

News Flash!

Staff Award Winners

Breaking news: For the second year running we have two winners. We are proud to announce that both **Shaheena Suleman (Room leader, Sunshine Room)** and **Roshan Karim (Nursery Cook)** have won staff award of the year with over 20 votes each.

Speech given by Hafiza:

“Both these staff have shown great commitment in their work at Roof Top nursery from the beginning. They have cared for the children like their own and have always had the children’s, staff and parents interest at heart. Both these staff have been quoted by parents for their hard work, dedication, friendly personality. They have been noted for their endless energy working with the children. They have stood through many challenges and been a positive role model for all the staff team. They have gained demonstrated the meaning of working with children far greater than ever expected. According to parents, they are friendly, loving, caring, always smiling and making their child and the parents feel very welcome. According to me [Hafiza], Both staff members are very loyal and genuine and they deserve to win this award”

They both deserve this special recognition. They will be rewarded with an extra week’s holiday, which they will be taking at the end of August.

The evening was rounded off with a special treat from the manager Hafiza, who took all the staff to Maida Restaurant after the award ceremony. Hafiza also presented each and every staff member flowers and certificates for each of the different categories.

The staff would like to say a big thank you to Hafiza, for her generosity in rewarding the staff team.

Congratulations to all the winners of the several other categories most notably those who won Excellent attendance and timekeeping, most loyal staff and excellent commitment to team and many more. If parents would like to read the managers speech and the staff who were recognized under each category then this is available on request.



A special thanks to all the staff for their effort in preparing for the staff award ceremony. A lot of preparation and creativity went into organising this special ceremony making it an evening to remember and thank you to all the parents who took the time to write all the great things about the staff and for attending the award ceremony.

Our trip to Lego Land

It was fantastic to see so many families attend the trip to Lego Land on Saturday 29th June this year. Over a 135 of us went!

A special thanks to all the parents and families that attended and for your feedback.

We will endeavor to take your suggestions on board for next year's annual summer trip. Overall parents thought it was an enjoyable trip with lots to do and enjoyed meeting all the other parents, children and staff.

A very happy
birthday to Ilyas,
Flora, Edon, Ayla,
Rudy, Finnbar &
Rhea

Important! Some
parents are not
signing their children
in and out. It is crucial
that **every child is
signed in and out
every day by their
parent/ carer**

Photo Shoot

Our nursery photo shoots took place on Wednesday 3rd July 2013.
Photos will be ready for ordering soon

Ramadan

The month of Ramadan started last Wednesday 10th July. Ramadan is an Islamic month, whereby Muslims observe fast from dawn to dusk for a month. Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds, and spending time with family and close ones. Fasting helps one to acquire self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate across the world; thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity.

The majority of staff will be fasting this month, we wish them all a happy and blissful Ramadan and we hope that parents are patient with our staff especially with these long hot sunny days. The staff would like to thank all the parents for enquiring and wishing them well during this month.

Eid

Eid is a celebration marking the end of Ramadan and the first day of the new lunar month, Shawwal.

It is not possible to predict the date of Eid according to the Gregorian calendar accurately. This is because Islamic months are worked out according to the Lunar calendar and therefore dependant on the confirmed sighting of the new moon.

As such, we cannot give an exact day when it will be Eid and therefore when the nursery will close just yet but we can say it will be on either 7th, 8th or 9th of August. (We think it's most likely the 8th)

The exact date will be confirmed 10 days prior to Eid

Dental Inspection & fluoride coating

We had the dental team visit Rooftop on Wednesday 26th June 2013 and treat most of Star room children. The dental nurse carried out dental checks in our nursery and applied fluoride to those that requested it. It was a huge success; majority of the children willingly got their teeth inspected and treated.

We are offering this service to help prevent tooth decay in children aged between 3-6 years and meet the requirements of 'The Healthy Child Programme' to promote good dental health from an early age.

If this was your child's first treatment, then the second treatment will be applied later on in the year.

Star room did lots of preparing for the dental inspection to help build their confidence before the check-ups. They had a 'Dentist' theme week, using visual aids they discussed how and why we brush our teeth, read story books related to visiting the dentist.

To help them understand that food can affect their teeth, they sorted different types of food and snacks into 'good' and 'bad' categories which promoted their shared critical thinking skills.

