

Early Years news, advice and guidance for Square Mile families and settings

Hello...

Welcome to our monthly newsletter. Our aim is to share regular local and national information for families in the City. If you would like to find out anything further on any items or would like more advice or information, please contact the Family Information Service.
Email: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk



'Tis The Season of Flu

Flu and other seasonal illnesses are common during the autumn term. Protect your child from catching or spreading flu:

- encourage them to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- use tissues for coughs and sneezes and throw them away immediately
- avoid touching their face, particularly their eyes, nose and mouth.

It's generally safe for children to attend school with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or minor cough. But they should stay at home if they have a high temperature of 38°C or above. The NHS provides guidance to help parents decide when a child is too unwell for school, including advice on flu and other common childhood illnesses.

By following these steps, you can reduce the spread of flu and keep your child healthy and ready to learn.

To find out more visit the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>

Deadline: **15 January 2026**
Don't miss it!

Primary School Applications



T: 0207332100
E: eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission

If your child was born between 1st September 2021-31 August, its time to apply for a primary school place for September 2026. Deadline is 15th January, so don't miss it! Apply on:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission

NHS

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Celebrating SEND Support

Congratulation to Shaney Sewlyn, the SENCO at Smithfield House Nursery for winning this years Early Years SENCO Award!

Her Nursery Manager Janet MacGregor said: "I am delighted to nominate Shaney for the Early Years SEND award. As the nursery's Early Years SENCO, she brings exceptional passion to her role and is deeply committed to ensuring that every child receives the support they need at the right time and therefore as early as possible in their life.

"She continually seeks to enhance her knowledge of SEND through reading, research, and professional development, which has greatly strengthened her expertise. She is keen to not only develop her own knowledge but also that of her colleagues, which she does in a very supportive way.

"Her dedication has earned the respect of The City of London, other professionals, parents, and colleagues. Shaney's commitment and impact make her truly worthy of this recognition"



The City of London Corporation is very pleased to share that we received very positive results from the recent Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Ofsted Inspectors recognised the commitment and praised the strong teamwork across Strategy, SEND, Education, Early Years, Health, Social Care and Family Information teams.

Ofsted also highlighted the Corporation's focus on identifying needs early, providing personalised support for each child, and ensuring families can access the right services at the right time.

Congratulations to the City of London and to everyone whose dedication makes a real difference to children, young people and families every day.

