



St John's Newsletter

Friday 31st March 2023

Important Message from the Chair of Governors

As you know, **Terry Bennett**, the Federation's Executive Headteacher, is retiring at the end of August. Earlier this year, the school governors, with help and advice from Tower Hamlets Education Partnership and the London Diocesan Board, began the process of finding a successor.

In doing so, governors were clear that the needs of our current and future pupils would be at the centre of any decision. Also, in order to continue to provide first-class schools to our local communities, the following guiding principles were agreed:

- Preservation and fostering of current good relationships, leading to a sense of belonging and trust with pupils, staff and parents/carers;
- Stability, combined with development in an uncertain future;
- Continuity with sustained improvements;
- Opportunities for development and growth of suitable staff already within the system;
- An awareness of the current budgetary constraints on the schools.

I am pleased to announce that, following his successful interview yesterday, Mr **Darren Rubin** will succeed Terry Bennett as our new Executive Headteacher from 1st September 2023.

Dr Robin Precey, Chair of Governors,
The Federation of St John's and St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools
March 31st, 2023

An update from Mr Bennett...

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to Mr Rubin on his appointment as Executive Headteacher of the Federation of St John's and St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools from 1st September.

I have worked with Mr Rubin for many years; I know that he has the qualities needed for this role and, importantly, he will always put the best interests of the children before all other considerations.

Having Mr Rubin in place at this early stage means that there will be a smooth transition in the summer and it will reduce any uncertainty or anxiety for our families and staff, knowing that the future of the federation is in safe hands.

T Bennett



The very best way to keep up to date with what is happening in our school is to follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/5tJohnsTower> . We have 429 followers and the more followers we have, the more people will see what a fantastic little school this is!



Thank you Mrs. Brownbill

Sad and happy news for the adventures that are ahead, as we say goodbye to the incredible Mrs Brownbill who has been with our St. John's family since September 2017.

Mrs Brownbill has led the Early Years with drive, passion and determination and always puts the needs of the children at the forefront of her work.

We are all so grateful for the everything she has done for the Federation and wish her well for the exciting next chapter of her life in Canada with her family

"Thank you to all the pupils of St. John's who I have taught in the Early Years. You are all amazing, and I consider myself very privileged to have been your teacher. Thank you to all the parents too for your support over the years and making me feel like a valued member of the school community. To say I'll miss you all hardly does it justice, but it's time for a new chapter for me and my family. I know you'll all continue to flourish, and I wish you all the best!"

Mrs Brownbill



Musician of the Fortnight Update

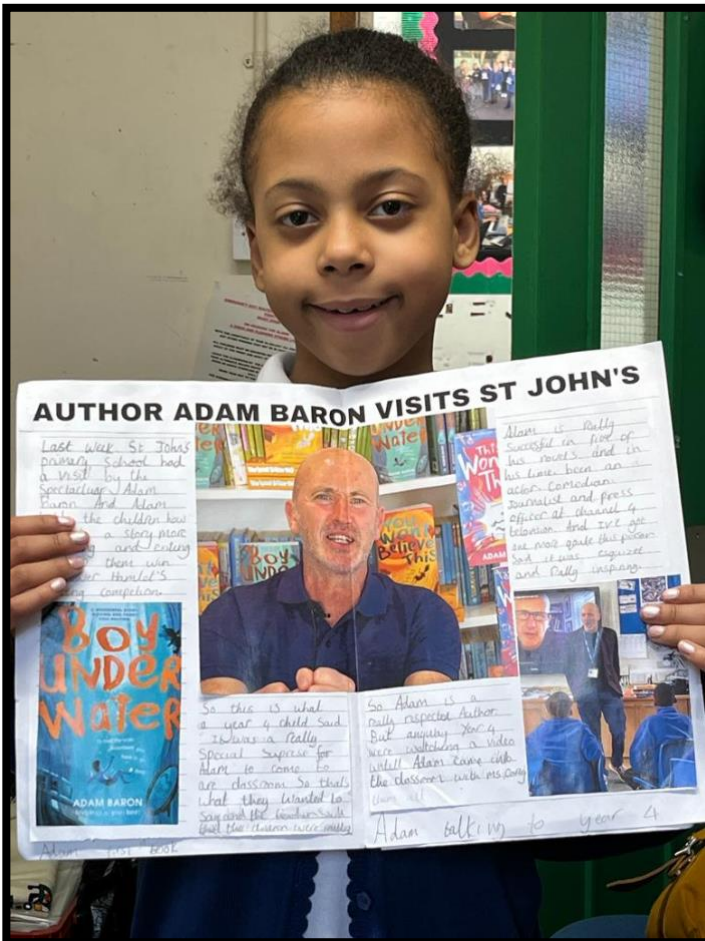
This fortnight, we continue our listening journey of music by incredible female composers and musicians. With Ramadan and Eid on the horizon, we listen to a recommendation from Ms Khatun. Runa Laila (born 17th November 1952) is a Bangladeshi playback singer and composer, and her voice will be familiar to many of our children of Bengali heritage. A playback singer is someone who records songs to be mimed by actors in films.

