

Holiday Childcare Scheme

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).



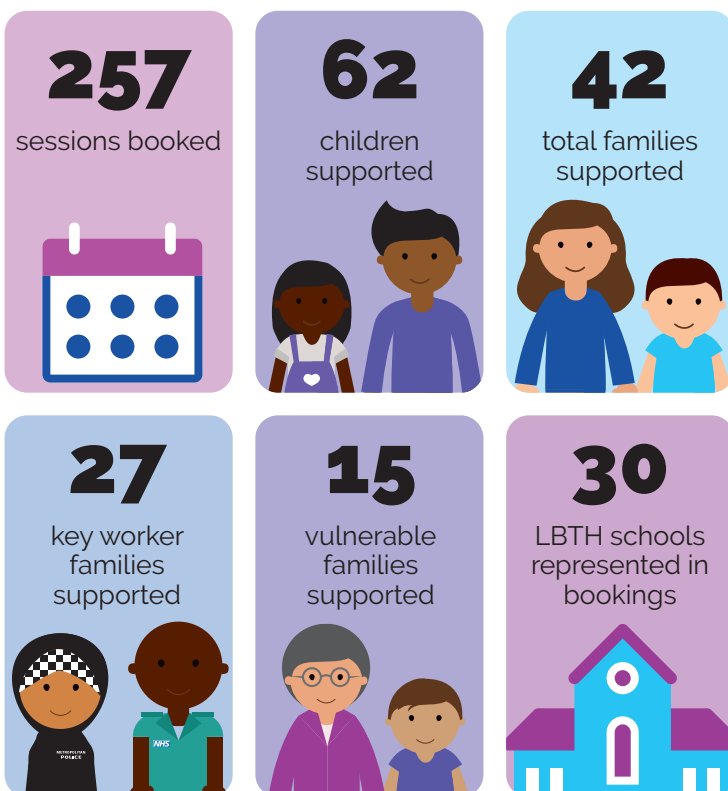
Picture of some of our Senior Leadership Team staff taken in February prior to social distance guidance.

May half term holiday childcare scheme took place at St Mary and St Michael Primary School between Monday 25 and Friday 29 May (inclusive).

We followed Department for Education advice and only provided childcare for children of key workers and vulnerable children within the borough. Our scheme also provided places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through Short Breaks.

For our summer scheme we are planning virtual trips and an exciting Play Day event.

This newsletter highlights how we have responded to coronavirus and adapted to keep children, parents/carers and our staff safe whilst continuing to provide an outstanding service.



We opened on Bank Holiday Monday to support key workers who needed to work.

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.

The holiday childcare team followed Department for Education guidance to keep children and staff safe at our holiday scheme. Take a look at our daily routine below:

1

Parents/carers and their children wait outside and social distance.



2

Parents/carers and their children enter the reception area as one family group at a time.



3

Children and staff wash their hands before passing reception and entering the main school building.



4

Parents/carers check their children in at reception with our friendly administrator using our online booking system.



5

Children enter the building and are greeted by staff who help the children put their coats and bags away.



6

Children go to the allocated area for their age group.



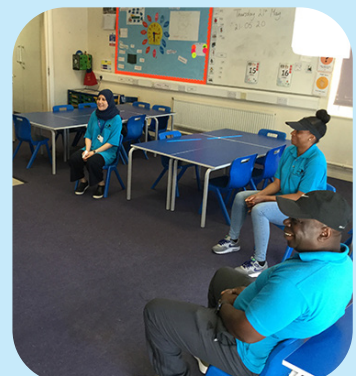
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Children take part in an introduction session with our Deputy Manager and Early Years Lead where they go over new rules and staff talk about hand washing and social distancing for children.



8

Whilst children are doing introductions our staff take part in a daily briefing to support them in their roles.



9

Children line up and walk between rooms at a safe distance from one another.



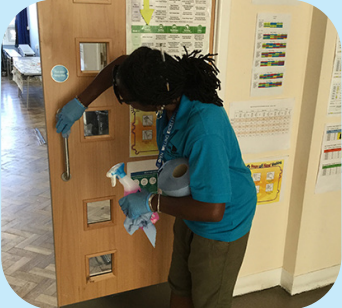
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Children take part in carefully planned activities with no more than 10 children in each room.



11

Staff clean touch points such as door handles every 2 hours and each classroom has tables and chairs cleaned when an activity is finished.



12

Children also take part in a number of exciting outdoor activities, sports and games which are carefully planned to encourage social distancing.



13

Children wash their hands in between activities and before moving to a new room.



14

Children eat a hot lunch prepared by the Dorchester Hotel and are also able to socialise and speak with their peers.



15

Some of our staff complete training in upstairs classrooms to enhance their development.



16

Our staff use walkie-talkies when children are collected by parents/carers to limit movement around the building.



Early Years

Handa's Surprise took over the early years with lots of storytelling and activities such as children creating their own Handa's Surprise basket, what would you include? Lots of outdoor activities took place for children to enjoy physical activity and when it got too hot outside the children took part in sports activities in the hall. Children loved our mini bowling alley which was a favourite activity of the week. Lots of tasty hot lunches were eaten which the staff also enjoyed.

