

# INTOUCH

ISSUE 59 - August 2023



## Foreword

As we bid farewell to this remarkable edition of Skolasajf, it's essential to acknowledge the incredible hard work that has brought us to this moment. Months of preparation work have led to eight weeks of dedication, learning, and fun, that have shaped unforgettable memories for our students and staff.



Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the dedicated 2505 staff members at the centres, who have been the backbone of Skolasajf. Your tireless efforts have created a safe and nurturing environment where our students thrived. We are equally grateful to our 78 partners who collaborated with us, providing engaging and enjoyable sessions and outings for all our centres. Your contributions have enriched this summer's experience beyond measure. A special thank you also extends to all the children and parents whose cooperation and participation in the centres' events created the teamwork so necessary between FES and families, to create a wholesome community environment for the children to enjoy. Our last nod of acknowledgment goes to the Head Office staff, whose unwavering support, guidance, and behind-the-scenes work have been instrumental in making this summer a resounding success.

Though the Skolasajf service is soon over, the other FES services are in full swing. Application for the Klabb 3-16 service are open and parents are invited to apply via the online portal [services.fes.gov.mt](https://services.fes.gov.mt), or at any of the [servizz.gov](https://servizz.gov.mt) hubs. Assistance can also be sought via **Freephone 153**.

Our 12 Childcare Centres are also hubs of activities, with the wondrous journey of the Emergent Curriculum allowing the children to explore new learning opportunities each day. This newsletter contains a step by step guide on how to choose your preferred FES Childcare Centre.



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# COMMENTS OF APPRECIATION

Follow

Always a pleasure working with **Foundation for Educational Services**



Well done and thank you for all ur dedication 🙏



They are guided well in Winter and flourish also in Summer xxx



Well done for organising interesting cultural activities. Well done to a great team of dedicated staff from FES

Like Reply Hide 3w

They really enjoyed themselves. Thanks for all the great work you do 🙏

Thanks for everything for supporting our kids on a creative summer programme

Like Reply Hide 4w

Well done to our amazing students

Like Reply Hide 3w

Good afternoon. I would like to thank FES for the wonderful summer school experience that my son has received this year. I have a child with special needs who attended Msida Summer school under the supervision of Ms. Doris. She was amazing, very well organised, cooperative and always ready to organise different activities for the children to make sure that they look forward to go to school the following day. From my end, given my son's intellectual needs, he cannot understand that Saturdays and Sundays the school is closed, and it was not the first time that he was crying to go to school during the weekends and I ended up driving to school so he can confirm that the school is closed. I have nothing but words of praise for Ms. Doris and her amazing team. Very Well done!

Well done to all that were involved to help make this event successful! The children loved it!

Top fan

and all the staff, well done for all ur dedication our children really enjoyed themselves. Thanks always! ❤️

You are more than welcome. Students are really enjoying the presentations and participating during the programme. Well done to all & FES 😊

Like Reply Hide 2w

Kien ta' pjacir għalina li naħdmu ma skolasajf. Li taħdem għal gid artistiku u kulturali tat-tfal dejjem hi xi haġa eċċezzjonali.

Like Reply Hide 3w

Well done naħseb l-aqwa summer school mil FES kolla din!

Like Reply Hide 3w

Top fan

Prosit tal impenn minn naha ta dawk kollha li huma involuti. It tfal jitgħallmu u jiehdu pjacir.

My son has been using this service for years. First year at Xaghra. It was the best year ever! He gladly went there. well done guys you did a great job. Keep it up !! 🙏

Very well done to all the Staff and thanks to everything that you do with our kids.

Like Reply Hide 4w



# VALLETTA SKOLASAJF HAND SCULPTURE



An artistic installation by the **Skolasajf Valletta students**, under the diligent guidance of their Centre Coordinator **Mr Keith Scicluna**, has become the norm.

These pictures show the works in progress and also the final product of this year's art piece. This installation was made possible thanks to the generous commitment of the **Valletta Local Council**.

The students at Valletta Skolasajf inaugurated the artwork in the presence of the FES Chairperson Ms Pamela Schembri, the FES CEO Mr Michael Bondin, the Valletta Mayor Mr Alfred Zammit, and the Valletta Head of School Mr Saviour Agius.

Well done to all for this amazing Peace related installation, which will remind students throughout the year about the celebration of Peace.



# WARDIJA RESOURCE CENTRE

Young adults from **Skolasajf Wardija Resource Centre** had the opportunity to attend the Airwing Section in Kirkop.

This educational experience gave the students a better insight of the works of the rescue section where they had the opportunity to watch a hands on session.

Moreover, they had a tour around the hangers and saw various aircrafts.

We would like to thank the Armed Forces for their sterling work and commitment and in offering such experiences to our students.



# LAUNCH OF BOOK

## “AHNA T-TFAL, HBIEB TAL-ANNIMALI”



The second edition of the publication ‘Ahna t-tfal, Hbieb tal-Animali’ was launched at Skolasajf Marsascala San Gwakk. It consists of 38 pieces of writings written by students who attended Skolasajf during the summer of 2022. based on an initiative by the Animal Welfare Directorate, and the Office of the Commissioner for Animal Welfare, the book makes children think about the animals with whom we co-habit on this planet, and the need to take care of them. The writing activities served as a literacy workshop moderated by the class Playworkers as they guided the children through rhyme or prose. The workshop were also an opportunity to foster creativity and imagination, as they pondered on their pets and the other animals so useful to mankind.

The book was launched in the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Animal Rights. Dr Alicia Bugeja Said, officials from the Animal Welfare Directorate, the FES CEO Mr Michael Bondin, and the main guest of honour, LUNA, the lovely dog visiting the Skoalsajf Centres on a regular basis.



# WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

This year FES was very proud to welcome a number of new partners for its Skolasajf programme. One of them was the **Western Regional Council**, who supported a number of different initiatives in different centres. These were programmes about Art (at Safi), Crib Making (Dingli), First Aid (at Qrendi and Imqabba), an Intergenerational Encounter titled Tan-Nanna Helu Manna (at Żurrieq), and the Corallo Project - Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations titled Dive 360° (at Sigġiewi).

FES would like to thank **Hon. Alison Zerafa Civelli** MP who is the Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, members of the Western Region Council such as the President **Mr Sandro Azzopardi**, the Executive Secretary **Ms Elke Sghendo**, and the Executive Officer **Mr Dario Borg**, and the mayors of the localities who supported these events.



Qrendi



Safi



Sigġiewi



Zurrieq



Dingli



Imqabba

# SKOLASAJF ACTIVITIES



Qrendi - water games



Jean's Photography

Mqabba - crafting doves, symbols of peace and joy



Xaghra - cavernous adventure



Xghajra - Healthy Cooking Activity



Siggiewi - Crazy Hair Day



Marsa - Washing Day



Żurriq - Messy Play



Floriana - Blow Painting



Mġarr - At the Aquarium



Marsascala St Joachim - Celebrating the feast

# OUR PARTNERS IN SKOLASAJF



Dingli - Community Police



Safi - Civil Protection Malta



Haż-Żebbuġ - Għaqda Każin Banda San Filep



Qawra - AFM Military Band



Marsa - Eskills



Birżebbuġia - ARPA



Żejtun - Armed Forces of Malta



Haż-Żebbuġ - Music 4 You  
12th May Band & Social Club



Valletta - Community Police



Qrendi - Prayer Spaces in Schools Malta



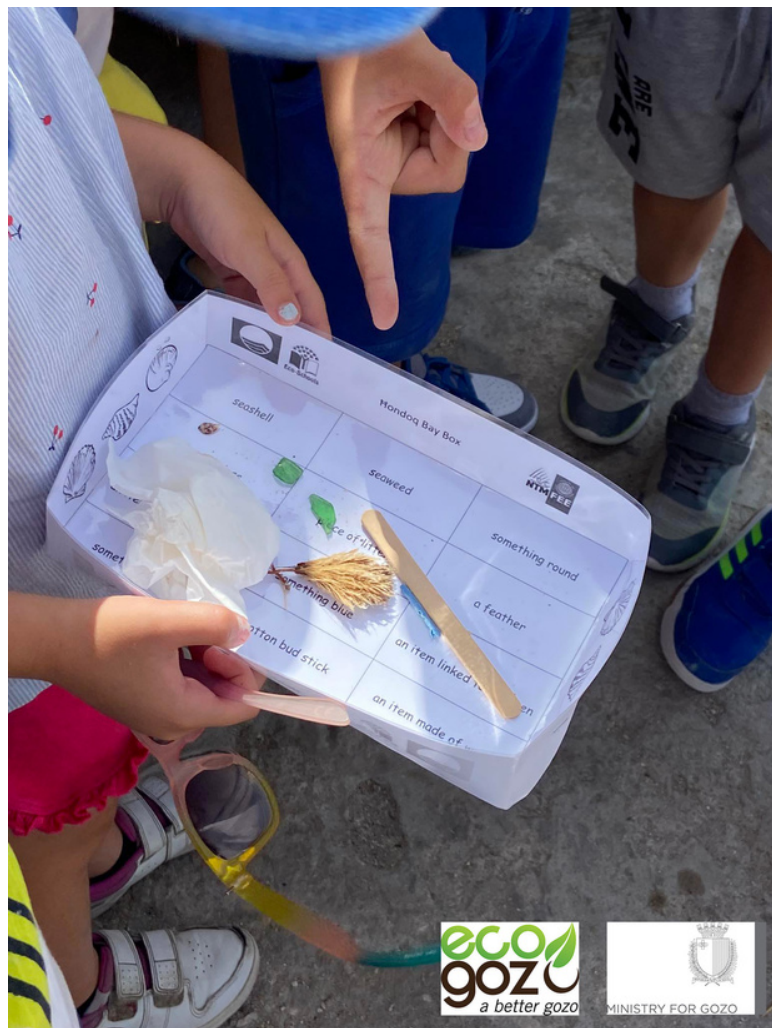
Lija/Balzan/Iklin - Central Bank of Malta



