicks and making Easter treats.

The core book for next half term will be "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and so look out for lots of conversations about butterflies.



### **Reminders from Toddler Room staff**

Please remember to check the notice board on the veranda for any messages about your child.

If you have any boxes to recycle that the children can use, please bring them in.





















## Ocean Room News

Dear parents and carers,

During this term the creative area has been incredibly popular. The children have been busy learning how to access and use a range of creative tools and materials to support them in making a variety of creative outcomes such as masks, wings, wands, and bags. We will continue to build on these skills and experiences in the coming weeks. The latest interest is pirates and map making.

Painting and mark making has been another large interest. The children have been busy using water colours, powder paints, felt-tips, and pencils, to create beautiful pictures. Our Residential Artist worked with the children this term to further extend this interest by providing opportunities for the children to explore colour, colour mixing, and mark-making using powder paints.

A lot of children are demonstrating an interest in name writing and using their name cards to support them to write the letters in their name. We follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme to support the children to develop listening and attention skills and initial letter sounds. Alongside this, we provide the children with engaging phonics games such as *Silly Soup*, *Metal Mike*, and *letter bingo*, to support the children to develop phonetic awareness.

#### *Core book*

This term our core book was *Jack and the Beanstalk*. This was a great text to read with the children in the spring term as it lends itself well to the season of Spring. In the coming weeks the children will have the opportunity to plant seedlings and observe the changes that take place throughout the coming weeks as the plants grow.

Alongside our core book we have read texts that relate such as, *The Tiny Seed*, *Oliver's Vegetables*, and *Jasper and the Beanstalk*. In addition this we have made story props to help us to re-tell the story of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, in our shared group experiences.

#### *Promoting independence*

An essential aspect of children's development in early years is the importance of promoting and encouraging children's independence. We work strongly as a team to encourage children to try things for themselves, to develop their self-help skills, such as meeting their own toileting needs, dressing and undressing, and tidying up after themselves.

Please support us in promoting your child's independence by encouraging your child to develop these skills at home.

#### ***A few reminders***

Please continue to check your child's canvas bag on a regular basis to ensure they have enough spare clothes that are **clearly named**. If applicable, please continue to check regularly to see whether your child has enough nappies and wet wipes in stock.

We are still in need of spare clothes, shoes, and welly boots. If you find you have items that you no longer want/need, please feel free to donate these items to us – any item of clothing will be greatly appreciated!



We would like to thank you all for your continued support and commitment to your child's learning journey with us in ocean room.

If you have any further questions regarding your child, please do not hesitate to let a member of staff know, so that we can arrange a time for you to meet with your child's key person.

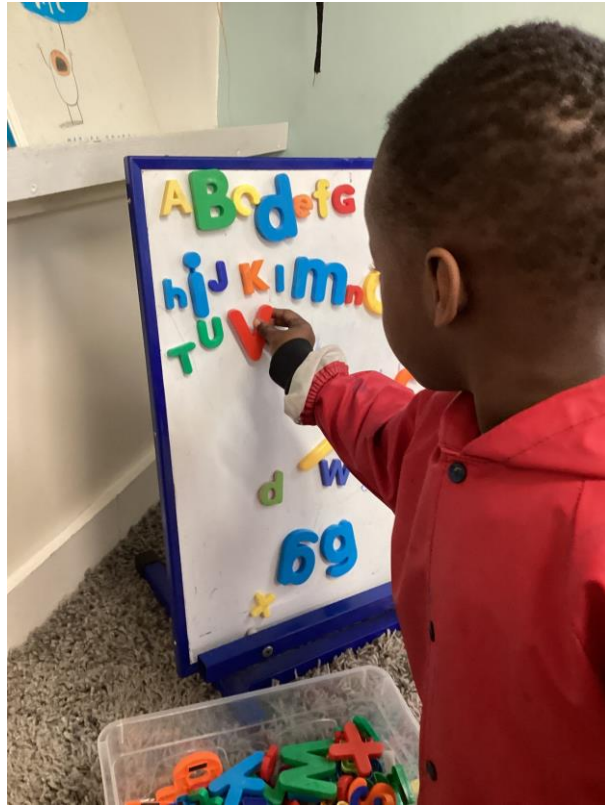




























## Community Fun Day - Saturday 20th April



Please remember entry to the Fun Day this year is by contributing a food dish.

We will be holding a raffle on the day which will help fund the day itself. If anyone is able to source a raffle prize then please let office staff know. Any contributions are greatly received.

## Job Vacancies



Following our recent re-organisation we are now in a position to appoint remaining unfilled posts. We hope to have successful candidates in post by September 2024.

