



St John's Newsletter

Monday 22nd September 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

I hope you had a lovely Summer break. We have been back at school for a few weeks now and the children have settled in well. A warm welcome to our new families across the school and in the early years.

We started the year with our Vision Day which enabled the children to reflect on how they will let their light shine over the course of the academic year.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers from Year 1-6 in for our 'Meet the Teacher' session. We know that some of you will be working or unable to attend so we will make sure that we send the slides over to you. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to visit throughout the year and we will welcome Early Years parents in the weeks to come when the children are more settled.

Have a great week and remember to be kind to one another.

Welcome Back!

It is such a privilege to get into the classrooms. The children are always in fine form and are focused and hard-working. There is always good learning behaviour in the classrooms and our students are proud of their achievements.



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.



Celebration Assembly Update

Every Monday, our whole school comes together to celebrate their achievements. Each class nominates children for a certificate of significant achievement when they have done something especially noteworthy.

We recognise children who have earned their badges, we name our lunchtime helpers of the week, table of the week, oracy ambassadors, and those spotted by our staircase spy for acts like holding doors or moving around the school beautifully.

We also reward attendance with extra play for the class with the best weekly record. Finally, each teacher chooses one pupil to receive the Kindness Cup, one of the highest honours in the school. You can see from the picture above our first three very deserving winners.



Staff Training Update

We welcomed all of the Federation back to school for our whole school staff training. We updated staff on the latest changes to safeguarding as well presenting our Vision and Values.

In addition, we had some training from the London Diocesan Board for Schools on Unconscious Bias. It was lovely to have everyone together in the one building.

Music Update

Our children have been taking part in African drumming sessions, filling the school with rhythm and energy. Drumming is not only exciting and great fun, it also brings benefits for learning and wellbeing. Children develop coordination, concentration and listening skills as they keep the beat together, while also learning the importance of teamwork and collaboration. The sessions encourage self-expression and creativity, giving every child the chance to shine and feel confident.



Parent Governor Needed!

Our Governing Body has a strong focus on three core strategic functions

- Ensuring Clarity of Vision
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Governors commit to attend regular meetings and training. Each individual Governor is a member of the Governing Body and all decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Body.

We are now looking for a new Parent Governor to join. If you could send expressions of interest to Parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk, we will begin the process.



ARTIS

We are delighted to once again be working with Artis this year, a charity that brings learning to life through performing arts. Their sessions blend music, movement and drama, giving children a creative way to explore ideas and express themselves. The benefits are clear: confidence grows, communication improves and imagination flourishes. Our children absolutely love these sessions and look forward to them each week. We are especially grateful to our great friend to the school, Dasha Shenkman, for making it happen through her generosity.

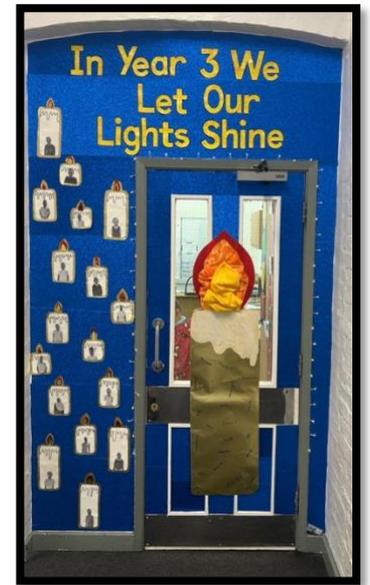


Family Dining at St John's





Vision Day @ St John's



Phonics Teaching **@ St John's**

At our school, we use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics programme to teach early reading and spelling. This systematic synthetic phonics scheme helps pupils quickly learn letter sounds and blending skills. Daily sessions provide structured, engaging lessons that build fluency and confidence, ensuring all pupils develop a strong foundation for reading and writing success.



Attendance – Every Day Counts

Regular attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring your child's success. Every day in school counts, not just for academic progress but also for building friendships and developing confidence. When a child attends school regularly, they are better able to keep up with their learning and feel a stronger sense of belonging to our school community. Some facts below about attendance that might surprise you:

- Missing 1 day a week means you will have 80% attendance. That's 38 days of school you missed, which is more than 7 full weeks of learning!
- Missing just 1 day every two weeks means you will have 90% attendance. That's 18 days of school you missed in one year, which is almost 4 full weeks of learning!
- Missing just 1 day every four weeks means you will have 95% attendance. That's 9 days of school you missed, or almost 2 full weeks of learning.
- Our goal is 97% attendance. This means you've only missed about 6 days of school all year—that's less than one day a month

Key Dates Coming Up: (Check the calendar on the website too)

Meet The Teacher Y1-6
Evensong @ St John's Church
Harvest Festival in School
Parents afternoon/evening
Christmas Fete
Christmas Service
@St John's Church

Thursday 24th September 9:10am
Thursday 24th September 4pm
Wednesday 15th October
Tuesday 21st October
Friday 12th December
Thursday 17th December – 7pm



Nurturing Learning

Across the school, pupils engage in a variety of enriching activities that support their development and love of learning. In EYFS, children explore sensory play in the sand and enjoy group games like parachute play, fostering social skills and coordination. Pupils across all phases engage in reading and discussion, building vocabulary and comprehension. Focused teaching moments, help develop confidence and personalised learning. This broad approach creates a calm, language-rich environment where every pupil thrives.





We Love Line Orders!

By lining up calmly, pupils prepare mentally for the next activity and develop social skills like cooperation and consideration for others, creating a sense of community across the school. They help maintain calm and safety during transitions, reducing distractions and supporting a positive learning environment.





Year One Update – Ms Moses

Year 1 have been setting the scene for our new English Text Knuffle Bunny. Knuffle Bunny is a picture book by Mo Willems that tells the story of a young girl named Trixie and her beloved stuffed toy, Knuffle Bunny.

One day, during a visit to the laundrette with her father, Trixie realises that she has lost Knuffle Bunny. Unable to speak yet, she tries to communicate her distress to her father, but he does not understand what is wrong. Today the children visited the launderette to find out what happens to the missing characters!

This story is rich in everyday language and emotions, making it highly relatable for young pupils. It provides opportunities to explore vocabulary related to feelings, everyday activities, and problem-solving, all of which support language development as outlined in the DfE Reading Framework.





SCHOOL EVENSONG

A child-friendly service of Evensong,
led by St John on Bethnal Green
Primary School Choir,
ending with an all-age address

Thursdays 4pm



St John on Bethnal Green
200 Cambridge Heath Road
London E2 9PA

stjohnonbethnalgreen.church



Your guide to information and services for families in Tower Hamlets



Support for dads to get involved with their child's learning

A session is being held for dads and male carers of children with SEND to help them get involved with their child's learning. The session is being delivered by the SENDIASS team and will include tips, advice and support, including:

- How to support their child's learning at home
- Effective communication strategies with teachers
- Fun activities to do with their child
- Resources and support available for SEND families.

Wednesday 24th September 3.30pm-5pm
Wednesday 6 August, 10-11.30am
Ocean Children and Family Centre,
Whitehorse Road, E1 0ND
Whitehorse Road E1 0ND



For more information, email mark.penn@towerhamlets.gov.uk
or call 07858 689 243
[Use the QR code or this link to sign up](#)



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



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.

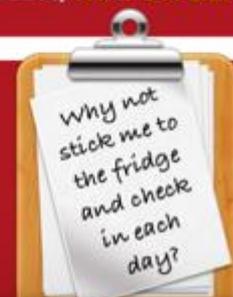
Remind them of key online safety principles



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





Let's Talk SEND

Come along to an information event for parents and carers to find out about Coproduction and help develop a Borough wide charter

For further information, contact us at:
Tel: 0207 364 4461
Email: Mark.Penn@towerhamlets.gov.uk

When: Friday 26th September 11am-12pm
Friday 24th October 10.30am-11.30am
Friday 21st November 11am-12pm

Where: Parents Advice centre, 30 Greatorex street,
E1 5NP



Information from previous Let's Talk SEND meetings on the Local Offer.

www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/send/lets-talk-send



CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES LUNCH MENU Apr 2025 - Oct 2025



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Sweden	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	21 Apr 2025 - 05 May	19 May - 02 Jun - 16 Jun	30 Jun - 14 Jul - 28 Jul	11 Aug - 25 Aug - 08 Sep	22 Sep - 06 Oct - 20 Oct
Option 1	Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Spaghetti Bolognese	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Swedish Beef Meatballs with Dill Cream Sauce & Mashed Potatoes	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
Option 2	Cauliflower & Chickpea Korma with Rice	Potato & Rainbow Vegetable Frittata with Garlic Bread	Jacket Potato with Vegemince Bolognese	Swedish Cheese Pie with Mashed Potatoes	Mexican Bean Vegan Roll with Chips
On the side	Peas & Sweetcorn	Cauliflower & Broccoli	Carrots & Sweetcorn	Green Beans & Mashed Swede with Carrots	Peas & Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Green Salad	Apple & Cucumber Salad	Chef's House Salad	Cucumber, Red Onion and Dill Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Blueberry Fruit Fool	Strawberry & Banana 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 Singapore	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	28 Apr 2025 - 12 May	26 May - 09 Jun - 23 Jun	07 Jul - 21 Jul - 4 Aug - 18 Aug	1 Sept - 15 Sept - 29 Sept	13 Oct - 27 Oct
Option 1	Neapolitan Pasta Bake	Crispy Southern Fried Chicken Fillet Burger with Baked Potato Wedges	Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Singapore Chicken Stir Fry with Noodles	Bubble Crumb Fish Bites or Bubble Salmon Fillet with Chips
Option 2	Jacket Potato with Spicy Mixed Beans	Roasted Vegetable Lasagne	Aloo Chaat with Rice	Guorn Dippers with Rendang Curry Sauce & Rice	Cheese & Broccoli Quiche with Chips
On the side	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Broccoli & Baked Beans	Spring Cabbage & Carrots	Mixed Vegetables	Peas & Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Green Salad	Beans & Chilli Salsa Salad	Chef's House Salad	Cucumber Raita	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Yoghurt	Tropical Fruity Yoghurt
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

Chef Hassane Presents



Two dishes packed full of flavour, from two parts of the globe, that you will enjoy this season, Swedish Beef Meatballs and Singapore Chicken Noodles, or as ABBA said Mama Mia!!!



Enjoy and eat healthy!
HASSANE X



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.

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

NEW AWARD
BRONZE
proveg SCHOOL PLATES
AWARD

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

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 3.45-4.30 pm

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



Years 3-6 welcome





Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS



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/>



School Term Dates

25/26

Term Dates and Holidays - 2025/ 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff Training	Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September (2days)
Term 1	Wednesday 3rd September–Friday 24 th October(38 days)
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Term 2	Monday 3 rd November – Friday 19 th December (35 days)
Christmas break	Monday 22 nd December – Friday January 2 nd
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Thursday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Friday 26th December</i>
<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Thursday 1st January</i>

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training	Monday 5th January (1 day)
Term 3	Tuesday 6 th January- Friday 13 th February (29 days)
Half Term	Monday 16 th February-Friday 20 th February
Term 4	Monday 23 rd February-Friday 27 th March (25 days)
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 3rd April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 6th April</i>

Summer Term 26

Term 5	Monday 13 th April-Friday 22 nd May (29 days)
<i>May Day Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 4th May</i>
<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 25th May</i>
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
Term 6	Monday 1 st June- Thursday 16 th July (34 days)
Staff Training	Friday 17th July (1 day)
<i>Ramadan begins</i>	<i>18th February</i>
<i>Eid Al-Fitr</i>	<i>20th March</i>
<i>Eid Al-Adha</i>	<i>27th May</i>

195 School Days including 5 training days (1 to be arranged)



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