# ECO GOZO DIRECTORATE

Some pictures of the children from the Skolasajf Xagħra centre on their visit to Hondoq as part of the educational Blue Flag activities.

FES would like to take this opportunity to thank the ECO-Gozo Regional Development Directorate for making these outings possible, as it sponsors the outings for the Gozo Skolasajf Centres, by supplying free transportation. This annual generous gesture enables the Gozo Skolasajf centres to overcome the limitations faced by small centres, and to enjoy trips to different places of interest in Gozo.



# KLABB 3-16 APPLICATIONS



servizz.gov

## KLABB 3-16 APPLICATIONS 2023/24

The 2nd call is open  
from the 4th of September

Apply at: [services.fes.gov.mt](https://services.fes.gov.mt) or at the  
servizz.gov hubs. Freephone: 153

Applika għal **Klabb 3-16 2023/2024** mill-4 ta' **Settembru 2023** 'l quddiem.  
Applika fuq <https://services.fes.gov.mt/> jew f-wieħed miċ-ċentri ta' servizz.gov.  
Freephone: 153  
Email: [servizz@gov.mt](mailto:servizz@gov.mt)

Apply for **Klabb 3-16 2023/2024** from the **4th of September 2023** onwards.  
Apply at <https://services.fes.gov.mt/> or at one of the servizz.gov hubs.  
Freephone: 153  
Email: [servizz@gov.mt](mailto:servizz@gov.mt)

# UNDER 19 CHAMPIONSHIP

During the July Bridge Holidays, the Malta Football Association teamed up with FES and offered the Klabb 3-16 students the opportunity to be part of the UEFA U-19 Championship which was being held in Malta.

Participation was via an art competition. The winner was Maksim Jankovic, who attend the St Paul's Bay Klabb 3-to him by the Director of Communications, Pamela Schembri.

Read more in the link below:

<https://www.mfa.com.mt/.../maksim-jankovic-wins-uefa-u19.../>



# CHILDCARE ACTIVITIES



Giggles filled the air at **Is-Sardinella Childcare Centre** as tiny adventurers, guided by their attentive childcare educators, transformed into adorable little pirates in a world of messy exploration.

With mini pirate boats and delighted expressions, the toddlers set sail on a sensory journey in a tuff tray filled with vibrant textures. Their sense of touch was in synergy with their other senses as their tiny hands eagerly squished and explored, uncovering hidden treasures amidst a sea of colourful rice and soft, squishy foam. These sensory play opportunities allow an active use of the five senses, and are crucial for a child's brain development. They not only stimulate the child's sense of touch, taste, sight, hearing, and smell, but also lead them to observe and reach their conclusions about the world around them.

Under the watchful eyes of their educators, these little explorers not only revelled in the tactile wonders before them, but also experienced the delight of shared discovery. As they interacted with the textures around them, the toddlers began to forge early connections with their peers, laying the foundation for a playful and imaginative journey ahead.



# CHILDCARE OPEN DAY

The open day for parents at **Il-Bejta Childcare Centre** was a resounding success, as the staff meticulously prepared a captivating environment that truly showcased the center's dedication to early childhood development. Parents were welcomed into a vibrant and inviting atmosphere where a plethora of carefully planned activities awaited them and their children. This event not only strengthened the bond between parents and their little ones but also highlighted the center's commitment to providing a nurturing and stimulating space for children to grow and thrive.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of Il-Bejta Childcare Centre for their unwavering hard work and commitment in making the open day an unforgettable experience.



