

Freshly Minted

Coin Street family and children's centre newsletter

Coin Street 

Issue 17 | Dec 2016

Celebrating Christmas at Coin Street



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The festive season is in full swing at Coin Street. On **3 December** we were blessed with a crisp and sunny winter's day for our **Magical Christmas** event at **Gabriel's Wharf**. Friends, family and visitors enjoyed an afternoon of making reindeer hats and pipe cleaner decorations listening to live music from **The Valentinos** and carols from the **National Deaf Children's Society**.

On **Saturday 17 December** our **Family Support** team hosted a crafty Christmas party, which was attended by many local families.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 December Nursery 'Songs around the Christmas Tree'

23 December Last nursery day for holiday break

The excitement was palpable on the afternoon, as people really got into the festive activities, facepainting and reindeer hunt in **Bernie Spain Gardens**.

This year nursery children and staff sat down together to enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch of roast turkey with all the trimmings cooked by 'Cheffy' Jo, complete with Christmas crackers and hats.

The children in the nursery have been working hard to prepare **'Songs around the Christmas**

30 December Citizens' Advice Bureau

3 January Nursery re-opens after holiday break

'Tree', a very special show for parents and carers to be held in the **Coin Street neighbourhood room** on **21 December at 4pm**.

Preparation included making presents for the display, learning lots of songs and practising with their musical instruments.

On the day, the children will be wearing Christmas jumpers in aid of **Save the Children**. Spectators are invited to don their best (or worst) Christmas jumpers to support this great cause and to join in the carol singing.

6 January Young at Heart Seniors' party

21 January Dad and male carers Group

• For a full programme of activities visit www.coinstreet.org, pick up a leaflet from the Coin Street neighbourhood centre or speak to a member of the Coin Street team.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Christmas Party



On **Saturday 17 December** Coin Street **family and children's centre** enjoyed an afternoon of activities full of festive fun.

Children and their parents and carers made Christmas themed arts and crafts, had their faces painted and enjoyed a treasure hunt in Bernie Spain Gardens.

For more information about our range of family activities please contact **Hayley McGrane** on **020 7021 1634** or **h.mcgrane@coinstreet.org**.

Pictured: The party in full swing



Mini Engineers Lego Workshop



Pictured above: Mini engineers show their ingenuity

Over twenty children attended our **Mini Engineers Lego Workshop** on **25 and 26 November**. They demonstrated just how much fun you can have and how much learning you can do in only 45 minutes. To warm-up for the session about trains, the children learned to build the letter 'T' using



Duplo bricks. Each child went on to construct a station for a train to pass through with a little help from their parents. They built some fabulously colourful carriages with passengers in them. The carriages were joined together and a working engine attached which allowed their



new inventions to chug along the railway to much excitement and cheering from the children.

Finally, they all took part in a friendly competition to build the tallest brick tower. Comments from parents included: "A really good idea!" "We really enjoyed

NURSERY

Christmas craft afternoons

Throughout December, parents, carers, children and nursery staff have really enjoyed taking part in art and craft activities. They have been decorating Christmas tree biscuits and filling plastic baubles with a variety of Christmassy items to take home and hang on their trees.

These sessions offered a great opportunity for the families to spend time together, getting to know other parents, carers and nursery practitioners as well as a chance for parents to see how creative their child can be.

Pictured right: Crafty nursery sessions



Bringing paintings to life at the National Gallery



In November, **Discoverers** attended a series of interactive workshops at the **National Gallery**. These sessions aim to introduce children to Old Masters' paintings through stories, songs, music, visual analysis, discussion and object handling. These techniques inspire their curiosity and strengthen observation and thinking skills.



The first few sessions of the programme introduced the children to the artworks through play, storytelling and painting using different techniques. This playful approach provided a springboard for deeper discussion and analysis once Discoverers had moved onto

the main galleries to look at the paintings, some of which are over 200 years old.

They were particularly drawn to the paintings of horses and soldiers. At the end of the session it was amazing to see the children walk through the gallery stopping to look at paintings as they shared their interests and fascinations, noticed a variety of details and asked many questions. The gallery offers many programmes which are designed for families to explore art together on their own in the museum. See the **EVENTS** section on **page 4** to find out more.

Pictured left: Getting arty in the gallery

TESCO BAGS OF HELP GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE

We are delighted to reveal that we have bagged **£10,000** from the **Tesco Bags of Help** initiative.

The supermarket teamed up with **Groundwork** to launch its Bags of Help initiative, which saw grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to

environmental and greenspace projects.

Huge thanks to everyone who voted for us. We will now begin work on bringing our project to life. Look out for regular updates on the **Garden Project** in **2017**.

Pictured right: The outdoor play area that this award will allow us to improve



TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Upgrade yourself: Volunteer mentors needed

Upgrade Yourself is a project delivered by Coin Street and SE1 United that supports young people with their studies and advice about their future choices.

We are looking for volunteer mentors for one hour between 5 and 8pm every Monday to support school kids with academic work. Ideally tutors will be available in the 5-6pm slot, as we have a waiting list for that

time. We are looking for tutors who can help in:

- Maths (Key Stage 3) – x2
- English (Key Stage 3) – x2
- Science (Key Stage 3) – x1
- Spanish (Key Stage 3) – x1
- Science (GCSE) - x2
- English (GCSE) – x2
- Maths (GCSE) – x1
- Economics (GCSE Level) – x3
- Computer Science (GCSE) – x1
- Business Studies (GCSE) – x1

This list of subjects is not exhaustive. If you are willing to tutor another subject which is not included please let us know as we'd be delighted to have you on board.

If you, or anyone you know, can volunteer to tutor a young person for one hour in any of the subjects listed, contact **Harjinder Nijjar** on **020 7021 1633** or h.nijjar@coinstreet.org.

EVENTS

Stories in Art

Stories in Art is organised at the **National Gallery** and introduces children (**aged 4 to 7**) to artists through careful looking, storytelling, and hands-on experimentation. Led by museum educators, each hour-long program includes reading a children's book, exploring one work of art in the galleries, and completing a simple, hands-on activity.

If you would like to attend some of their sessions visit www.nga.gov in **January 2017** for a complete list of programme topics and dates.

Young at Heart seniors' party, 6 January, 6 - 10.30pm

Returning for its 17th year **Young at Heart** continues to unite Coin Street's seniors for an evening of delicious food, great music and wonderful memories.

If you know someone who would like to go to this event, tickets for only **£5** are available from the **Colombo Centre, 34-68 Colombo Street, London SE1 8DP**.

For more information contact **Daniel Gibbs** on **020 7021 1625** or d.gibbs@coinstreet.org.



Pictured above: Having a ball at last year's Young at Heart party

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have any advice or suggestions you would like to share with other parents and carers, please send them to **Jenny Deeks**, j.deeks@coinstreet.org and we'll try to include them in the next issue of **Freshly Minted**.

With special thanks to Deborah Kukathas, Furhana Yusuf, Kathryn Yiannadji, Toni McGlynn and Harjinder Nijjar for their contribution to this issue of Freshly Minted.

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