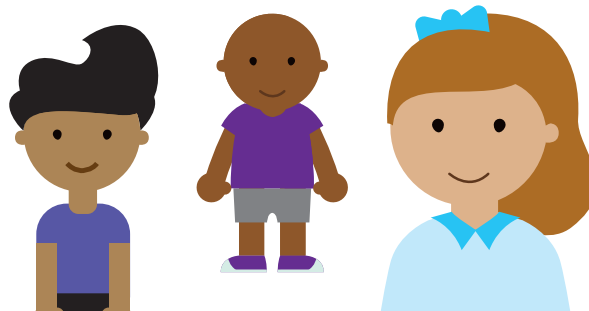


Main Scheme and Teen Space



Children were welcomed to the scheme with a transport theme. Children made their own garages and transport maps. The playground has been busy with children playing cricket and learning how to play a new sports game called lacrosse, which many had not played before. Lunches have been amazing with the favourite meal of the week being our tacos.

Look at all the different schools where children booked from:



School	No of Pupils
Bigland Green Primary School	1
Bonner Primary School	2
Chisenhale Primary School	4
Clara Grant Primary School	2
Culloden Primary - A Paradigm Academy	2
Cyril Jackson Primary School	2
English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School	1
Elizabeth Selby Infants' School	1
Guardian Angels Roman Catholic Primary School	1
Iqra Preschool at Frostic Walk	1
Kids Kingdom Bursery at Pinchin Street	1
Lawdale Junior School	1
Little St Matthias Preschool	1
Mayflower Primary School	2
Old Church Nursery School	2
Old Palace Primary School	1
Olga Primary School	5
Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School	2
Out of Borough School	1
Phoenix School	2
Redlands Primary School	1
Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England Secondary School	1
Smithy Street School	1
Solebay Primary - A Paradigm Academy	1
St Anne's Catholic Primary School	2
St Mary and St Michael Primary School	12
St Paul with St Luke CofE Primary School	3
St Paul's Way Trust School	1
St Peter's London Dock	2
Stepney Greencoat Church of England Primary School	2

Staff Profiles

Stephen

What is the best thing about working in the holiday childcare team?

The atmosphere working with people who know how to work with children and the general wellbeing at the schemes.

What is your favourite activity at the scheme?

Teaching tennis, cricket, table tennis, golf, and indoor games. It brings me a sense of joy when I have been able to make a difference in a child's learning.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I love sporting activities particularly when I take part in them. I am a sports enthusiast that takes time to learn different sports.



Tina

What is the best thing about working in the holiday childcare team?

The best thing about working in the team is that we are all friendly and very helpful to one another.

What is your favourite activity at the scheme?

I really enjoy teaching cookery. Working alongside lots of children makes my time at the scheme enjoyable.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I can speak some French but not fluent as I would like to be.



Recruiting childcare workers

We are looking for highly motivated, experienced childcare workers who are passionate about providing high quality, inclusive childcare for children aged 3-13 years.

What you need:

- Minimum of NVQ level 2 (or equivalent) in childcare / play work.
- Experience of working in a childcare setting or with children and families.
- To hold a paediatric first aid course (full course i.e. 2 days) or willingness to complete before commencing work.
- Flexible in your working hours during school holidays.
- What we provide:
 - Training and development opportunities
 - Progression opportunities
 - LBTH local government pension scheme

“Leaders value staff and consequently they feel happy and fulfilled in their roles.”

Ofsted



Note: Pictures taken in February prior to social distance guidance.

For more information and to apply for a position visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/jobs

Tower Hamlets Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/ vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Virtual Student Placement Programme

Areanna

Tell us what you are currently studying?

I am currently studying a mixture of marketing communications with a focus in public relations and psychology.



Where are you currently completing the placement from?

Right now I live in Attleborough, a small town near Norfolk.

What attracted you to complete a placement with the holiday childcare team?

I was enticed by the opportunity to help bring much needed joy into the lives of children during this pandemic. The holiday childcare team seemed like a good way to spend my time and give back to the community.

Tell us about an exciting project you have been completing during your placement?

I will be planning the first ever international Play Day in Tower Hamlets! This event will take place in August and is an extremely exciting opportunity for us to reward our children and families for their efforts in staying home and staying apart during this pandemic.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I have a 2 year old German Shepard named Maya who I bought when I lived in Italy.

What advice would you give future students completing a placement?

I would advise them to choose a sector they are passionate about. I have found that the most rewarding part of this placement is knowing that I have the opportunity to make a child's day better with my activity plans and events.

Yasmine

Tell us what you are currently studying?

I am currently studying a bachelor degree at university, specialising in Psychology.



Where are you currently completing the placement from?

I am currently completing the placement from London.

What attracted you to complete a placement with the holiday childcare team?

After watching the holiday childcare scheme YouTube video I was immediately attracted to complete the placement. Working in the background of a community helping children to learn, grow and develop their social skills though play is most definitely rewarding.

