

November 2024

## 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](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### Book Club Free books for children under 5!



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>

### Talk Together, Learn Together Winner!



These cards were designed by the Early Years team and FIS Officer to encourage increased awareness of Speech and

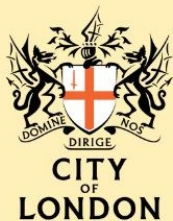
Language Development.

The cards were distributed over the summer break to Early years settings and libraries. By providing guidance and suggested activities, the cards aimed to help parents understand the importance of speech and language development in young children, leading to more intentional learning experiences.

The back page of the cards was for parents to share their talking and learning experiences with us and be entered into a prize draw to win a Coltale dragon puppet. The first winner, Phil and his 14 months daughter (picture above) spent the summer completing the activities and are now regular library visitors!







# Coltale's

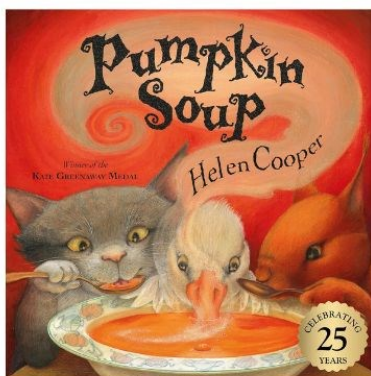
## NEWSLETTER

### AUTUMN 2024



## Book for the Autumn

This is a story about Cat, Duck, and Squirrel, who live deep in the woods in an old white cabin. Everyone has their own jobs to do when they cook. But mayhem ensues when Duck wants to stir the pumpkin soup instead. Talk about why its important to work together and take turns. Talk about the new vocabulary in the book and what it means. For example, slice, stir, chop, row, racket and rumpus!



In association with  
**Dolly Parton's  
Imagination  
Library!**



## Make Pumpkin Soup



### You will need:

- 1 small pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup heavy cream



### Step by step:

- Cook the pumpkin in the oven.
- Scoop the roasted pumpkin flesh out.
- Add the butter, garlic, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and pepper.
- Blend the mixture until smooth.
- Add the broth and cream.



## Pumpkin Painting

Mix paint or use stickers to create designs  
Have fun and let your creativity flow!



# Shoe Lane Library Recognised As A Must-Visit By Celebrity Family During London Stay .

**A famous Japanese family, who are a YouTube sensation, have named Shoe Lane Library as a favourite London destination.**

Obata no Onīsan, is a celebrated comedian and his wife Yuki Yamasaki, a well-known television presenter, post videos on their YouTube channel with over 139,000 subscribers, following their adventures on a stay in London.

Two weeks ago, they shared their top three favourite spots in the capital. The couple, who's videos sometimes receive over 2 million views, highlighted Shoe Lane Library as their second favourite family destination, coming in behind the Sky Garden and ahead of the iconic musical "The Phantom of the Opera."

The Obata family have a young son, and based their enthusiastic endorsement of Shoe Lane Library on its enriching atmosphere for children. Yuki remarked on the library's engaging offerings, which include a variety of toys and children's events such as Rhyme Time and Messy Play - all free of charge. Yuki praised the friendly library staff, particularly the librarians, who she called 'singing teachers', taking exceptional care of her son.

The Obata's video has had nearly 24,000 views, so Shoe Lane Library is bracing itself for an influx of Japanese visitors following in the footsteps of the online influencers! Shoe Lane Library's reputation as a welcoming and resourceful community hub for families is established within – and now outside - the City of London.

Thanks to the City of London parent who brought Shoe Lane Library's attention to the Obata's video and then took time to translate it!



You can watch the full video to see the family's favourite London spots after the 8:10 second mark:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



# Getting Help With The Cost Of Living

Get help with benefits, debts, housing costs, childcare costs and more.

Call City Advice on 020 7392 2919

Free advice is available to workers and students in the City, those living in the Square Mile and on a City of London Corporation estates.

Click on the link below for more information

[Getting help with the cost of living - City of London](#)



## SEND Library On FIS Website

Our Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Resources Library is designed to be a comprehensive hub for families, practitioners, educators, and caregivers seeking guidance, tools, and support.



Once you go onto the website page you will find a host of information to support you with your SEND research. Explore a variety of resources, including articles, books, videos, and guides on different special needs topics. Feel free to explore the sections below to find the resources that will best assist you on this journey.

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/practitioners/send-hub>

## Raising Awareness On PANS/PANDAS!

It's PANS/PANDAS Awareness month and an opportunity to enhance understanding of post-infectious medical neuro-psychiatric conditions. PANS and PANDAS are rare paediatric disorders that cause inflammation in the brain and can have a significant impact on a child's life. Following the onset of PANS or PANDAS, children and young people may unexpectedly present with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These symptoms can often be misinterpreted, resulting in delays in diagnosis and treatment. To learn more about this important topic, visit the links below where you'll find valuable resources. Together, let's work towards increasing awareness and ensuring timely support for those affected.

[PANS PANDAS UK](#)

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](mailto:EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk) | [www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.fyi.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