We currently have a number of Education Support Worker posts and 1 x Meal Supervisor post.

Please see the links below for further details.

[North Islington Nursery School - Education Support Worker in Islington, London - Islington Council](#)

[North Islington Nursery School - Midday Meals Supervisor in Islington, London - Islington Council](#)

Are you eligible for funded childcare?



Only 4 more days to get your code by the 31 March deadline. Don't miss out.

Eligible working families, of children turning 2 by 31 March, can claim 15 hours free early learning and childcare per week, for 38 weeks a year.

Get your code by 31 March or you'll miss out on a whole term. Find out if you and your partner are eligible and apply at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>.

Please ensure you complete the parent declaration form and return to the school office by 31st March in order to receive the funded hours for the Summer Term. Please speak to Laura or Louise for more information.



# Stay & Play Session for 0-5s with SEND



## Social Communication Team 0-5's Stay & Play (for children not yet in school)

A new drop in stay and play for children under 5yrs who:

- Have been referred to the Social Communication Team
- Or
- Have accessed SENDsory Adventures group
- Or
- Have a diagnosis of Autism.

This Stay and Play is a welcoming, inclusive place for children with social communication differences, who are not yet in school, and their parents and carers.

Sessions offer an opportunity for you and your child to play together in a relaxed, friendly setting. You will be able to ask questions, get support and meet other parents and carers.

Each session is supported by the Social Communication Team and delivered by the Bright Start Team.

For further information, please contact:

[brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk](mailto:brightstartsouth@islington.gov.uk)  
020 7527 4089

**Tuesday**  
**10-11.30am**  
**Term time only**  
**Location:**  
**Family Hub South at**  
**Bemerton Children's**  
**Centre**  
**N1 0DX**

Family Hubs, Start for Life



## Summer Term Menu

# New Menu

## Coming Soon

**ALLERGY INFORMATION:** If your child has an allergy or intolerance please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a chest nut and / or egg food allergy or intolerance, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child.

**Spring-Summer EYC Menu Week 1**

Added Plant Power  
 Vegan  
 Wholemeal

**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination

WEEK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Breakfast</b>	Comflakes, Weetabix, Porridge Wholemeal Toast Fresh Fruit	Comflakes, Weetabix, Porridge Wholemeal Toast Fresh Fruit	Comflakes, Weetabix, Porridge Wholemeal Toast Fresh Fruit	Comflakes, Weetabix, Porridge Wholemeal Toast Fresh Fruit	Comflakes, Weetabix, Pancakes, Porridge Wholemeal Toast Fresh Fruit
<b>AM Snack</b>	Wholemeal Bread Fingers with Cheese Spread	Fresh Fruit	Rice Crackers and Carrot Sticks	Fresh Fruit	Melba Toast with Cheese Spread and Pepper Sticks
<b>Main Course</b>	Vegetable and Bean Fajitas with Rice	Chicken and Red Pepper Pizza	Roast Turkey, New Potatoes and Gravy	Soya Spaghetti Bolognaise	Battered Fish & Chips
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Vegetable and Bean Fajitas with Rice	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Mediterranean Vegetable Gatin	Minced Beef Bolognaise	Vegetable Fingers (V) & Chips
<b>Side Vegetables</b>	Sweetcorn Broccoli Rainbow Salad	Green Beans Coleslaw Mixed Bean Salad	Carrots Cauliflower Green Bean Salad	Roasted Peppers Courgettes Mixed Leaf Salad	Peas Baked Beans Grated Carrot Salad
<b>Salads</b>		A selection of freshly made salads served daily			
<b>Dessert</b>	Peaches and Ice Cream	Plum Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Drizzle Cake	Oaty Cookies	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit
<b>PM Snack</b>	Fresh Fruit	Pitta Bread, Grated Cheese and Cucumber	Fresh Fruit	English Muffin with Yoghurt & Cucumber Dip	Fresh Fruit
<b>Tea</b>	Sandwiches – a choice of: Egg mayonnaise Cheese & Tomato Cream cheese & cucumber Babies – Scrambled Egg and Toast	Wholemeal Tomato Pasta with Grated Cheese	Jollof Rice with five Beans (V)	Tuna and Sweetcorn or Baked Beans Jacket Potato	Chicken and Roasted Vegetable Couscous or Roasted Vegetable Couscous
<b>Fresh Fruit Daily</b>					

