



St John's Newsletter

Friday 14th March 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

I hope you had a lovely half term break. This month is a significant time for many in our school community, as we celebrate both Easter and Ramadan. Easter is a time of reflection and renewal for Christians, marking the resurrection of Jesus and bringing a message of hope and new beginnings. Meanwhile, Ramadan is a sacred month for Muslims, a time of fasting, prayer and generosity, culminating in the celebration of Eid. In addition, we welcome Holi, celebrated today - the Hindu festival that marks the arrival of Spring.

These occasions remind us of the importance of kindness, gratitude and community—values we hold dear in our school. We encourage the children to learn about and respect different traditions, and we look forward to sharing in these special celebrations together.

The newsletter is packed full of activities our children have been engaged with including a story of great kindness once again from our friends at Brick Lane Bookshop.

Please note our last two training days have been set on the last page. Wednesday 30th April and Tuesday 22nd July

Enjoy the newsletter, have a lovely weekend and be kind to one another.



Thank You Again Brick Lane Bookshop!

I wanted to thank Polly the owner of The Brick Lane Bookshop and Matt who together have provided every single child in a school with a book to take home and read. Our Early Years children did not attend the book shop but that was no obstacle as the book shop came to school!

There is such beautiful kindness in the world and our children have really benefitted from this wonderful gesture.
Thankyou!

Follow Us on Instagram

One of the very best ways to keep up to date with what is happening in our school is to follow us on social media. We are on X <https://twitter.com/5tJohnsTower> and on Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsbethnalgreen?igsh=NHZsODQzc2w4NHZ2&utm_source=qr

There is some lovely content on there so if you have this platform, please take the time to have a look and follow us.

Class Three Art Update

Class 3 engaged in a hands-on activity, creating natural paints like those used in the Stone Age.

They crushed blueberries, mixed them with glue and food colouring and used the resulting mixture for painting. This allowed them to explore different textures, applying their natural paints to stone and cardboard surfaces.

The children discovered how natural resources can be transformed into art materials, gaining practical understanding of historical practices. The activity fostered creativity and encouraged experimentation, while offering a tangible connection to the past. It was a fun and educational experience, bringing history to life through art. The children enjoyed the sensory exploration and the unique painting process. It was also great fun!





Author Visits at Christ Church School and St John's

Pupils and their friends from Christ Church and St Paul's school shared a memorable experience meeting author Yaba Badoe. The children were captivated by her stories.

Similarly, a recent visit to Christ Church school to meet Adeola Sokunbi, author and illustrator, proved equally enriching. The event allowed students to witness the creative process first hand, sparking their imaginations and providing valuable opportunities for students to connect with the world of literature in a personal way.

By interacting directly with creators, children gain a deeper appreciation for the art of storytelling and illustration. Such experiences are inspirational, encouraging students to explore their own potential and fostering a lifelong love of reading and writing. They demonstrate that books are created by real people with fascinating stories.





Year 2 Visit Pizza Express

I think it is fairly evident from the pictures how much the children enjoyed their recent visit to Pizza Express to make some delicious hand made pizzas from scratch. I am not sure whether it was more fun making or eating but big thanks to Ms Moses for organising.





Teddy Bear Hospital

The Teddy Bear Hospital once again provided a wonderful opportunity for our younger children to learn about health in a fun and engaging way. Children brought their teddy bears for check-ups, becoming doctors and nurses for the day helping to demystify the medical world, reducing anxieties often associated with doctor visits.

Learning about basic health practices, such as listening to heartbeats, brushing your teeth and applying bandages brings a sense of familiarity and comfort with healthcare, promotes healthy habits and encourages children to take an interest in their own well-being. It is also great fun!





World Book Day 2025





Worship Council Round Up

Our Worship Council meeting with Reverend Philippa sparked insightful discussions about forgiveness, a key Value we're focusing on this half term. The question, "How do we think we can help St. John's to be a bunch of forgiving people?" resonated deeply, prompting thoughtful responses from our pupils.

The children shared their perspectives, considering how acts of kindness, empathy and understanding can contribute to a culture of forgiveness. This aligns perfectly with our half-term value, empowering our Worship Council to build an even more harmonious and supportive environment in school.

Evensong Service at St John's Church

I had the privilege this week to attend our Choir Church Evensong Service at St John's. Reverend Philippa led the service inviting us to reflect on Forgiveness by telling the story of Joseph from the Old Testament of how, despite being unfairly treated by his brothers, he used the Value of forgiveness to shine through. Our children sang beautifully and it is such a fantastic opportunity to take over the church! Thanks to Mrs Bahi and Jonathan Pease who leads the choir.



Ash Wednesday Service

We have been keeping Reverend Philippa extremely busy. Huge thanks to her for leading the Ash Wednesday service in school. Thank you to Mrs Bahi and Mrs Jheeta for organising.