Tell us about an exciting project you have been completing during your placement?

I have been completing a training programme that consists of various exciting training opportunities designed to enhance the teams' knowledge in a collection of subjects.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself?

I enjoy volunteering especially with children; I have previously worked with Palestinian refugees in 2014 that had been given shelter in Morocco.

What advice would you give future students completing a placement?

I would advise future students to focus on learning whilst completing the task as there are many skills you will pick up through this placement unintentionally. Also make sure to be organised and have perseverance even when things may get unfamiliar or challenging.

Any volunteers or students interested a virtual placement
e-mail holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk for further information.

Celebrations

Early Years



Riley aged 5: award presented for his retelling story of Handa's Surprise.



Jessica aged 5: award presented for sequencing the pictures from Handa's Surprise in order.



Finnan aged 4: award presented for his fantastic bowling.



Jayden aged 5: award presented for his great balancing skills on the floor tyres.



Lena aged 4: award presented for playing with others nicely.



Angelina aged 3: award presented for sharing toys with others.



Main Scheme and Teen Space



Arthur aged 6: award presented for his artistic garage design.



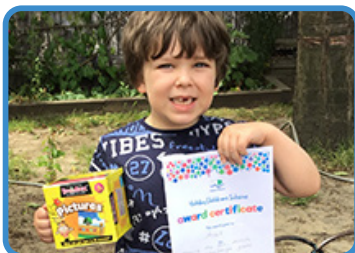
Ashvir aged 7: award presented for creating an imaginary map.



Ramona aged 9: award presented for drawing a map with different transport links.



Habeeba aged 10: award presented for creating a lovely imaginary map with different transport.



Anas aged 6: award presented for playing the ten minute brain challenge game.



Tyler aged 10: award presented for his excellent cricket.



Aimee aged 5: award presented for her participation in cricket.



Theodora aged 7: award presented for her amazing artistic garage.



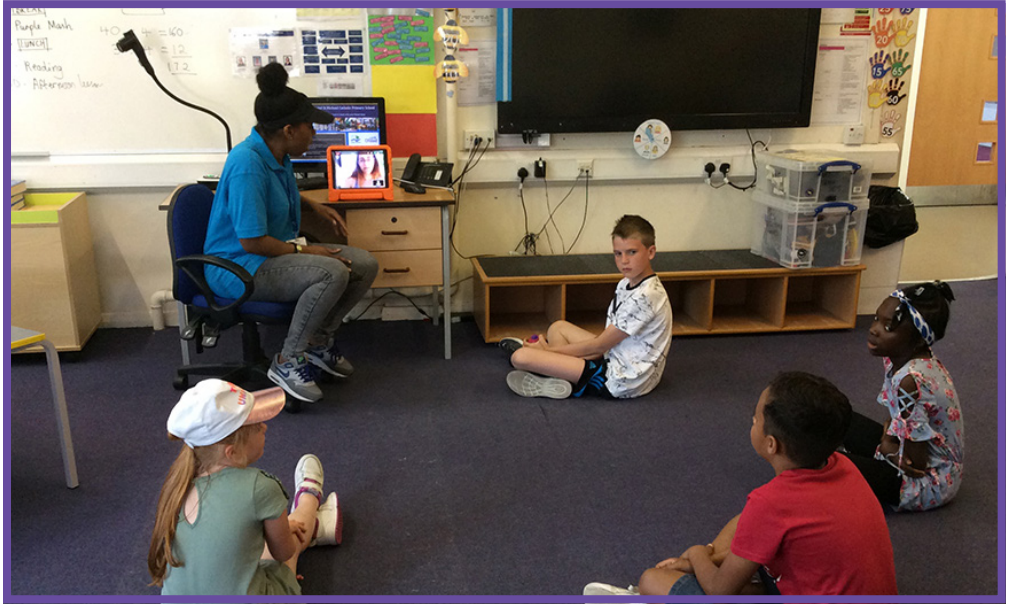
Feedback

Parents/Carers (18 parents/carers gave feedback)

- 100% stated they felt their child was safe at the scheme
- 100% stated they would you use the scheme again
- 100% stated they felt the scheme was inclusive of all children
- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- 95% rated our booking process as very good or good
- 100% rated our activities as very good or good

Children (39 children gave feedback)

- 85% rated our staff as very good or good
- 85% rated the choice of activities as very good or good



We asked the children what do you think would make the holiday childcare scheme more fun? Here are some of our favourite answers:

- Animals, lions
- Going on an aeroplane
- To have a maze
- Cake



One of our students Areanna has completed consultations with children virtually during the scheme week to ask children about activity and theme ideas for the next year. We look forward to implementing these ideas.

Staff Feedback (100% gave feedback)

- 100% of staff felt supported as a member of staff at the scheme

Our staff have also taken part in training and development opportunities during the scheme to upskills our workforce and provide personal development for our staff.

"Excellent service."
Parent/carers

"Excellent as usual, Lena loves it."
Parent/carers

"Lovely friendly staff."
Parent/carers

"Professional, family friendly, very helpful."
Parent/carers