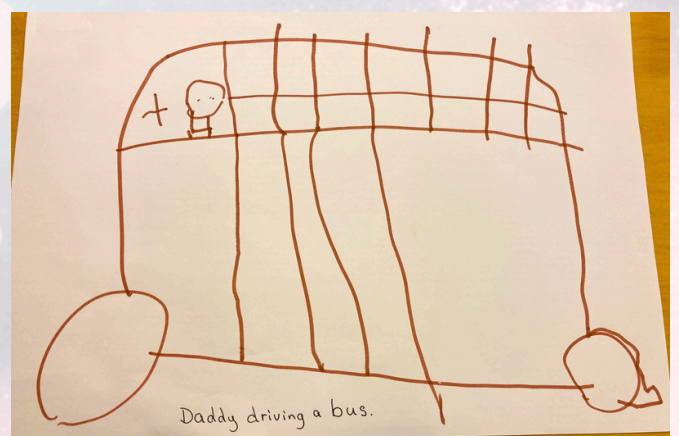
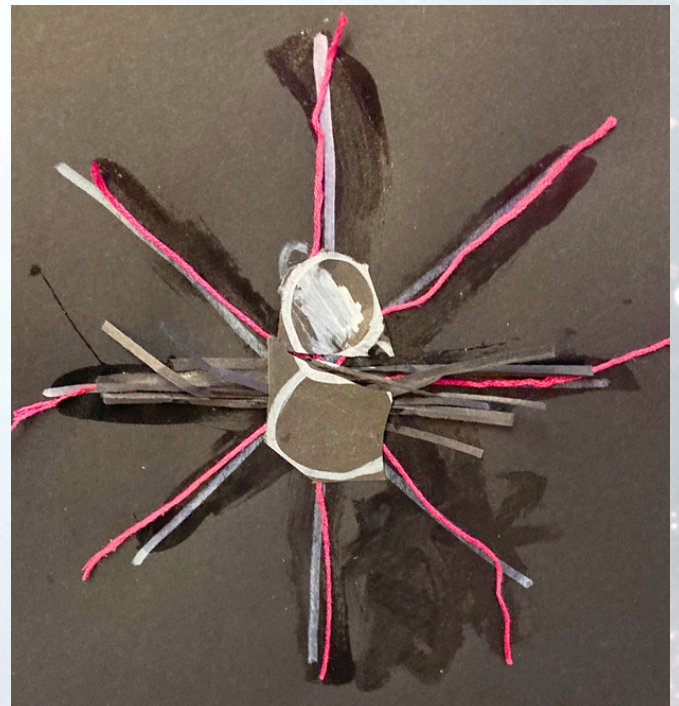
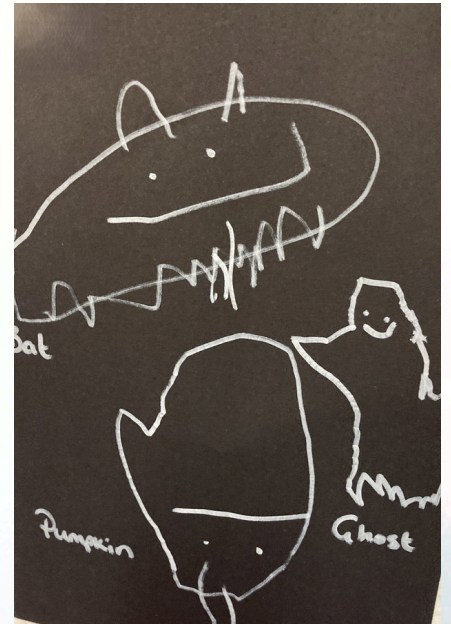
You can read the full report here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80450>



Seasonal Art from Barbican Playgroup

This term's artwork Spiders, Bats, fireworks, Gingerbread Houses and Buses! has brought colour and creativity to the walls of Barbican Playgroup. What a fantastic display!"



UK Government **NHS**

For parents' questions, BIG & small.

Can I get help with childcare costs?

How can I prepare my child to start school?

When should I wean my baby?

Get advice and support at **BestStartInLife.gov.uk**

BEST START IN LIFE

Your Toddler's Teeth

You can help to maintain a lifetime of healthy smiles by teaching good dental habits, such as regular brushing and not eating or drinking too much sugar.

Find more information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/best-start-in-life/how-to-take-care-of-your-baby-or-toddlers-teeth>

Watch this clip from Cbeebies and sing this brushing song with your child!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/tooth-brushing-badge-song>

Whistle Blowing Information

Concerned about child protection in your workplace?

If you're worried your organisation might be putting children at risk, even if you're not certain, contact our Whistleblowing Advice Line to talk through your concerns.

You can contact us anonymously, and if you do share your details with us you can ask for them not to be shared with other agencies.

Call 0800 028 0285

Email help@NSPCC.org.uk

What is whistleblowing?

Whistleblowing is when you raise a concern about wrongdoing in your organisation. This is known as "blowing the whistle", and is important for helping organisations identify problems and improve their practices.

If you're worried about a child protection issue in your organisation, you can "blow the whistle" by following your organisation's whistleblowing policy, or by raising it with our Whistleblowing Advice Line.

You can contact our Advice Line about something that has happened in the past, is happening right now, or you believe might happen in the future.

Call our Whistleblowing Advice Line on 0800 028 0285

Cost of Living Help

Find information about benefits, grants and discounts you can get if you're in financial difficulty, from Greater London Authority, the government, your local council, charities and advice centres.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/communities-and-social-justice/help-cost-living>



If you would like to find out anything further on any items or you would like more advice or information, please contact the City of London Family Information Service.

020 7332 1002 | EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk | www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk

