



# St John's Newsletter

19th June 2020

## *An update from Mr Rubin...*

As some restrictions begin to lift, we are looking at ways of increasing the number of children we have in school. We opened for our Year 6 pupils on June 8<sup>th</sup> and next week we will be extending this to Year 5. As we have always said, we want to make sure all risks are minimised. The risk assessment can be found on our website <https://www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk/about-us/policies>.

Our aim is to open the school for children in Early Years and Year 1 on the 29<sup>th</sup> June – we will be sharing more information about that next week. Our team are continually exploring ways we can get more children back in.

St. John's has remained open for vulnerable children and families with critical workers. If you believe that you are entitled to a place, please contact our parent email address [parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

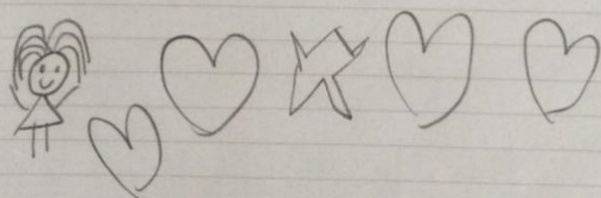
I know there are a number of families who are worried about coming in to school. Work will continue to be set for all of our pupils via Purple Mash and if you would prefer a home pack, our teachers will put one together for you. I will keep you updated but do email in if you have any questions or concerns and our team will do our best to answer you.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend, stay safe and be kind to one another.

## **Sharing Work**

Thank you Lydia and Yusra for sending in your work for us to share. Lydia has written a powerful letter explaining what she would like to see in her world - it is so thoughtful. Yusra has sent in a beautiful picture of a plate she has designed, inspired by one of the classic Roald Dahl books, 'James and the Giant Peach'.

In my world black and white people are equal there's no virus and disease.  
Also all parks will be open and schools will be open  
stop social distance. All the shops will be open for kids.  
In my world there is no poor people also people will graduate for college.  
Every one is happy in my world.



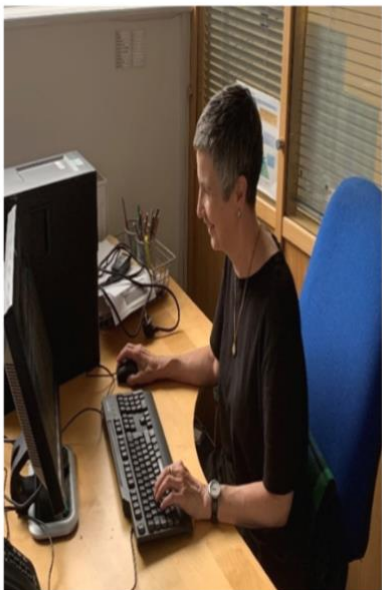




### **Staffing News – Ms Rumena**

We say goodbye and thank you to Ms Rumena who has been with our St. John's family for 10 years. We will be very sad to see her go. Ms Rumena has always been excellent with the children but also has that special ability to make learning great fun. I remember observing her in the classroom many years ago when I worked at St. Paul's. I was struck with her enthusiasm and positive attitude.

We wish Ms Rumena well and hope that we can give her a proper send off when the restrictions are over.



### **A Helping Hand**

I am delighted to welcome back Ms Ticher, a dear friend to our school. She got in contact with Mr. Bennett last week asking if there was anything she could do to help out during these difficult times. On her first day back, Ms. Ticher worked through our website, played the piano for our children that were in school and has informed me that she is very good at editing newsletters! Thank you Ms Ticher for giving up your time to work with us - it is great to have you back and I am looking forward to working with you.



### **Pen Pal Scheme Update – Ms Walker.**

We are really excited that children wanted to take part in our pen pal scheme. The children are currently writing their first letters and they will be receiving their post by the start of next week. It is always fun to get a letter from the post man. Please let us know if your child wants to join in by contacting the parent email address. [parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

### **Acts of Kindness**

Miss Maggie is a very busy lady. She does many different jobs in the school and we are very lucky to have her. Recently, one of our children emailed in to say that they were missing her so she stopped everything, picked up the phone and gave her a call! If there is anyone you would like to get in touch with, you can email us at the usual address and we can organise it for you.







*A message from Place2Be.....*

Hello again children of St John's from Place2Be!



For today's check in, I want you to think of all the different feelings you've had this week as different types of weather! Have you felt sunny....and full of warmth? Maybe you've felt stormy too...like hailstones crashing to the ground! Or perhaps you've felt gentle like a calm breeze....or fierce like a windstorm!



Just like how we've seen our weather change each week, our feelings can change too. They can change by the week, by the day, by the hour....sometimes quite unexpectedly. This isn't unusual, especially when things around us are changing. Like we say each week - let someone know how you're feeling, and ask them how they're feeling too. This might help how we're feeling...like putting up an umbrella in the rain!

For this week's activity, here's a game that you can play with someone else in your home! This game makes us think about our senses again...you really have to concentrate on all your senses for this one.

Can you guess.....?



- **Hide 5 objects from your home in a bag....don't let your partner see what they are...! (make sure they are safe objects 😊 )**
- **Let your partner close their eyes, put their hands in the bag, and try and guess each object one at a time**
- **Really focus on how they feel and the sounds the object makes. Are they hot or cold? Smooth or rough? What do they smell like?!**
- **Did they guess right? Now swap with your partner and get them to hide 5 objects for you!**

*Dear Parents/Carers*

*Youngminds - a children's mental health charity - shares their examples of using activities and conversation starters to check in with your child's mental health during this time:*

*<https://youngminds.org.uk/starting-a-conversation-with-your-child/activities-and-conversation-starters-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>*





# Free 30 Hours Childcare for 3-4 year olds.

Ofsted  
GOOD  
2016

Available at St. John's CE Primary School.  
Enquire at the school office. Tel: 0208 980 1142

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admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Tel: 0208 980 1142

www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk



We have free 30 hour places available in our Nursery class and space in our Reception class for the next academic year. If you know families that have not yet secured a place for next year, do ask them to get in touch with us.



## **Junk Orchestra Workshop - An Online Fun Free Family Music Activity - July 11th**

St Margaret's House have got in touch with Mrs. Brownbill to pass on the message that there will be a free online Junk Orchestra workshop. Children will learn how to build a drum, shaker, trumpet and guitar from your recycling at home and then get an opportunity to join the band from for a fun-filled recycled rave.

### **Thursday 11th July 2020 (3 online sessions via Zoom)**

- For primary age children & families: 4 years +
- Limited to 15 screens per session, early booking advised
- ZOOM meeting information provided with the ticket
- This is a free event and a wonderful opportunity to play instant music as a family.

If you want to book into a session email [stuart@stmargarethouse.org.uk](mailto:stuart@stmargarethouse.org.uk) or click on the link below and look for the "Book Your Place" tab.

<https://www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/reach-whats-on/junk-orchestra>

Once booked in you'll receive all the information including Zoom details and a brief video showing you how to make instruments out of objects you have lying around.





## Fire Safety Video

One of our parents at St. Paul's works for the London Fire Brigade in the education department. He wanted to share this series of three short videos to help raise awareness of fire safety at home especially during this lockdown period.

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/schools/learning-at-home/fire-safety-education-at-home/>



## School Update

For the children that are in school there are a lot of activities to keep them busy. On top of their online learning, they have been baking bread, designing and creating puppets, making lava lamps and exercising hard on the Joe Wicks workouts every morning. Joe was so impressed with the picture on the right that he replied to us. Exercise is so important for the children and you can access all of the workouts on Joe's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

You Retweeted

**The Body Coach** @thebodycoach · 2h  
Thank you @5tJohnsTower ❤️

**St John's CE Primary School** · 2h

Thanks you Joe Wicks @thebodycoach for everything you are doing. You are making such a difference to our children (and staff!) We want everyone to be exercising when we are back and will make this part of our day. You are an inspiration. Lots of love from everyone @5tJohnsTower



1 2 31 1



We now have 209 followers on Twitter. Thank you to everyone who has signed up. Please follow us @5tJohnsTower and help to raise the profile of the school.



## Message from Denise and Rashina

You can find lots of links and ideas on Tower Hamlets Local Offer page, but here are a few for you to check out.



## Make music day

Make Music Day is a **global celebration of music in 125 countries, taking place on Sunday 21 June** and this year, the worldwide festival will be moving online.

There is a range of exciting [projects](#) for everyone to get involved with, including:

- Bash the Trash - making instruments from recycling and old clutter
- Lockdown Sound Challenge - submitting your own recordings of everyday noises and then be astounded as a team of producers turn your found sounds into music
- Bring me Sunshine song competition
- Auld Lang Syne virtual choir and ensemble

And on Sunday 21 June, you can stream live performances, workshops and talks throughout the day from music-makers all over the world.



## Think U Know - home activity packs

Think U Know have created home activity packs to support parents. Each fortnight, they will release new home activity packs with simple 15 minute activities parents and carers can do with their child to support their online safety.



## Boost your child's wellbeing

Partnership for Children have developed short ten-minute activities to help children find healthy ways to deal with their feelings. The activities cover feelings, staying connected, dealing with change, getting along, dealing with worries and relaxing. They are designed for children aged five to nine but can be adapted for younger or older children.



## Make slime at home

Here is a great gloopy, gooey, slime recipe that you can make with your child in approximately 25 minutes. Do you know what the best bit is? It only requires two ingredients, so you barely need anything to make it.





## Making a garden from scraps

Common vegetables and herbs that you can re-grow from scraps include potatoes, onions, garlic, leeks, celery, carrots, beets, leafy greens, basil, and mint. Many of them simply require a glass of water and a sunny position.

[Garden from scraps](#)

## Travel around Japan by rail

5,800 miles east, travel Japan by rail with the help of Google Earth. Japan Rail Pass has put together a list of iconic sights in Japan for you to explore. Take a look at Mount Fuji, view the world-famous cheery blossoms and even stroll through a bamboo forest.


[Japan Rail Pass](#)

## How to help nursery age children learn from home

Help children aged two to four to learn at home during COVID19. Tower Hamlets have five children's centres still open - follow the link to find out more information about these as well.

[Children's Centres](#) [Nursery and learning support](#)

### Local Offer Update – Ms Dixon

	<h1>Have you seen your Local Offer recently?</h1>
<p>This is a website which tells you what support is available for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), and their families.</p>	<p><b>There are lots of updates as well as special pages dedicated to information during the Coronavirus pandemic which are regularly updated. You can find the dedicated Coronavirus pages, here (<a href="https://www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/covid-19">https://www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/covid-19</a>).</b></p>