



St John's Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 2023

An update from Mr. Rubin...

It has been a busy few weeks in school. You may well have seen us on the news recently as some very lucky children had a meeting with HRH Princess of Wales.

It has been an unusual week as some of our teaching staff made the difficult decision to go out on strike in protest about pay and conditions.

I wanted to let you know that whilst I understand how difficult it can be for families and children when classes are closed, I fully support teachers in the stand they are taking. The cuts made to school budgets are impacting us meaning that there are more and more things that we would like to do that we cannot afford.

The newsletter is packed with information, I hope you enjoy reading it. Have a lovely weekend and be kind to one another.



A Royal Visit

It isn't every day that a member of the Royal Family comes to visit the school! We were privileged to host HRH The Princess of Wales who wanted to talk to our children about the video she had created on the importance of early development and the first five years of childhood. The video can be seen on the link below. The Princess was delightful and our children will cherish this memory.

<https://app.frame.io/reviews/bd2d4d57-c715-454c-9075-1d280a6efcda/7dff5353-c4d0-4d2c-8e2f-0b69701423a6?version=314b682d-be82-453a-838f-e0983318d2c9>



Staffing Update – Mr. Smee

Mr. Smee has some very exciting news. Very soon he and his wife Rowan will be having a baby! Mr. Smee will be off on extended paternity leave after half term and I am so pleased that he will be getting some important time to be with his family. We will miss him a great deal and very much look forward to his return in the new academic year.

Place2Be Update – Kam

Lovely to meet some Early Years and Year 1 parents and carers at our Place2Be coffee morning. They heard from Kam (Place2Be School Project Manager) and Naddy (Place2Be Family Practitioner) about how they can access a range of Place2Be services at St John's to support their children's mental health and wellbeing. Ms Brownbill and Ms Dixon spoke about how Place2Be works alongside St John's school staff to understand and support the individual needs of children.

As a Place2Be school, families have exclusive access to free resources and services including Place2Be's Parenting Smart online course. This is a free 6-week online parenting course covering topics such as how to build strong bonds with your child, how to encourage desired behaviour and how to manage extreme behaviour. Naddy is available to support parents through the course. The last day to register for the next course is February 6th (course starting on February 23rd). Register

here <https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/support-for-families-in-place2be-schools/parenting-smart-online-course/>

If you have any questions about Place2Be please speak to Kam Perera on the school gate (Mon-Weds) or via the school office.



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!

Children's Mental Health Week Update



Children's Mental Health Week 2023

Next week 6 - 12 February 2023 is Children's Mental Health Week. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. The children will be taking part in different activities throughout the week to explore this year's theme 'Let's Connect'.

What's it all about?

Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections, and for Children's Mental Health Week 2023, Place2Be is encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. As parents and carers, you are an important role model to your child. How you connect with friends and family will influence your child, and how they develop their own friendships and relationships. For example, how you greet people and maintain friendships, but also how you forgive people or say sorry when you need to.

What can you do?

There are lots of resources on the [Children's Mental Health Week](#) website plus [tips for parents and carers](#) with suggestions for simple ways in which you can connect with your child and help them to make meaningful connections.

Tower Hamlets New Age Kurling Champion

Our children continue to excel in this competition. Recently we took a squad over to our local neighbours at St. Elizabeth's school.

New Age Kurling is such a fun sport and our children continue to not only enjoy it, but play in the spirit of the game showing core values like kindness and humility on top of winning lots of games!

Thank you to Ms Dixon for organising this, our children love it!



Year 4 and 5 Visit to a Show in Central London and The British Museum

Children were extremely fortunate to pack two trips into one day. First they went to St Paul's Church in Covent Garden to see a production of 'Man on the Moon' that they had been working on. Following on from that, they hopped over to the British Museum to enhance their historical knowledge and compliment their learning in class.



Poetry Slam

This has become quite the tradition in our school as our children got to work with the amazing poet Shagufta Iqbal. Class 6 have been learning how to write and perform poems to share at the Tower Hamlets Poetry Slam. We can not wait to hear how they get on.



Year 4 Visitor

Our children in Class 4 looked suitably shocked when they had a visit from a rather strange creature. They have been reading The Iron Man by Ted Hughes and seemed to enjoy the surprise intrusion to their class!

FREE* FAMILY CYCLE TRAINING

Suitable for regular cyclists
looking to progress cycle skills
to the next level

DATES:
MON 13 FEB
TUE 14 FEB
& THU 16 FEB

TIMES:
10:00- 12:00

**FREE
DR. BIKE
13 FEB
9AM - 12PM!**

BOOK



***REFUNDABLE £10 DEPOSIT PER FAMILY**

**IN EAST SIDE VICTORIA PARK
ENTERING FROM PARNELL ROAD
POSTCODE E3 2LA**

VICTORIA PARK



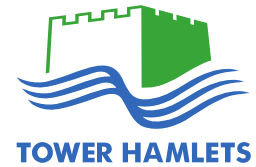
TOWER HAMLETS



bikeworks



Improving lives
and reducing
waste in
Tower Hamlets



The Food Store is a place you can go every week to pick up large quantities of food for a small amount of money, all while being helped to access support for your finances and wellbeing.



MAYOR OF
TOWER HAMLETS

'All of Tower Hamlets' residents deserve healthy, affordable food. Food Stores showcase all that is best about our Borough - communities coming together to ensure that everyone is fed, regardless of their background. I am proud to oversee the opening of these stores, and look forward to working more closely with and supporting them moving forward'.
Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets

How does it work?

In return for a weekly membership fee of £3.50 you will be able to pick up £20 to £30 worth of groceries and household items. While you are a member we will also set you up with access to advice services for help with debt, benefits access, housing issues and other areas you might find useful.

What kind of food will I get?

We stock quality redistributed food that can help to top up your weekly shop with nutritious essentials. Your weekly groceries will include fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled and frozen foods, and store cupboard staples. We also offer household items, like toiletries and cleaning products, when we have them.

Where is The Food Store?

The Food Store is running in sites across Tower Hamlets.

How long can I be a member?

Every three months we will check in to see how you are doing and if you are getting the right support. If things have improved and you no longer need our help, the membership will end – if not it will carry on. Memberships normally last for six months.

How do I sign up?

To sign up, or for more information, please email **TheFoodStore@towerhamlets.gov.uk** with your name, address, postcode and contact details.





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 - 2022/ 2023

Autumn Term 2022 (70 days)

Staff Training	Thu 1st & Friday 2nd September
First Day of Term	Monday 5 th September
Half Term	Monday 24 th – Friday 28 th October
Second half of term	Monday 31 st October
Last Day of Term	Friday 16 th December

<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Sunday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Monday 26th December</i>

Spring Term 2023 (58 days)

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Sunday 1st January</i>
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd January
Staff Training	Tuesday 3rd January
First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 th January
Half Term	Mon. 13 th to Fri. 17 th February
Second half of term	Monday 20 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 31 st March

<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 7th April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 10th April</i>

Summer Term 2023 (64 days)

First Day of Term	Monday 17 th April
Staff Training	Friday 28 th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st May
Half Term	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June
Second half of term	Monday 5 th June
Last Day of Term	Friday 21 st July

<i>Ramadan begins</i>	<i>Wednesday 22nd March* 2023</i>
<i>Eid Al-Fitr</i>	<i>Saturday 22nd April* 2023</i>
<i>Eid Al-Adha</i>	<i>Thursday 29th June* 2023</i>

190 School Days, **5 Staff Training Days** (2 to be arranged)

* to be confirmed