<p><b>ALLERGY INFORMATION:</b> If you have an allergy or intolerance please ask a member of the catering team for information. If you don't have a chart card and you have allergies or intolerances, you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for you and</p>					
<p>Spring - Summer EVC Menu Week 2</p>					
<p>Added Plant Power: 1. Vegan 2. Wholesome</p>					
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Breakfast</b>	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Pancakes, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit
<b>AM Snack</b>	Wholemeal Bread Fingers with Cheese Spread	Fresh Fruit	Rice Crackers and Carrot Sticks	Fresh Fruit	Melba Toast, Cheese Spread and Pepper Sticks
<b>Main Course</b>	Vegetable Enchiladas with 50/50 Rice	Minced Beef Lasagne	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken Curry with 50/50 Rice	Fish Fingers & Chips
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Vegetable Enchiladas with 50/50 Rice	Vegetable Lasagne	Vegetarian Wellington, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chickpea Curry with 50/50 Rice	Bean and Lentil Burger with chips
<b>Side Vegetables</b>	Mixed Broccoli and Cauliflower Florets, Couscous Salad	Carrots, Courgettes, Coleslaw	Roast Tomatoes, Red Cabbage, Sweet Potato Power	Sweetcorn, Green Beans, Roasted Veg Power	Peas, Baked Beans, Tomato Pasta Bake
<b>Salads</b>	A selection of freshly made Salads served daily				
<b>Dessert</b>	Apple Strudel with Custard	Apple & Raisin Flapjack	Fruit Jelly & Mandarins	Peach Cumble with Custard	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit
<b>PM Snack</b>	Fresh Fruit	Wholemeal Bread Fingers and Pepper Sticks	Fresh Fruit	Toasted Plain Bagel, Cheese Spread and Cucumber Sticks	Fresh Fruit
<b>Tea</b>	Sandwiches - a choice of: Egg mayonnaise, Cheese & Tomato, Cream cheese & Cucumber, Babies - Scrambled Egg and Toast	Red Pepper and Cheese Tiramisu with Rainbow Slaw	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna & Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Soya Spaghetti Bolognese	Vegetable Pasta Bake

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<p>Spring - Summer EVC Menu Week 3</p>					
<p>Added Plant Power: 1. Vegan 2. Wholesome</p>					
WEEK 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Breakfast</b>	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit	Cornflakes, Weetabix, Pancakes, Porridge, Wholemeal Toast, Fresh Fruit
<b>AM Snack</b>	Wholemeal Bread Fingers with Cheese Spread	Fresh Fruit	Rice Crackers and Carrot Sticks	Fresh Fruit	Melba Toast with Cheese Spread and Pepper Sticks
<b>Main Course</b>	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Chow Mein	Roast Chicken, Skin on, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Chili con Carne with Rice	Breaded Fish & Chips
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Macaroni Cheese	Sweet & Sour Vegetables with Noodles	Vegetarian Wellington, Skin on Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetable Bean Chili with Rice	Vegetable Fingers (V) & Chips
<b>Side Vegetables</b>	Peas, Sweetcorn, Green Bean Power	Broccoli, Baked Beans, BBQ Noodle Salad	Cabbage, Carrots, Apple and Raisin Salad	Roasted Summer Vegetables, Beetroot and Orange Salad	Peas, Baked Beans, Mixed Leaf Salad
<b>Salads</b>	A selection of freshly made Salads served daily				
<b>Dessert</b>	Mandarin Cheesecake	Chocolate Shortbread	Bananas and Custard	Cinnamon & Orange Cookies	Yoghurt and Fresh Fruit
<b>PM Snack</b>	English Muffin, Cheese Spread and Cucumber Sticks	Pitta Fingers and Pepper Sticks	Fresh Fruit	Wholemeal Bread Fingers and Carrot Sticks	Fresh Fruit
<b>Tea</b>	Sandwiches - a choice of: Egg mayonnaise, Cheese & Tomato, Cream cheese & Cucumber, Babies - Scrambled Egg and Toast	Jacket Potato with Coleslaw or Baked Beans & Cheese	Chickpea Curry with 50/50 Rice	Roasted Vegetable Couscous	Broccoli Pasta Bake

## Attendance



February attendance:

Ocean - 84%

Toddlers - 78%

Babies - 93%



## Upcoming Dates



- Thursday 28th March, INSET, school closed for all children
- Friday 29th March - Monday 1st April Bank Holiday, school closed for all children
- Tuesday 2nd - Friday 12th April, Easter Holidays, school closed for TTO children
- Saturday 20th April 11am-2pm, Community Fun Day
- Monday 8th May - Bank Holiday, school closed for all children
- Wednesday 15th May, Development Morning, school opens at 10am for all children