ST JOHN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Bethnal Green

NURSERY & RECEPTION

SEPTEMBER 2025

*The community
is very important to
everyone at this school. As
one pupil said, 'I feel like
I am part of a family.'*

Ofsted November 2021



Play-based
learning



Developmentally
appropriate
curriculum



Outdoor
play

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. Please contact us to schedule a tour of our school and learn more about the enrolment process at St John's CE Primary School.

**TO DISCUSS FURTHER PLEASE
CONTACT THE SCHOOL
OFFICE**

020 8980 1142



admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk



www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk



'Let our light shine'

@5tJohnsTower



Children's Services are offering Toileting Troubleshooting sessions in Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs for parents of children with additional needs



- If you are interested in attending:
- 1) First attend a Toileting Workshop in any Tower Hamlets Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs.
 - 2) After trialling strategies from this workshop, you feel you would benefit from further support please choose a date that suits you to book onto.

The workshops happen on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Month	Date	Time	Children Centres & Family Hubs
January	8 th January 2025	1-3pm	Marner
February	5 th February 2025	1-3pm	Ocean
March	5 th March 2025	1-3pm	Meath gardens
April	2 nd April 2025	1-3pm	Isle of Dogs
May	7 th May 2025	1-3pm	Overland
June	4 th June 2025	1-3pm	<u>Chrisp Street</u>



Young Barts Health



Supporting you,
for a brighter future

Staying Safe Online Tips

Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or video calling Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



Check the safety settings are turned on

Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? What about safe search and Youtube? See parentsafe.lgfl.net for more.



Get your children to show you their apps and games

You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced - they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** reviews.



Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news

If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel - there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.



Remind them of key online safety principles

There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

If you aren't sure, ASK!


Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reporting.lgfl.net, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).



Penalty Notices Information – New National Framework

Please read and familiarise yourself with the latest guidance from Tower Hamlets. Please note that the fines go to the local authority and that all schools receive this information to share with parents/carers.

PENALTY NOTICES
New National Framework for Penalty Notices for poor school attendance and unauthorised leave in term time are changing from 19 August 2024.



Per Parent, Per Child
Penalty Notices will still be issued to each parent for each absent child.
For example – 2 siblings absent for unauthorised leave in term time will result in each parent receiving two separate fines.

Term Time Leave: 5 consecutive days
10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period


First Offence
The first time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.
(Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.)

Second Offence
The second time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.
(There is no reduction for any early payment.)

Third Offence
The third time a penalty notice is issued, the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.
Fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child, can be issued by the courts.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ
Email: LBTHAttendance&WelfareServiceAdmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7364 3450

The best of London
in one borough





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2024 - Apr 2025



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Lebanon	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	04 Nov 2024 • 18 Nov • 02 Dec • 16 Dec • 30 Dec • 13 Jan 2025 • 27 Jan • 10 Feb • 24 Feb • 10 Mar • 24 Mar • 07 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Beef, Pepper & Onion Pizza with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Chicken Sausage with Mash Potatoes & Onion Gravy	Chicken Shawarma with Lebanese Rice or Lebanese Flatbread	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
Option 2	Vegan Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges	BBQ Vegetable Strips Wrap with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Vegetable Hotpot	Falafel in Sumaq & Za'atar Sauce with Lebanese Rice	Lentil & Vegetable Dahl with Rice
On the side	Sliced Carrots and Peas	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Cauliflower and Sliced Carrots	Mix Vegetables	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Green Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Fattoush Salad	Macedoine of Vegetable Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Banana & Date Yoghurt	Apple & Sultana Yoghurt with Rice Krispies
DAILY OPTIONS: DAILY SALAD & SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT PLATTER FRESH BREAD & YOGHURTS					

Week 2	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Ireland	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	11 Nov 2024 • 25 Nov • 09 Dec • 23 Dec • 06 Jan 2025 • 20 Jan • 03 Feb • 17 Feb • 3 Mar • 17 Mar • 31 Mar • 14 Apr				
Option 1	Piri Piri Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Italian Beef Meatballs Marinara Subroll with Cajun Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Irish Beef Stew with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes	Battered Pollock Fillet or Bubble Salmon Fillet with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Balti with Rice	Vegetable Nuggets with Katsu Curry Sauce and Rice	Jacket Potato with Leek, Onion & Beans	Veggie Sausage with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes & Gravy	Guorn Frankfurter Hotdog with Chips and Homemade Tomato Sauce
On the side	Green Vegetable Medley	Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Green Beans & Cauliflower	Green Cabbage & Sliced Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons	Tomato & Pasta Salad	Chef's House Salad	Potato Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Raspberry & Mango Fruit Fool	Apple & Banana Yoghurt Crunch
DAILY OPTIONS: DAILY SALAD & SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT PLATTER FRESH BREAD & YOGHURTS					

Please Note that some dishes maybe subject to local changes to suit individual school needs

NEW AWARD
BRONZE

proveg
SCHOOL
PLATES

AWARD

Pro Veg recognises that OUR healthy menus are environmentally friendly for humans, animals and the Planet.

