

October 2026

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

School Admissions

We offer free advice to families living in the City of London about the school admission process and how to choose the right school for your child or about anything to do with education and school, for example:

- How to find your local schools
- What to look for in a school
- How and when to apply
- What to do if you don't get a place
- Help with completing the form

Email: EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Watch our quick introduction to the process of choosing and applying for a secondary school for your child, not just within the City of London but throughout all the other 33 London local authorities:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyb3_CMyWzo&t=1s

There's also a quick introduction to the process of choosing and applying for a primary school for your child, not just within the City of London but throughout all the other 33 London local authorities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MOI3mebjcA>

Or visit our Family Information page:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions>



Get Ready For School with Coltale at Artizan Library

Information session for parents and carers of children aged 2-5.
Story and Play will be available for children.

Are you looking at primary schools for your child? Do you want to know more about the application process and how you can help your child get ready for school? Join us on



24th November
10 - 11.30 am

Artizan Library, 1 Artizan St,
London E1 7AF



City of London Network Parent and Carer Panel

Help us shape our Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network.

Expressions of interest are wanted for a new Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network Parent and Carer Panel.

City of London Network is inviting parents and carers who live in the City of London to be part of our new Parent and Carer Panel.



The panel will be a small group of parents and carers (aged 18 or over), that helps oversee the planning and development of our Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network.

We'd particularly like to hear from parents and carers who:

- Live in the Portsoken and Middlesex Street area.
- Are from global majority communities.
- Have children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Register your interest and a member of the Best Start Family Hub – City of London Network team will be in touch after 19th October 2026 to let you know next steps

What's on offer?

- £10 high street voucher per hour of meeting time (around 3 meetings per year lasting no more than 2 hours)
- Information and support to help you be part of the Panel, no experience or prior knowledge necessary.
- Being part of driving positive change for children, young people and families in the City of London.

If you're interested in being part of the Panel, please complete this short form telling us a bit more about yourself by the end of Sunday 18th October 2026.

Fill out the form to register interest here:

<https://www.fis.cityoflondon.gov.uk/family-voice>



Join our Children's Voice WhatsApp group to get information, updates and hear about involvement opportunities around services and support for families from pre-birth to five-years-old.

Email EEYService@cityoflondon.gov.uk to find out how to be added to the group.



**FAMILY
HUBS**



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Stop Smoking This October



Join thousands of people across the country who are making the decision to stop smoking this October. If you stay smoke-free for 28 days, you're up to five times more likely to quit for good. You don't have to do it alone.

The NHS offers a range of support to help you succeed. Visit the NHS Better Health website to get started and discover how quitting can be easier than you think.

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>



Coltale's

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2026



BEST START IN LIFE

Book for the Autumn

Stanley the Baker by William Bee is all about a hamster who makes bread. Why not make bread with your child. Introduce the new vocabulary from the book. For example flour, yeast, salt and water. Enjoy mixing and rolling the dough together. Use words like mix, knead and fold.



Stanley
the Baker

In association with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library!



Crushing Wheat



Set up a sensory bin filled with spare ingredients such as Wheat, Pasta or Couscous. Use wooden spoons, a funnel, small bowls, and measuring cups. Your child can scoop and crush and pretend to make flour.

Make your own white paper baker's hat just like Stanley's.

Cut two 3-inch strips of white card to fit around your child's head and staple them together. Tape a piece of white tissue paper along the top edge of the card. Gently bunch the tissue paper as you tape it around the band so it puffs out on top.





Food On Our Doorstep





City FOOD Club

Good quality food at low cost

- Buy approx. £15 worth of food for just £4
- £1 a year membership price

City FOOD Club
Thursday 1-3pm, Friday 5-7pm
Artizan Street Library & Community Centre, 1 Artizan St, London E1 7AF

For more info scan the QR code, drop into one of our FOOD Clubs or email us at londonfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk



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