Under the EYFS, we are encouraged to promote the children's self-care under the physical development aspect and this theme allowed us many opportunities to do so. For instance, within the home corner they did role plays pretending to be in a dentist dressing up in aprons with dentist mirrors and had a large model of a tooth brush and teeth set. Chanelle demonstrated how to brush their teeth and helped them brush their teeth after lunch. This helped to raise awareness of good dental hygiene and what to expect when the dentist came.

We are very proud of all the children who were so brave and willing to get their teeth inspected.

Taking Key File Home

If you take your child's Key File home, please sign it out and return within 3 days in the same condition. It is very important we have each child Key File, without any information missing, as it plays a key part in our OFSTED inspections. Staff put a lot of effort into these portfolios and we have had a few key files reported to be misplaced at home.

Transitions

Some children will be moving to new rooms from the 24th of July all the way to November. Rest assured this will be a smooth process. Most of Star room children will be going to Benthall School or other schools in the borough.

To ensure the transitions are made with ease, staff members will introduce those children to their new Key Person/teacher and their new room/school.

Transition books will be used by staff to help the children familiarise with their new room/school routines and the child's learning and development portfolios will be transferred to the new Key Person/teacher.

Khadija has been very busy making transition books for the children starting school. She has been round to some of the new schools, to meet the teachers, take photos of the new school as well as the different areas within the school and collecting school uniforms and book bags for Star Room home corner.

In this way, we aim to support the children to familiarise themselves with their new school, routines and uniform.

Look out for your child's transition dates. If you are not sure when your child will be changing rooms then please see your child's room leader. If you would like to meet your child existing or future key person then please free to book an appointment.

Goodbye to... With some of the children moving on to the new school, it means we will have to sadly say goodbye to Simian, Tyler, Leo, Elliot, Stella, Ihsan, Antonio, Jackson and Kyanna.

We will miss all the leavers, many of whom started with us as babies in Sunshine Room. It has been a pleasure to see them grow and develop into such fine intelligent young children ready to embark into their new milestone in life. Remember to come back and visit us.

We would like to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for entrusting your child to our care and for donating and supporting the nursery in so many ways throughout the years.

Leavers party

The leaver's party took place on Wednesday 17th July to say goodbye to all the children who are leaving. It was a great way to celebrate the children's time here at Roof Top and bid them farewell.

Star room would also like to thank the parents for attending, helping and contributing towards the leaving Party. It was lovely to see so many attend the party and a chance to get star room children and parents together one last time to bid them farewell.

Also a thank you to Hafiza for all the children's goodbye presents. It was delightful to see them receiving and opening their presents so excitedly adding a thoughtful touch to the party.

Just to inform all parents there is a '**Star Room Comments**' box near the computer in Star room for the children to post notes, letters or pictures. The children have been informed that it would be nice to post anything that they would like to say to staff or children for us to read.

New settlers

We will be welcoming two new settlers this month, Arthur and Axl in Sunshine Room

Staff Update

New Staff

A warm welcome to Jean, our newest member of staff. She has been appointed as the nursery cleaner. She has been with us for over a month now and hope she enjoys her time here.

Staff training

To support and extend our staff knowledge and professional development we endeavour to train our staff in ways that support the interests and needs of our children and setting.

Last month, Diana went on **Food hygiene training** to learn about food safety and hygiene. As we serve food within the nursery, we ensure staff are equipped with the necessary training to prepare the food and snacks. Most of our senior staff that prepare breakfasts and snacks throughout the day have now been on the food hygiene training.

Fatema attended training on **teaching Maths to younger children**. This was a chance to learn about making maths enjoyable and understanding that maths is all around us.

Shaheena went on **Supporting Babies Development**. This training session highlighted the importance of secure attachments and quality interaction with babies, an understanding of the key stages in their development.

Khadija attended a training session on **Supporting English as an Additional Language**, which highlighted the importance of promoting children's home language. This training session helped to understand the process of developing English as an additional language and the ways in which we can support children to participate fully and access the curriculum and of ways to include parents in this process.

Play, Learning and Development

What the children did last month

Star Room

Activities in Star room

Star room notice.

