

Comet News

September 2020

Welcome back to all our returning children and to our new children and their families we would like to welcome you to Comet. What a strange time it has been for all of us and you will have noticed the new arrangements for dropping off and collecting you children and the use of masks by visitors within our centre. We look forward to working with all our new families and hope that the children will all enjoy their time with us.

Who we are!



Star Room team – Jessica/Roslyn (Class teachers), Nathan (NEO) Samantha (NEO)



Sun Room team - Beatriz (Class teacher), Busra (NEO) and Chelsea (NEO).



Moon Room team - Natasha (Lead NEO), Chantelle (NEO) Maria (NEO) and Kelly (NEO)

NEO = Nursery Education Officer



We would like to welcome Irene Mitchell, our new School Business Manger, to the Comet Team.

Early Years Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of certain benefits such as **Universal Credit, Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance** and think your child is entitled to free school meals please go to the Hackney Education website to complete the form for free school meals. Without confirmation of free school meals you will be charged the daily rate of £2.00. A daily menu is displayed outside Sun Room.

If you are entitled to free school meals the school automatically gets Early Years Pupil Premium funding of £350 per year. This means that your child will become part of our Natural Explorers group and will be able to go on local trips, be involved in Forest School and gardening activities. We really do rely on this extra funding to make sure our children get lots of different opportunities to extend their learning and interests.

We are giving away a FREE Comet t-shirt to all children who are entitled to free schools meals as a thank you for registering.



We have some Breakfast and Tea Club spaces available for children in Sun or Star Room. If you would like to know more please see the office.



Attendance and times at Comet

At Comet we believe it is really important for children to attend every day and that they are on time. This allows your child to start the beginning of their session with their friends and gives them positive life skills on the importance of being on time.

Our session times in **Sun and Star Room** (3 and 4 year olds) are:-

Morning session 9 - 11.30am
Afternoon session 12.45 - 3.15pm
30 hours provision 9am - 3pm
Full day for part time children 9am - 3.15pm



We are asking that all children are brought to nursery and collected on time. This is very important as there are staggered start and finish times and different entrances to provide social distancing for our families. Currently parents are unable to come into the nursery and so if you are late for any reason you will have to drop your child off at the reception area and a member of staff will come and collect them.

The register is completed every day. If you bring your child in late, they will be marked in late. It is also really important that your child is collected on time. If you need to collect your child please arrange this with the office team, however we would ask that you keep to the session times as much as possible.

Our session times in **Moon Room** (2 year olds) are:-

Morning session 8.30 - 11.30am
Afternoon session 12.30 - 3.30pm

You will need to bring and collect your children from the Orsman Road entrance however if you are late and the gate is shut you will need to come to the main entrance.

Please name your child's clothes

Please can you name your child's clothes especially the Comet sweatshirts. If you have lost any clothes please see ask the class team to help you find them.

*Don't forget to provide your child with a spare set of clothes to keep at nursery. There is a named bag on their peg. **The bag must be kept at school.***

Please also make sure your child has good shoes for running and climbing and a coat when it is getting colder.



Parents Information Evening – Date TBC

At this time of year, we are usually busy planning our Parents Information Evening. Unfortunately, we have to change our approach this year and cannot welcome families in person. We will let you know the date of our virtual event where we will talk through the learning and opportunities that children will experience at Comet. This will include a glimpse of the types of activities we provide on a daily basis.

Home Learning

We have lots of information and ideas for home learning so please see your child's keyworker if you would like information on something in particular. In addition, the 'Home Learning' section of the website is also full of ideas and stories to explore with you child.



We also provide a book borrowing service. Children will be provided with a school book bag and will be able to choose a book to bring home every Wednesday. Please share this book with your child and also keep it safe and cared for. We ask that you return the book bag the following Tuesday ready for a new book.

Macmillan Coffee Morning/Afternoon – Friday 25th September



We are hosting a coffee morning/afternoon to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This year we will have a stall with takeaway coffees, teas plus a selection of cakes and biscuits.

We rely on donations to support this lovely event so please drop your cakes and biscuits (homemade or shop bought) to the office and support on the day by purchasing something from the stall. If you don't fancy anything, please feel free to make a donation regardless. Our stall will be open at the main entrance at both drop off and pick up times. See you there!

Curriculum

As the children return to nursery and others join us for the first time, we are really working hard to make sure our curriculum offers lots of opportunities that support them post lockdown. This term we have a big focus on *Personal, Social and Emotional Development*, making sure that our children can adjust to nursery life, are happy and ready to make relationships with their peers and adults. It is hugely important that they feel safe and secure with us so we will be taking our time to make sure that this is the case.



Another big focus for us will be encouraging your child's *Physical Development*. It has been such an unusual time, some of our families have been shielding at home and for others physical activity has been more restricted with the closure of parks and public spaces. We are so lucky to have lovely outdoor areas which offer a range of physical challenges from running, climbing, cycling and much more.

Alongside these two areas of the Early Years Curriculum, we will continue to offer a variety of high-quality learning opportunities which respond to the needs and interests of your children. We look forward to sharing more information about this in the near future.

Parent consultations regarding your child's progress will be held this term by phone. Your child's key person will organise a time with you.

Thank you to all our families for your support in advance we will try and make everything work as smoothly as possible.

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2020

- Friday 25th September – Macmillan coffee morning/afternoon
Monday 14th October – Black Heritage Week
Tuesday 13th October - Steel Pan workshop for children
Monday 19th October – Farm visiting the nursery
Friday 23rd October – Spooky dress up party
26st October – 30th October – Half term holiday
Monday 2nd November – school closed INSET day
Tuesday 3rd November – Children return to school
Wednesday 4th November – School photographer for individual photos of children
Thursday 5th November – Firework display for children
Date to be confirmed - Primary School transition meeting for parents
Friday 13th November – Children in Need fundraising – Wear something spotty
Monday 16th November – Diwali celebrations
Friday 11th December – Children’s Christmas lunch (TBC)
Monday 14th December – Christmas sing-a-long performance for parents
Friday 18th December – Children’s Christmas Party & last day of term

Spring Term 2021

- Tuesday 5th January – Children return to school
Monday 8th February – Chinese New year (Year of the Ox)
15th – 19th February – Half term
Monday 22nd February – Children return to school
Monday 1st March – Book Week
Thursday 4th March – World Book Day
Sunday 14th March – Mother’s Day
Friday 19th March – Comic Relief charity day
Monday 29th March – Easter activities week
Monday 29th March – Autism Awareness week
Thursday 1st April – Last day of term

Summer Term 2020

- Monday 19th April – Closed for INSET Day (TBC)
Tuesday 20th April – Children return to school
Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday school closed
Saturday 8th May – Open day for new families
12th/13th May – Eid ul Fitr
31st May – 4th June – Half term
Monday 7th June – Children return to school
Canal trip for Sun and Star Rooms (TBC)
Sunday 20th June – Father’s Day
Monday 8th June – Art Week
Friday 9th July – Leavers reports to parents
Wednesday 21st July – Summer end of term party & last day of term

We will update you with new events as we plan them.