Runa started her career in the Pakistan film industry in the late 1960s. Her distinctive style of singing can be heard in a range of films – The Rain (1976), Jadur Banshi (1977), Accident (1989), Ontore Ontore (1994), Devdas (2013) and Priya Tumi Shukhi Hou (2014). Her songs have earned her seven Bangladesh National Film Awards for Best Female Playback Singer. In 2018, She won the Best Music Composer award for the film 'Ekti Cinemar Golpo' and she is still working behind the scenes for films even today.



Year 5 Update – Mrs Bahi

We were very lucky to meet Father Chris again last week outside his church at St. James the Less. Children learnt all about the stories behind the stained glass window pieces. We were so impressed with the beautiful installation by the artist Keith New.



Author Visit

Children were delighted to welcome the author Adam Baron who worked with children in Year 4 and 5. He was inspirational and helped our children with their creative writing. Children in Year 4 were so impressed that they wrote a newspaper article on it.



Class 4 Update – Mrs Jheeta

Children enjoyed a brilliant archery experience with Experience Archery to help immerse themselves in the narrative text – Robin Hood.

Not only did they have a fantastic time, we discovered that we have some incredibly gifted archers!



Cross Teach Visit

Thank you to our friends at Crossteach for their informative Easter assembly. Children learnt about Love, Endurance and Justice





Are you concerned about a child or a family?

Make a factual record of your concern.

(Include day, date, time, other witnesses, concern and your signature)

You must share your concerns without delay.

The Designated Members of Staff Responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection at St Johns are:



Terry Bennett –Executive Headteacher



Darren Rubin –Executive Head of School



Bal Jheeta – Deputy Headteacher



Lisa Lee – Business Manager



Marie Dixon- SENCO

St John's & Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools

Term Dates and Holidays - 2023/ 2024

Autumn Term 2023 (75 days)

Staff Training	Mon 4 th & Tue 5 th September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 6 th September
Half Term	Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October
Second half of term	Monday 30 th October
Last Day of Term	Friday 22 nd December

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

Boxing Day Tuesday 26th December

Spring Term 2024 (54 days)

New Year's Day Monday 1st January

Staff Training	Monday 8 th January
First Day of Term	Tuesday 9 th January
Half Term	Mon. 12 th to Fri. 16 th February
Second half of term	Monday 19 th February
Last Day of Term	Thursday 28 th March

Good Friday Friday 29th March

Easter Monday Monday 1st April

Summer Term 2024 (66 days)

Staff Training	Monday 15 th April
First Day of Term	Tuesday 16 th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May
Staff Training	Friday 24 th May
Half Term	Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May
Second half of term	Monday 3 rd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 23 rd July

*Ramadan begins Sunday 10th March 2024**

*Eid Al-Fitr Tuesday/ Wednesday 9th/ 10th April 2024**

*Eid Al-Adha Sunday/ Monday 16th/ 17th June 2024**

195 days including 5 staff training days

* to be confirmed