- ✓ Book Bags: please remember to bring book bags in either Tuesdays or Thursdays. These need to be changed on a weekly basis.
- ✓ Can parents regularly check their child's bag to ensure they have spare clothes, especially underwear and trousers/ skirts and socks. If you have spare unwanted clothes we would be grateful if you could donate it to the nursery.
- ✓ Show and Tell: 1st week of every month
- ✓ Letter of the month: **E**. The children will be taking their phonics pack home. Please help your child to practice writing this letter and bring an object beginning with **E**

Lego Land

Star room children really enjoyed Lego land. The trip allowed the children to share their experiences, talking about what they did and the rides they went on. Since the trip, the children have been enjoying playing with legos even more creating spaceships, rockets, boats and buildings.

Mathematical development

Star room have been focusing on achieving some of the children's targets this month. One of their targets is to recognise and represent numbers. As such, they have been doing a range of fun and engaging activities that encompass mathematics. For example they have been singing number songs such as 1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive, ten little monkeys jumping on the bed, ten green bottles.

The children have been learning how numbers 1 to 11 can be represented using linking rabbits, small teddy bears and number cards, providing a mix of visual resources to help the children make sense of numbers.

Literacy

The second target Star room have been focusing on this month is for the children to learn letters of the alphabet, especially the letters in their name. They have been practising writing their first name and as some of the children have now achieved this, they are learning to write their middle and last name.

The reading, writing, and number activities are a way of providing challenging and playful opportunities to support the children to develop essential skills and knowledge to prepare them for school and enable them to become effective and active learners.

Exploring textures

As part of the children's expressive arts and design targets, Star room have been exploring different textures from a range of materials and resources such as cotton wool and sand. This activity enabled the children to describe and differentiate what the textures feel like.

"I like sand because it's soft" (Ivy)

"Cotton wool is soft too!" (Amit)

Personal, Social and emotional development

Managing feelings

Star room have also been focusing on the children's personal, social and emotional development. More specifically they have been focusing on their feelings. They have been talking about what makes them happy, sad or afraid in order to support the children to build their self-confidence and be aware of others feelings.

"I like it when my mummy and daddy give me cuddles" (Ivy)

"I like coming to the nursery" (Torin)

Talking about personal feelings in this way enables the children to feel secure, open up and talk to others and their teachers about how they are feeling and develop positive relationships, which is a crucial aspect in the children's learning and development. This also enables the practitioners to be even more responsive to the children's needs, feelings and interests and that they are happy, secure, and able to be themselves. Seeing how effective this is for Star room children, it will be part of their daily routine during circle time activities.

Going to school

As Star room children will be leaving us, staff have been helping our children prepare for primary school. They have been talking about the children's primary school that they will be going to and about making new friends. They have been sharing their experiences, telling others about their school visits, the name of their school and describing their uniform. To prepare them for some of the new school routines they have been discussing primary school routines. As a few of the children will be going to Benthall School, they have been looking at the Benthall transition book to

help the children familiarise themselves with the school and ease the transition process. The home corner was used to role-play school routines, and explore different school uniforms and book bags.

We hope that these activities would enable them to build their knowledge and confidence so they are better equipped for their new setting. The transition process will continue until the children leave to go school. We wish them all a smooth and happy transition.

Free- Flow

Star room children have the choice of free-flow play, outdoors and indoors. The children have really been enjoying playing outdoors and even having their snack outside, as the weather has been so lovely. With all the water play set up outdoors, the children really look forward to playing with water and it has been a good way of keeping them cool. Free - flow will continue, as it has been a good way of promoting choice and independence within the children to support them to become confident and active learners.

My achievement board

Look out for some of Star rooms children's certificates they received for winning the young writer's poetry competition.

This was a great introduction to poetry for the children as well as a chance to have the children's poems published alongside their peers and children around the country.

If your child received a certificate, please bring it in the nursery for us to make a copy and pin to the achievement board for the children to see and celebrate their achievement.

Rainbow room

Reminders

Birthday shout out to Edon and Ayla who have turned 2 and have recently been settling into Rainbow room.

New arrival....We have wonderful news!! We would like to congratulate Rudy's parents Alex and James on their new baby girl, Billy. We're all really excited that your new baby has arrived happy and healthy.