# CHILDCARE

## REGISTRATIONS AND EXTENDED HOURS

### Extended Childcare Hours

Monday - Friday  
06:00-18:00

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Birgu      | Tel: +356 2180 9285 |
| Birkirkara | Tel: +356 2598 5561 |
| Naxxar     | Tel: +356 2598 6820 |
| Pembroke   | Tel: +356 2137 6644 |
| Haż-Żebbuġ | Tel: +356 2598 7681 |
| Qawra      | Tel: +356 2598 6996 |

FES Head Office TEL: +356 22586829



The FES Childcare Centres are offering the service **over a longer period of hours** in six centres.

The centers at **Birgu, Birkirkara, Naxxar, Pembroke, Haż-Żebbuġ** and **Qawra**, are now accepting children between **6am and 6pm, from Monday to Friday**.

Parents interested in using this service are encouraged to contact FES, or any of the chosen centres, or visit the **service.gov hubs**, for more information.

**Registrations are also open** for the remaining FES Childcare Centres at:  
**Bormla, Siggiewi, St Venera, San Gwann, Marsa, and Floriana.**

A full list of the FES centres with all the contact details can be found at:  
<https://fes.gov.mt/childcare-centres/>

Queries to FES can be asked on telephone **22586829** or via email to [fes@gov.mt](mailto:fes@gov.mt)

# HOW TO APPLY FOR OUR CHILDCARE SERVICES

**1. Choose your preferred centre from the list found at:**

<https://fes.gov.mt/childcare-centres/>

You can also have a look inside of the centres, by watching the videos at:

<https://fes.gov.mt/en/Pages/Child%20Care/Videos.aspx>.

**2. You can download an application form from:**

<https://fes.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Childcare-Registration-Form.pdf>

You can also contact the chosen centre directly, ask for a tour of the place, and get the application directly from there.



Children can be registered at the centre by handing over to the Centre Coordinator, the filled-in application form together with the necessary documents. Only one application per child is to be submitted.

The Centre Coordinators and the FES FB Messenger service are always available to answer your queries. The Centre Coordinators will also be available to help you fill in the application form.

The childcare service is offered to children until they are eligible to move on to the government Kindergarten on the 1st of February, while children who are three years of age by the end of December are eligible for Kindergarten on the 1st of October, of that same calendar year.

# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES

Name: **Therese Schembri**

Role: **Centre Coordinator - Żurrieq Skolasajf Centre**



## 1. What motivated you to apply for this role?

Working with children has always been my passion. In fact, apart from being an educator myself, I have worked with FES for over 10 years, first as a playworker, then as a PER and eventually as a Centre Coordinator. This career growth within SkolaSajf and Klabb 3-16 not only gave me the opportunity to experience different roles and learn what each role requires, but also to have greater knowledge of the school environment and the way it functions. Needless to say, being a Centre Coordinator for the past few years helped me to grow professionally and develop new skills related to leadership and management, as well as problem solving and decision-making.

## 2. In your opinion, what are the key skills or qualities that have been essential for your success in your role?

First of all, a Centre Coordinator must be very dedicated to this job. It requires commitment and good leadership. Whilst ensuring a good sense of discipline both with staff members and students themselves, it is important to keep in mind the different backgrounds students come from, and to show them respect and affection to help them reach their full potential. Since the role of a Centre Coordinator can sometimes be challenging, it is of utmost importance to remain calm and patient when dealing with various difficulties and ask for assistance when needed.

## 3. What valuable lessons or insights have you gained from your role that you believe would be helpful for others aspiring to be a Centre Coordinator?

Having a good relationship with students and parents is the key to success. I believe that knowing your students and showing interest in them, and in what they like, is crucial for a Centre Coordinator to be able to communicate better with all stakeholders involved. This allows better handling when dealing with different situations that arise in the centre on a daily basis. Welcoming positive and negative feedback from these stakeholders, particularly from students and parents, is also essential for improving the service offered. Constructive feedback identifies certain weaknesses that need to be tackled.

## 4. What's the most valuable piece of advice you've received during your career journey, and how has it impacted your approach to work?

I was lucky to learn different skills from the coordinators I worked with previously. One common key piece of advice I was always given was effective teamwork as this ensures a good sense of community and a positive learning experience to students. Today, being a Centre Coordinator myself, I feel very grateful to be surrounded by an enthusiastic and hardworking team, who is always willing to assist me not only in my daily tasks, but also in the organization of different activities within our centre.