All our Vegan & Vegetarian recipes are packed full of nutrition including PROTEIN & FIBRE to keep children healthy & happy.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Every effort is made to minimise risk of cross-contamination. However, it should be noted that our food is prepared in a kitchen where known allergens may be present and therefore the risk of cross-contamination remains a risk. Please ask staff for further details regarding specific dietary requirements and/or allergens.

Congratulations!



Contract Services CPU team were WINNERS at the Staff Awards Ceremony for "Excellent Support Services"

Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS

St John's CE Primary School
Bethnal Green

BREAKFAST CLUB

8:00 - 8:45am Monday- Friday



Our Breakfast Club is available to all St John's pupils from Nursery to Year 6 for only £1 when arriving before 8:30. After 8:30 our Breakfast Club sessions are completely **FREE** of charge to all.

**magic
breakfast**
fuel for learning

www.stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk @ admin@stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk 020 8980 1142

Find us on



Bethnal Green Junior Choir



Wednesdays 3.45-4.30pm

St. John on Bethnal Green
Primary School,
Peel Grove, E2 9LR



Years 3-6 welcome





Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS



TOWER HAMLETS

Tower Hamlets & City SENDIASS

(Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service)

The SENDIASS Team provides free and impartial expert advice to parents of children with SEND and to children and young people themselves who are residents within Tower Hamlets or City of London. Some of the ways we can support you are:

- **Attending meetings with schools/professionals**
- **Applying for an Education Health and Care Plan**
- **Mediation with the Local Authority**
- **Preparing and attending SEND Tribunals**
- **Providing information about other support services and departments**

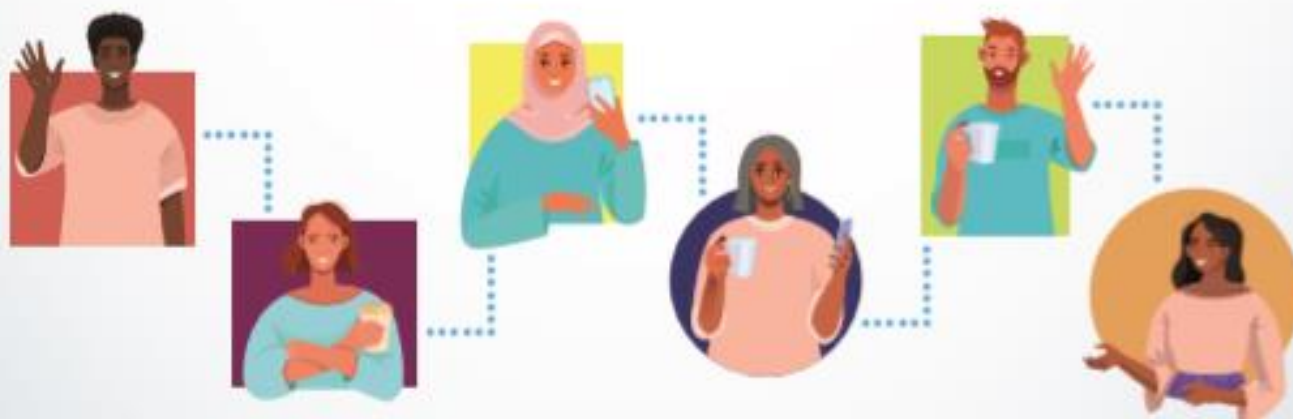
Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

If your query can not be resolved during the telephone consultation, we will take a referral and you will be allocated a caseworker who will contact you within 10 working days.

We have a dedicated telephone line, **020 7364 6489**, that you can call to speak to an advisor Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m-17:00 p.m.

You can also email us at:
towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

You can visit our website at:
<https://www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com/>



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

Term Dates and Holidays - 2024/ 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Staff Training	Mon 2 nd & Tue 3 rd September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 th September
Half Term	Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November
Staff Training	Mon 4 th November
Second half of term	Tuesday 5 th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 th December

<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Thursday 26th December</i>

Spring Term 2025

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st January</i>
First Day of Term	Monday 6 th January
Half Term	Mon. 17 th to Fri. 21 st February
Second half of term	Monday 24 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th April

<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 18th April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 21st April</i>

Summer Term 2025

First Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd April
Staff Training	Wed 30 th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term	Tuesday 27 th to Friday 30 th May
Second half of term	Monday 2 nd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 21 st July
Staff Training	Tuesday 22 nd July

<i>Ramadan begins</i>	<i>Friday 28^h February 2025*</i>
<i>Eid Al-Fitr</i>	<i>Sunday 30th March 2025*</i>
<i>Eid Al-Adha</i>	<i>Friday 6th June 2025*</i>

195 days including 5 staff training days

* to be confirmed



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 John's are:



Darren Rubin –Executive Headteacher

Monday -Wednesday



Bal Jheeta – Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday – Friday