New Settlers

Rainbow Room would like to welcome Edon and Ayla, who have been settling into Rainbow room and seem to have got on very well with the adults and peers. They have formed a bond with their key person and the other children in Rainbow room.

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Please remember to....

- Provide sun hats for your child as it getting hot.
- Provide sun cream if your child does not use the nursery sun cream.
- Ensure your child has plenty of nappies, wipes and spare clothes for those that are toilet training.

What the children did last month:

Free flow: Understanding the world and personal social and emotional development.

Rainbow room children have had access to free flow session this whole month, which gives them opportunities to have continuous access to both indoor and outdoor play.

Allowing children to have free flow has a positive impact on their development. It allows them new learning experiences, the freedom to choose activities and follow their interests, and boost their mental and physical wellbeing and confidence. Giving the children the opportunity to choose in this way is one of the characteristics of effective learning. It enables the children to think critically, and promotes active learning and engagement.

By allowing the children to choose and direct their play, it gives them the opportunity to make decisions and assess risks, solve problems and develop independence and imaginative skills as well as enabling them to socialise with their peers.

Male carers week- helping the children extend their personal, social and emotional development

During male carers week, the children have been busy doing various sticking activities to promote their creativity. They made cards for their dads, granddad, uncles and brothers, created a collage of a trophy by using by using a range of with materials of their choice such as sequins and glitters.

The children made a picture of their father by using their imaginative skills. They confidently added small details to their picture, for example eyes, nose, hair and clothes. Through encouragement, the children shared stories about their dad to the rest of their class. This activity was a good way of encouraging to the children to use their language and communication to express their ideas and manage their feelings which is a very important aspect in their personal, social and emotional development.

Rainbow Room children created a display table with books relating to male carers, photo albums of pervious male cares events for the children to read and look at. This acted as a source for discussion amongst the children.

As the children enjoy cooking sessions they all helped to make biscuits, shaped as a man, which they took home to share with their families in light of male carers' day. The cooking session was a good way of promoting the children's physical development through mixing and shaping.

Continuing the baby area

Due to the number of children having siblings in Rainbow room and the impact it has on their life, Rainbow room have continued the baby area theme in the home corner for the children to explore and look after. Rainbow room staff have been reading special baby books to the children in small groups to build their awareness and understanding. The children have been doing role-play pretending to feed the babies, wash them and put them to sleep in the home corner. Aklima, Diana and Asma have been encouraging the children to talk about their feelings and about the new baby. Some children were very keen to talk about their siblings and how they have been very gentle towards them.

Some of the things the children said about their siblings...

Albert: "My sister's called iris, she's little"

Joseph: "Alex is at school now"

Max said his brother's a big boy.

Oliver said "baby's not here yet"

Jasmine "My brother's called Arthur, his in baby room"

Rudy said his going to share his toys with his sister

The baby theme was an effective way of supporting the children's social, emotional and personal development by helping them to manage their feelings in a playful environment with stimulating resources, which made links to their home life.

Walking through the jungle...

The children have been showing interest in zoo animals, and will often share their weekend trip experience with their peers and talk about what animals they have seen at the zoo.

The children also did role-play on the play roof pretending to be a zoo keeper, and searching the play roof for hidden animals.

In order to extend on their interest, the staff have been reading books relating to zoo animals and safaris. They have been experimenting and creating animal sounds. They have also been creating various collages of wild animals such as elephants, giraffes, monkeys and snakes using rice, paint, crepe paper and stampers.

Rainbow room created a zoo area with wild animals and leaves and created a mountain using green materials and edu blocks for the children to explore and role-play.

To extend the children's creativity, the children created an animal mask of their choice. They were given a choice between a lion, zebra or tiger to make using paper plates and crepe paper. They then used the mask to carry out role-plays in the room.

Adults also encouraged the children to talk about their favourite animals, thinking about the different shapes, size and colours to help them develop an understanding of size and colours.

The children also created a very large tree for the jungle by means of a printing technique using legos and brown and green paint.

Sunshine room

Sunshine room updates

If your child has their own sun hat please write their names on it

Sunshine room will continue with water play so all children need spare clothes, nappies and wipes.