## 5. If you could give your young self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Always be down to earth, empathise with others and love all the students as if they are your own children! This is also a good piece of advice for those aspiring to be Centre Coordinators, as respecting both your staff and students equally will fulfil you with self-satisfaction and gratification towards the job. This will motivate you to look forward to a new day filled with new experiences and, most importantly, more fun to the students in a safe environment!



# MEET OUR EMPLOYEES

Name: **Josephine Cutajar Penza**

Role: **Child Support Worker at Skolasajf Gżira**



## 1. What motivated you to apply for this role?

I am deeply passionate about my role as a Child Support Worker. It is an honour to be entrusted with such important tasks and responsibilities. Helping others brings me immense fulfilment, especially when caring for children, particularly those with specific needs. Each day is filled with unique and unforgettable moments, and I am constantly inspired by the children I work with. Their joy motivates me to be a better person and positively impact their lives and families. As a mother of two grown children, my heart has always been drawn towards caring for kids, and I am grateful to have the most rewarding job I could ask for.

## 2. In your opinion, what are the key skills or qualities that have been essential for your success in your role?

I believe that having the right skills and qualities is crucial to being a successful Child Support Worker. Effective communication is essential to comprehend the desires and requirements of the child, and managing their behaviour is critical since children often push boundaries regardless of their age or stage of development. Traits like patience, creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication are beneficial in creating a positive and calm atmosphere for the child in your care. Most importantly, always approach your work with a loving attitude.

## 3. What valuable lessons or insights have you gained from your role that you believe would be helpful for others aspiring to be a Child Support Worker?

Working with children can bring a new sense of purpose and excitement to your life every day. Although, like any job, there may be challenging days, the positive moments add so much meaning and fulfilment, that they quickly outweigh the tough times. There is nothing quite like the feeling of a child expressing their affection towards you, whether it's a smile when they see you or a little hug. One of the best things about working with kids is that they always find a way to show their love throughout the day. Hopefully, my words here will provide an insight into the rewarding aspects of working with children, and will encourage others to pursue a career that involves caring for children with specific needs.

## 4. What's the most valuable advice you've received during your career journey, and how has it impacted your approach to work?

One valuable piece of advice I received was understanding my passions and life goals. Despite working in various industries, I always feel fulfilled when assisting others. This impact on me is apparent daily due to the positive emotions it elicits. My work ethic involves maintaining a heightened awareness and readiness to aid in nurturing and caring for the child. I take my responsibilities seriously and strive to be always available and attentive to their needs. My ultimate goal is to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing while providing a supportive and nurturing environment.

## 5. If you could give your young self one piece of advice, what would it be?

As we age, we tend to realize that pursuing activities that bring us joy and a sense of fulfilment is crucial. If I could advise my younger self, I would encourage prioritizing endeavours that align with our values and goals and avoiding distractions that drain our energy and hinder our progress. This way, we can create a more meaningful and rewarding life full of personal growth. It is essential to be mindful of how we spend our time and resources, and to focus on relationships and experiences that bring us joy and a sense of purpose.

# KLABB 3-16 VACANCIES

Click on <https://recruitment.fes.gov.mt/> for the **FULL LIST of vacancies**, to apply, and get more information, including salary rates, eligibility criteria and job descriptions. For any queries, call **22586835**, or write an email to [hr.fes@gov.mt](mailto:hr.fes@gov.mt).

## **CHILD SUPPORT WORKER COURSE - REF. NO:1063**

Expires On: 29/09/2023

## **KLABB 3-16 - CENTRE COORDINATOR (PART-TIME) - REF. NO:1064**

Jobsplus Permit Number: 53/2021

Expires On: 05/01/2024

## **KLABB 3-16 - CHILD SUPPORT WORKER (PART-TIME) - REF. NO: 1065**

Jobsplus Permit no: 251/2022

Expires On: 29/09/2023

## **KLABB 3-16 - PLAYWORKER (PART-TIME) - REF. NO: 1066**

Jobsplus Permit Number:451/2021

Expires On: 29/09/2023

## **KLABB 3-16 - TUTOR (PART-TIME) - REF. NO: 1067**

Jobsplus Permit: 248/2022

Expires On: 29/09/2023



# Photo of the month



Photo by: Jean Pierre Pirotta

Caroline's Cave Gozo





**Zentrum Business Centre**  
**Level 1, Mdina Road**  
**Qormi**

Opening hours: 8:00 am - 3:15 pm



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