

February 2020

Holiday Childcare Scheme

The Holiday Childcare Scheme is Ofsted registered and provides safe and affordable childcare to parents or carers who live or work in the borough. It takes place in Tower Hamlets schools during the school holidays (excluding the Christmas break).

The February holiday childcare scheme took place at St Mary and St Michael Primary School between Monday 17 and Friday 21 of February (inclusive).

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

Don't miss out on the fun book a place at our Easter scheme!

WOW! Look at all the trips we went on

- King Edward Park
- Mudchute Farm
- Stepping Stones Farm
- Millwall Park
- Museum of London
- British Museum
- Tate Modern Gallery
- Maritime Museum
- National Gallery

Children in teen space also visited Limehouse Youth Hub



811

sessions booked



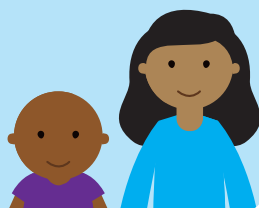
11%

increase compared to February 2019



163

families supported



44%

increase compared to February 2019



54

Tower Hamlets schools represented



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 were welcomed to the scheme in their key worker animal groups. The theme for early years at this scheme was 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. Children re-enacted the story and did lots of activities around the book. Children had a busy week cooking with our trained Ministry of Food chefs and our early years' key worker, Tina, enthusiastically shared her cooking skills including vegetable pizzas and fruity flapjacks. On the last day of the scheme it was fancy dress, children dressed up in lots of different outfits - we had an astronaut, cat and the Hulk even made an appearance.



Main Scheme

Children in our main scheme were very busy throughout the week. A superhero theme took over the weeks activities, with children making masks and superhero emblems using clay. Cooking was popular too, with children making tasty fishcakes; there may be some future chefs amongst our children. Basketball was the favourite sport of the week, our children also played tennis, badminton, cricket and football.



Teen Space

Children in the teen space visited Limehouse Youth Club where they were able to play the Playstation and enjoy table tennis and indoor football. The favourite trip in teen space was the Tate Modern Gallery, this was a new experience for most of our children and they enjoyed the visit. We also kept the children busy at King Edward Park with a variety of outdoor sports. There were lots of happy faces when the children made homemade meatballs and pasta subs.

Visitors

We welcomed a number of visitors to the February scheme.



Jamie Olivier's Ministry of Food cooking workshop

Our Parental Engagement Team delivered Jamie Olivier's Ministry of Food cooking workshops to our children. We were also lucky enough to have volunteers from Jamie Oliver who helped the children cook

chicken fajitas, tuna and salmon fishcakes and meatballs and pasta sauce subs.

These workshops were organised based on feedback from our October scheme when children asked for more cooking activities

Children were asked at the end of each session: **"Today did you try something new?"**
30 children out of 32 said "YES"

London Ambulance Service

As part of our superhero theme a paramedic from the London Ambulance Service visited the scheme and spoke to the children about what to do in event of an emergency.



New Play Charter

The scheme also welcomed Elizabeth Freer a Strategy and Policy Manager for Tower Hamlets. Elizabeth consulted some of our children on the new Play Charter currently being devised by the council. Children shared their views on play and discussed the things they enjoyed doing within the borough.



"The Holiday Scheme is a shining example of how to provide a stimulating, safe play space where children can meet friends and thrive. Everyone was happy and engaged – a joy to see."
 Elizabeth Freer

Councillor Eve McQuillan

Councillor Eve McQuillan the Mayoral Advisor for Tackling Poverty and Inequalities in Tower Hamlets visited us to see first-hand the work we do and how we support families within the borough. Jill McGinley Head of Parent and Family Support Service accompanied the councillor on her visit.

"It was a pleasure to welcome Cllr McQuillan to the February half term scheme to experience the high quality activities organised by our excellent team of play workers."
 Jill McGinley

Mayor of London's Idling Action Project

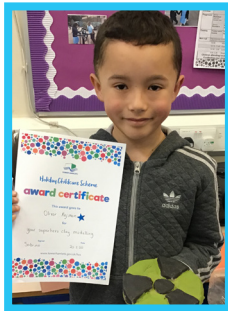
Natalie Curd from the Mayor of London's Idling Action Project delivered air quality workshops with our children, whereby the children designed their own pollution-fighting posters and messages. The holiday scheme also hosted an anti-idling event on Tuesday 18 of February to raise awareness of the dangers of engine idling to our children's health.



Celebrations



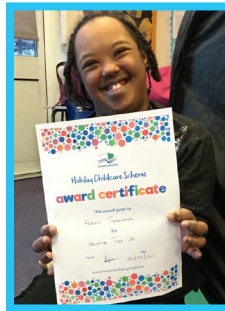
Kyra-Lei



Oliver



China



Feben

Early Years

- **Hunter aged 4 years:** award presented for being kind to everyone.
- **Kyra-Lei aged 4 years:** award presented for listening and asking great questions.
- **Bobbi aged 4 years:** award presented for her fantastic alphabet art work.

Main Scheme

- **Kyle aged 8 years:** award presented for his cardboard cut-out of a superhero.
- **Oliver aged 8 years:** award presented for his superhero clay model emblem.
- **Reuben aged 5 years:** award presented for being a team player in hall games activities.

Teen Space

- **Taylor aged 11 years:** award presented for being very motivated and for kindness to her peers throughout the week.
- **China aged 12 years:** award presented for her participation in all activities and showing kindness by helping other children with their arts and crafts.
- **Joshua aged 12 years:** award presented for the most improved behaviour and being extra motivated to join in all activities.
- **Feben aged 12 years:** award presented for helping to tidy up with children and staff.

Feedback

Parents/Carers (25% gave feedback)

- 100% stated they felt their child was safe at the scheme
- 100% stated they would you use the scheme again
- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- 98% stated they felt the scheme was inclusive of all children
- 98% rated our activities as very good or good

The Holiday Childcare Team are collating and reviewing the feedback children gave so we can make our Easter scheme even better!

"The scheme is fantastic. My kids love it"
Parent/carer

"Excellent staff, super friendly, know my kids needs well, always returning customer."
Parent/carer

"Without the holiday scheme my life would be difficult. Thank you."
Parent/carer