

August 2025

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 like more advice or information, please contact the Family Information Service.

EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting programme devoted to inspiring a love of reading in children everywhere.

Enrolled children from birth to five can receive a high -

quality books, sent via the post and best of all it is free of charge.

To register please click here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/education-and-schools/early-years-0-5-education/dpil>

What's on over the Summer!

Find out some ideas on what's on to do with your child in the summer.

[What's On - City of London Family Information Service](#)

Here's a great picture of one of our Coltale's friends, J, who is using her Coltale Calendar to plan the things she is doing over her break. She says 'I love my calendar, I write in it every day, I also love the facts!'



Also pictured is a delightful display spotted on the wall of Barbican Playgroup which was put together by both teachers and

children as they talked about the things they'd like to do over the summer break. Look closely and you can even see a surfer!



Transitions with Coltale the Dragon.

Use these City of London cards to help your child's transition from early years to primary school and have the chance to enter a prize draw. The cards are designed to support all children but have a particularly focus on those with SEND.

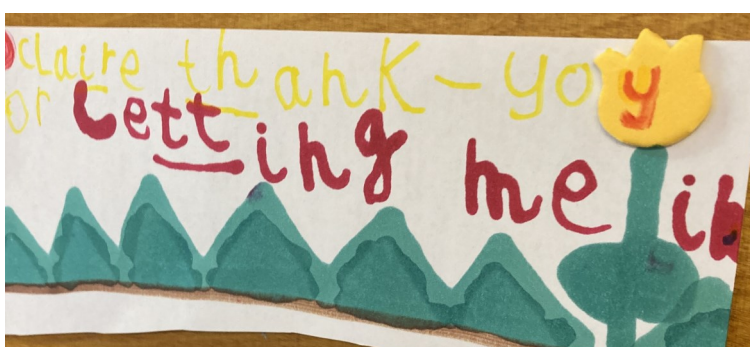
You can now collect them from your local library or early years setting!

Here are some pictures of early years providers and libraries receiving their transition cards for distribution to children who are moving to school in September. Pictured are staff receiving their copies at Smithfield House, Barbican Newpark Childcare, Hatchings Dragons and Barbican Playgroup. You can find more about transitions here!

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/ey-send-hub/get-ready-for-school-with-coltale>

And finally the last image is a note written to Barbican Playgroup from a child who returned after their first year in school. They have written "Thank-you for letting me back in!"

Remember to teach your child that transition is a journey and every transition is a new chapter waiting to be written!

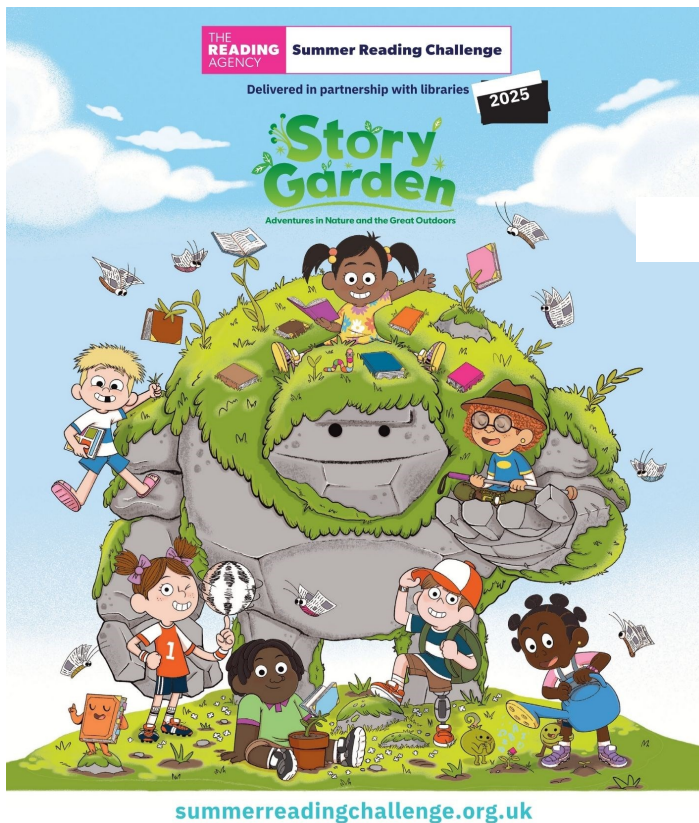


School Uniform Grant

The City of London offers financial assistance for school clothing and footwear to low-income families.

This grant is available once per academic year for children attending maintained primary or secondary schools (Reception to Year 11) with a published uniform policy. More information is available on the City of London website:

[School Uniform Grant Application - Introduction - My City](#)



Have you joined the **Summer Reading Challenge** at one of the City Community Libraries? The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4-11 to keep reading during the school summer holidays and helps them find books they enjoy.

For children aged 3 and under, they can sign up to **the Mini Challenge**, which is a bite-sized version of the Summer Reading Challenge for our younger readers. It is free to take part and runs until 13th September. You can join at Artizan Street Library, Barbican Children's Library and Shoe Lane Library.

This year's theme is: **Story Garden - Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors.**

For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge and events held at Barbican and Community Libraries visit:

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/summer-reading->

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