What Sunshine room did last month

Physical development

Promoting self-care

Some of the children in Sunshine Room, such as Amaya and Ayla have shown an interest in having their hair brushed and accessorising their hair with clips and hair bands. In order to extend this interest, Sunshine room set up a hairdressing corner with loads of resources such as brushes, combs and hair accessories. The children freely went along to their hairdressing corner as and when they chose to; to get their hair done and even had the choice to brush their own hair,

supporting them to build an awareness of self-care, which is an important part of their development.

Caring for babies

For the children who are expecting siblings this year, Sunshine room have based some of their activities on caring for babies to help support the children with their personal, social and emotional development.

Reuben, Thomas, Ilyas, Sylvia and Amaya all took part in washing the baby dolls and brushing their hair. The dolls were placed in a large black tray with water in the home corner with sponges, shampoo bottles, brushes etc allowing the children to bathe the dolls and take care of them. Tom, Thomas and Ilyas really enjoyed splashing the water!

These activities provided a sensory experience for the children, and supported their gross motor skills through handling of the dolls as well helping them to develop a sense of self-care.

Communication and language

Sunshine room staff have observed that during free-play, Sylvia, Amaya, Tom and Tara have been choosing to read *Cows in the Kitchen*. Most of the children in Sunshine room really enjoy reading this book and making animal sounds. They have been listening attentively to the story and repeating the sounds. Most of the older children in the room- Sylvia, Tom, Tara, Amaya, Ayla- have been able to say the lines out aloud by themselves for example: 'Cows in the kitchen Moo Moo Moo'.

This is a fantastic storybook that engages the children, encouraging them to make connections between animals and sounds, learn new words and perform different movements as they listen to it being read out.

Creative play

Sunshine room children extended this animal theme in their creative play by painting templates of pigs using pink paint. The children were able to practise their mark making skills and develop their hand-eye coordination through this activity.

Sunshine room children also did a sticking activity using glue and black tissue paper to stick on to a template of a cow. This also enabled the children to develop their hand-eye coordination and explore glue as some enjoyed spreading it across their hands.

To encourage the children to explore different textures, they decorated a paper template of a sheep with cotton wool, allowing them children to also make connections between the colours and textures of different animals.

Water-play

Sunshine room children have been enjoying water play activities, both indoors and outdoors. They enjoy splashing with water and emptying and filling objects and cooling themselves in the heat.

Supporting physical development

Promoting and supporting children's physical development is a prime area of development for the babies. As such most of the activities are planned to promote their gross motor development. Sunshine room staff have been encouraging the young babies to use walkers and push along toys to help them to balance and learn to walk. Thea is amongst our new walkers, she is becoming more confident taking her steps. Sunshine room will continue to support the babies in their physical development.

Dates for your Diary

Nursery closed for Eid
TBC (7th, 8th or 9th August)

Last day of term
Thursday 15TH August at 4pm

Inset Day
Monday 2nd September 2013

Nursery re-opens
Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Nursery closes early
Friday 27th September 2013 at 4pm

Fun Day
Saturday 28th September 2013
9.30-3.30pm

Nursery fees

Thank you to all parents that have been paying their fees on time. We would like to remind parents to make sure they pay their children's nursery fees on time to avoid incurring a late payment fine, or in cases of serious arrears to be refused childcare. If this is not possible, please speak to Hafiza as soon as possible to make a more suitable arrangement.

If you would like to set up a standing order with the nursery, please contact the office where we can give you the relevant details.

All fees must be paid in advance at the beginning of the month.

Comments/ Suggestions

Please feel free to write any suggestions/comments you may have on the space below and return the slip to the office or post it into our suggestion box located on Rainbow Room counter.

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

Dates for the diary:

Formal Parent's Afternoon:

Friday 25th July 2012

9am – 11:00am, 2:00pm to 2.50pm & 4.30pm – 5:30pm

Last day of term:

Wed 15th August at 4pm

Staff Inset day:

Mon 3rd Sept

Nursery re-opens:

Tuesday 4th September

Nursery closed for Child Protection Training:

Date to be confirmed

THANK YOU!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the lovely comments and Trip suggestions. Please keep them coming in! Our suggestion box is kept on the Rainbow Room counter. Alternatively feel free to hand your suggestions or comments into the office.

Suggestions / Comments:

Please feel free to write any suggestions/comments you may have below and return the slip to admin or post into our suggestion box located on the Rainbow Room counter.

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____