

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

### Free books for under 5's



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>

### Makaton

Communicating does not just involve speaking. While we are talking, we will also be using gestures, facial expression, eye contact and body language. All this is communication. Makaton uses speech with signs (gestures) and symbols (pictures) to help people communicate. Would you like to learn some useful signs to use with your child?

As part of our Coltale programme (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) we post Makaton videos every Wednesday on our social media platforms. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or search Square Mile Families. All our 2024 videos can be accessed in the FIS website SEND library.

[SEND Library - families & practitioners - City of London Family Information Service](#)



# Learning at Home with Coltale the Dragon.



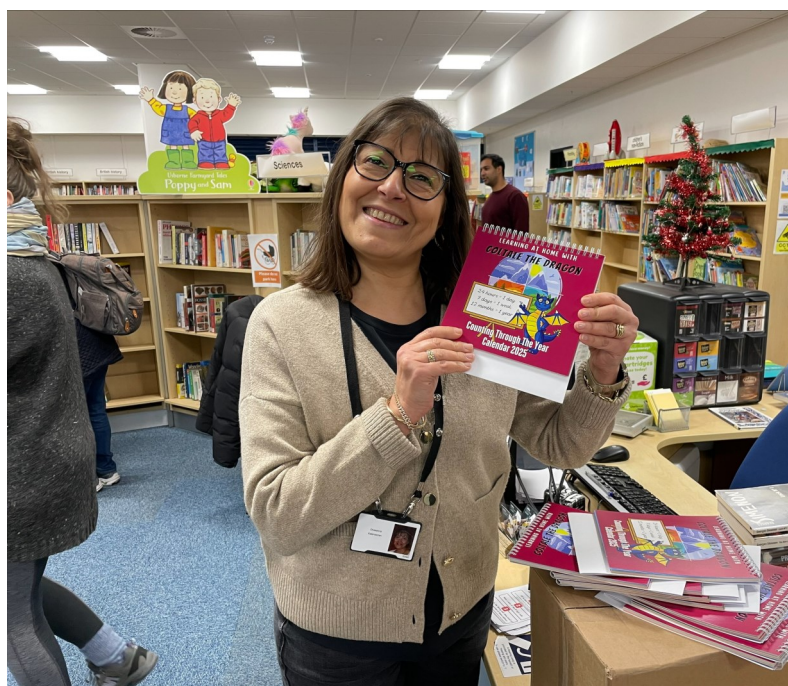
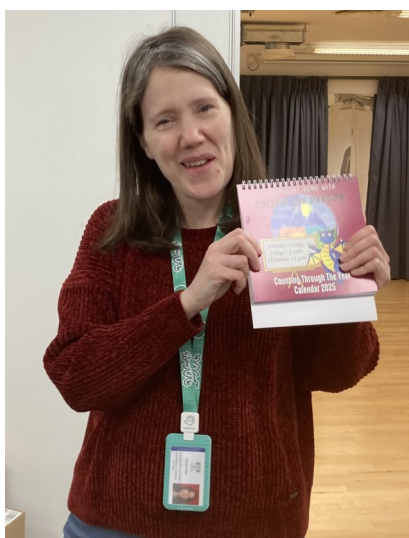
Our Family Information Service and Early Years calendar was designed using ideas from parents, children and staff across the city.

Here are a few pictures of The City Child and Family Centre, Barbican Play Group, Newpark Childcare Centre, Artizan Library and Shoe Lane Library receiving their copies!

There's a monthly mathematical activity tailored to 0 to 5 year old children. The activities will give parents and carers the chance to take advantage of home learning opportunities with their children.

The early years are the perfect time to lay the foundation for mathematical thinking, not just by introducing numbers and shapes, but by nurturing problem-solving skills, patterns of reasoning, and a love of discovery. These are tools children need to navigate not just the classroom but the world.

Let this calendar inspire you to see mathematics through the eyes of a child - full of wonder, possibility, and joy. We hope you enjoy it!



You can collect your calendar from your child's Nursery or local City Library.  
Thank you to everyone who contributed.

# Janet MacGregor: A Beacon of Inspiration and Community Service Recognised with the British Empire Medal



**Janet MacGregor**, the manager of Smithfield House Nursery, has been awarded the prestigious British Empire Medal (BEM) for her exceptional community service

and charitable endeavours.

Her unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and families in her community has made a profound impact and serves as an inspiring example for others.

Janet has skilfully created an inclusive atmosphere within her nursery, where all children are welcomed and celebrated. She is known for personally greeting each child by name, fostering a sense of belonging that extends to both children and their families.

Her dedication to early childhood education is evident in the nurturing environment she has established, emphasising love, joy, and high-quality learning experiences.

One of her most commendable actions was her immediate response to the arrival of Afghan refugee children. Without hesitation, she offered childcare places, demonstrating remarkable compassion during a challenging time for these families.

Janet's advocacy for children with additional needs further underscores her commitment to ensuring that every child receives the support they require to thrive.

Beyond her work at the nursery, Janet is actively involved in charitable initiatives that highlight her dedication to improving lives.

She has organised significant fundraising efforts, including participating in a tandem parachute jump and a 126-mile trek along the Great Wall of China, all to support various causes. Janet also raised over £9,000 for Gulf War Veterans and has also championed donations for local maternity units during times of personal grief.

Janet MacGregor's exceptional work reflects the powerful influence one individual can have in nurturing future generations and supporting those in need. Her story is one of compassion, resilience, and a relentless drive to make a difference in the community.



The Early Years team and Family Information Service wish Janet huge congratulations!

Janet (left) is pictured with our Lead Early Years and SEND Advisor, Isabelle Dennie discussing early years educational provision.

# Bumps and Babies

Barbican Children's Library.  
10-11.30 am every  
3rd Thursday of the  
month.



Meet new parents  
and parents to be

Fun and Educational  
Activities

Pregnancy  
advice



A safe, nurturing, and engaging  
environment where you and  
your little ones can thrive.

**FIRST SESSION 23RD  
JANUARY 2025**

Better Health  
Smoke free

NHS



# Make 2025 the year you quit smoking.

We can help you quit for good.

Search **Better Health**  
quit smoking now for free support.

Remember that the deadline for making an application for your child's admission to a Primary School is 15th January! Click the link below to see a video explaining how to apply. [City of London Primary Schools Admissions Video 2024-25 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Do you have children?  
Do you know how to get them  
into education?

## Get help finding a school or childcare

 Education and  
Early Years Service  
02073321002 | [eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/schooladmission)



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)

