

October Holiday Childcare Scheme 2019

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme is Ofsted registered and provides childcare for children aged 3 to 13 years old. The holiday provision takes place in Tower Hamlets schools and operates during the school holidays, (excluding the Christmas break).

The October holiday childcare scheme took place at St Matthias Primary School between Monday 21st and Friday 25th of October (inclusive). During the scheme an Ofsted inspection took place and the scheme received a rating of MET. Through the new Ofsted grading framework for holiday clubs this is the highest grade available.

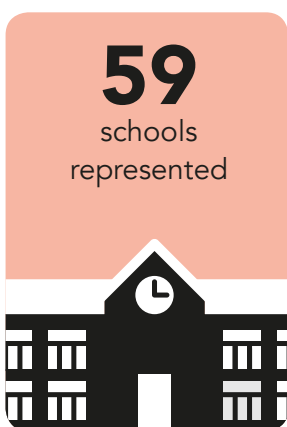
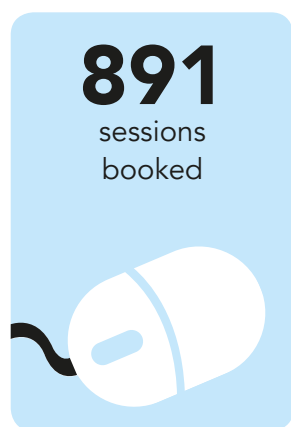
A number of places were provided for children with SEND and vulnerable referrals from Children's Social Care, schools and other partner agencies.



Local trips included:
Olympic Park
Victoria Park
Ragged School Museum
Spitalfields Farm.

Early years, main scheme and teen space all went on a trip each day!

"Staff are absolutely brilliant such a great scheme."
 Parent/carer



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 Parents/carers who use the scheme are encouraged to give ongoing feedback.



Early Years

Children in our early years area were welcomed with Gruffalo themed activities throughout the week. The children enjoyed a plethora of arts and crafts and daily cooking activities took place. Our cooking and baking activities are so popular that the children asked for more of this at our next scheme. We also welcomed lots of new children who were introduced to their key workers and animal group.



Main Scheme

The rainy autumn weather did not stop our children from taking part in any activities and going outside. Our arts and crafts room was busy with clay modelling, leaf art and many more activities. Dodgeball, bench football and rounders kept our children physically active throughout the scheme. Children who have recently transitioned into the main scheme from our early years area particularly enjoyed Lego building and imaginative play. Outside the children's favourite activity was hide and seek!



Teen Space

At the scheme children relaxed in a dedicated teen space room, our beanbags were popular and there were numerous games of pool played. Children in the teen space went on a joint trip with the main scheme to Queen Elizabeth Park so they could have a day in the park together. Many of our children had not visited the Ragged School Museum before, children took part in a number of science activities which were enjoyed. We expanded the transition pilot project this scheme so more visits took place to Limehouse Youth Hub.

Celebrations

- **Brodi aged 8 years:** award presented for her exceptional behaviour during the scheme trip.
- **Zac aged 10 years:** award presented for great football skills and team work.
- **Esther aged 9 years:** award presented for being a great competitor in the team football game.



Visitors

As part of the European Day of Memory and Welcome, the Holiday Childcare Scheme welcomed Alia a professional storyteller and workshop facilitator from the HEC Global Learning Centre who delivered story telling workshops to our children on migration and identity. This forms part of a wider commitment to enhance our inclusive practice at the holiday schemes even further.



Feedback

Parents/carers (28% gave feedback)

- 96% rated our activities as very good or good
- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- 98% said they would use the scheme again

Children (45% gave feedback)

Children at the scheme were consulted and have asked for the following:

- More cooking activities
- More baking activities
- More sports activities such as badminton and basketball
- Dance activities
- Lots more trips – we love the farm!



The Holiday Childcare Team will be working hard to include these activities at our next scheme in February!

"Great work. A very good service put on by Tower Hamlets. Staff are great."
Parent/carer

"Child enjoys attending the trips that the scheme provides. The activities are great."
Parent/carer

"My child loved it. First time coming to the scheme. She loved the game room and art activities."
Parent/carer

Holiday Childcare Scheme Ofsted Inspection



On Wednesday 23rd of October the Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme received an Ofsted inspection at St Matthias Primary School.

Ofsted updated their inspection framework and grading criteria from September 2019 and we are the first holiday club in Tower Hamlets to be inspected through this framework.

Ofsted rated the Holiday Childcare Scheme as 'MET' following the inspection. This is the highest grade available!

"We would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support and feedback which allows us to continuously improve and meet the needs of your children.

Our staff do an amazing job and without them we would not be able to provide such a high quality service. A huge well done and thanks to our staff who have supported us during this scheme."

Lance Lathino
Holiday Childcare Team Manager

Highlights of the report:

- The provider continually reflects on the club and identifies ways they can improve. They are open to suggestions of ways to improve the club and give opportunities to parents, children and staff to share their views and take them into consideration.
- Children enjoy their time at the club. They enthusiastically enter in the morning and settle into the day quickly. They are excited to see the staff and demonstrate they feel happy and safe.
- Staff have clear expectations of children's behaviour. Children help to decide on the rules of the club and reflect why the rules are in place. Staff are positive role models for children. They support children to reflect on their behaviour and help them to understand how they can correct their actions.
- Partnership working with local schools and services is well established.
- Children are provided with choices, they can choose what they would like for their snack and what activities they would like to take part in.
- Staff have good two-way communication with parents. Parents express that they are happy with the club and feel their children are safe and well cared for.
- Staff use meal and snack times to promote independence and encourage children to do things for themselves and to develop their personal care needs.
- Staff praise children for their individual achievements, which helps strengthen children's self-esteem.
- The manager provides ongoing support for staff to help them improve their knowledge and skills.

Our Ofsted report is available to view.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/119619>