

# News from the Early Years- December 2023

December 2023

**REMEMBER**...Nursery visit to Little Angel Theatre-

**20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Feedback letter and culture capital forms to be completed and returned by parents.**

## **Voluntary Contributions**

Unfortunately, not everyone has given their contributions this half term. This money is needed to buy consumables in the early years and we rely heavily upon this donation. **Please bring your £5 contribution into school.**

Dear Nursery Parents/Carers

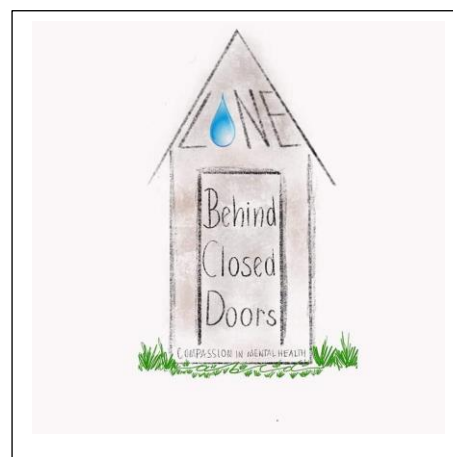
The deadline for Reception class applications for September 2024 is fast approaching. Parents/carers with children in Nursery class born between **1 September 2013 and 31 August 2020** must submit their Reception class application by **Monday 15 January 2024**. It is very important that you apply before the deadline and before the end of this school term. If you do not apply before the deadline, your child's application will be late and will be considered after all on time applications have been dealt with. Late applicants are also less likely to get a place at their preferred school.

## **'Help Holmleigh raise money for families affected by Mental Health'**

Can you believe a year has passed since Holmleigh primary school raised a whopping £130 to support a charity called **ABCD- Alone Behind Closed Doors**. This year we would love to raise even more. This year Holmleigh primary school have nominated **5 families** to receive a special personalised hamper to be delivered on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Every year for 7 years ABCD has provided personalised tailor made Christmas food hampers to support the most vulnerable families within schools and the community who are experiencing mental health, poor living conditions or have a lack of finances.

On **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023**, we will ask for parent/carers to make a **minimum £1 voluntary contribution** for ABCD, so we can achieve a maximum contribution of £150. If parents/carers would like to make a larger donation they can and we will warmly accept this. A text message with a link to the charity will be sent with more information about ABCD.



This festive break...think of those who are living on the streets. Donate to **Crisis** and stand with someone facing homelessness

## Nursery Class

In the Nursery, our topic has been 'I Spy with My Little Eye'. We explored both story and non-fiction books to learn about the four seasons and the types of animals that live in holes.

We have looked at tall and short, and heavy and light things and made pictures with shapes that we can name. We have also done lots of counting.

Following the children's interest we made a police station in the garden. The children wrote lots of speeding tickets, receipts and incident reports as well as drawing lots of different shapes.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'A Dark Dark Tale' and 'We're Going to Find a Monster'

As part of Road Safety Awareness Week, our external visitors: Stacey and Max returned to Holmleigh to show us how to ride our scooters safely on the streets.

We had great fun looking at the artist Jackson Pollack and using his technique of splashing paint onto paper.

We have also learned lots of new songs.

What  
have we  
been  
learning



## Reception Class

Reception class have been busy little explorers this month! This half-term, children have enjoyed forming stronger friendships with one another. The home corner has been very popular with children using this space to make traditional foods from their home and to talk about things they like doing with their friends and family. We have some very talented architects who have been creating models using various construction in the small world area- trains, houses, towers (even the Eiffel tower!)

We learnt all about how shadows are formed, and how to make shadows using torches in our cave. Children enjoyed exploring the art by Picasso and recreating their own versions in Picasso style portraits.

Winter fair and Christmas preps have kept us busy! We decorated shooting stars for the hall display and made decorations to sell at our Winter Fair!

In maths, we have been learning to subitise up to five, learning about the concept of 'halving'. We did this during our toast making session where the children cut their slice of bread in half and then had a jolly time spreading it with butter and jam and eating it! We also looked at comparing weights (heavier/lighter) and money in our post office role-play set up. Children used parcels and letters to weigh, and role-played taking on different roles in the post office.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the football sessions with Coach Ben. They have been learning new skills and listening well to the instructions given!



## Important dates for the diary

Event	Date	Parent support at home
Christmas dinner	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Those children in the Nursery who would like to stay for the school dinner must speak to a member of the Nursery team and pay £2.50.
Whole school disco and Christmas party	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Parents can contribute something sweet or savoury to the whole school party. Please give this to the office or early year's team.
Theatre trip - Nursery class only	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Letters sent home
Last day of term	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Please not Reception and Nursery full-time children finish at 1.30pm. There will be no afternoon Nursery session on this day. Part0time nursery finishes at 12 noon as usual.
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January is INSET DAY -children do not attend school. Children return to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.</b>		
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024- Coffee morning for SEND parents/carers 9.15 am to meet the new school SENCO: Mrs Gillian Jetto</b>		

## Holiday activities and food programme

### **Schools holidays December 2024**

During the school holidays in December 2024, the London Borough of Hackney will be teaming up with a number of schools, sports activity providers and community services to offer a wide range of exciting activities and a daily healthy free meal as part of the government funded Holiday Activities and Food programme. There will be sports activities, arts and drama, mentoring, healthy eating and nutrition sessions, food provision and much more set out across various locations across the borough.

These activities should be inclusive for all eligible children and young people (aged 5-18), including those with special educational needs or disabilities. However, some activities may not be suitable for all children. Please discuss any needs with the provider before booking a place, so providers can ensure these are understood and supported or that reasonable adjustments are put in place.

**Please see Hackney local offer:** <https://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/home.page>