



# St John's Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

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

The final newsletter of 2023! I wanted to thank our staff for all the work they do, the late nights, the extra miles and the little things that are so important. Thank you to our children who always do their best and to our families and friends for all of the support you give to us.

You will not be surprised to hear that it has been a busy couple of weeks since I last wrote to you. Some of our children joined HRH The Princess of Wales at a rather fancy celebration in association with Place2Be, which will be televised on Christmas Eve! Our younger pupils have performed in front of a huge audience for the first time in their Nativity and KS1 plays which were fantastic. In addition, we have had the most incredibly supported Christmas Fete and some of our Worship Council attended Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. We have a foodbank open on 4<sup>th</sup> January in school so check out the details of that on page 5.

Wishing you a lovely weekend, a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. Be kind to one another and see you back at school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.



### **St John's Pupils and Staff attend Together at Christmas at Westminster Abbey**

We were delighted to receive an invitation from the Princess of Wales who earlier this year visited us to discuss the important work that Place2Be do in our schools.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csflyGDyMt0>

Children and staff attended the 'Together at Christmas' service with the Royal Family and other distinguished guests. Our children were impeccable though I am not sure who was more excited, the children or Mrs Jheeta...



### **Federation School Council Meet Rowena – Our Safeguarding Governor**

I wrote about Rowena in the last edition thanking her for coming in to work with Ms Leigh to monitor our Single Central Record. Rowena also helped me run a safeguarding audit checking the filtering and monitoring on our devices in school.

We have clearly been quite demanding of her time as a couple of weeks ago, Rowena was invited into St John's along with the St Paul's School Councillors so they could interview her on what her job as a Governor entails along with other searching questions about her role!

Rowena was very impressed with the children's questioning skills and we are very fortunate as a Federation to have such caring, devoted Governors willing to give up their time to support the school.



### **St John's Choir Sing at Town Hall Hotel**

This week, our choir had the privilege of singing at the Town Hall Hotel, just around the corner from our school. It is such a beautiful venue and we were delighted to be invited.

Mrs Bahi organised several carols and our children delighted the guests and hotel owner who was making a surprise visit! Thank you Mrs Bahi for arranging this.



### **Follow Us on Twitter**

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 499 followers and the more followers we have, the more people will see what a fantastic school this is!





## Christmas Fayre

I am pretty sure that in the years I have been here, this was the biggest one yet. A big thank you to Mrs Jheeta for her organisation skills, Ms Leigh for her skills with organising the raffle and Ms Carly for her support along with all of our brilliant helpers and staff on the day.







## Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral

Some children who are part of Mrs Bahi's choir had the privilege of visiting St Paul's Cathedral for their Evensong Performance.

Did you know that Evensong is a church service held near to sunset taken from the Book of Common Prayer of 1662?

Children and parents/carers had the opportunity to experience the Cathedral Choir who sang responses, canticles, and anthem and the psalms of the day.

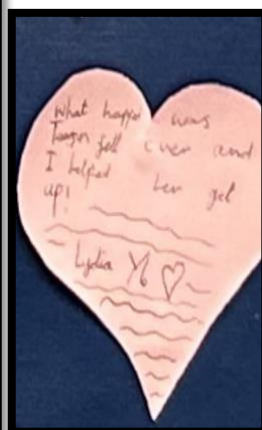
As one of our children said, "It was beautiful!". Thank you Mrs Bahi and Mrs Jheeta for organising and also our parents/carers that came along.



## Value of the Term – Compassion

This term has been a very long one so I am glad that we have been focusing on one of my favourite Values in the school – Compassion.

Children show their acts of kindness in many ways, from helping at lunchtime to being a good friend and we regularly discuss these in Collective Worship. It will not surprise you to know that our children are so kind to one another. On the Values display board, children reflect on acts of kindness. I particularly enjoyed reading Lydia's note.







### **Crossteach Christmas Performance**

Thank you to our friends at Crossteach who came into school to talk about The Nativity story and share some interesting facts about Jesus and his name. Did you know that he was given two names at birth, Jesus and Immanuel which means God with us? Lindsey from Crossteach commented on how well the children listened and what a good subject knowledge they had.




### **St John's Foodbank – Open Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

We will be opening our foodbank on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to book a slot, we will have a crate of produce ready for you including hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and sanitary towels which have been donated by the Hygiene Bank based in Holborn which we are extremely grateful for.

We normally have enough crates for approximately 25-30 families. If you would like one, please email the school on [parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk) and we will get back to you with a time slot.





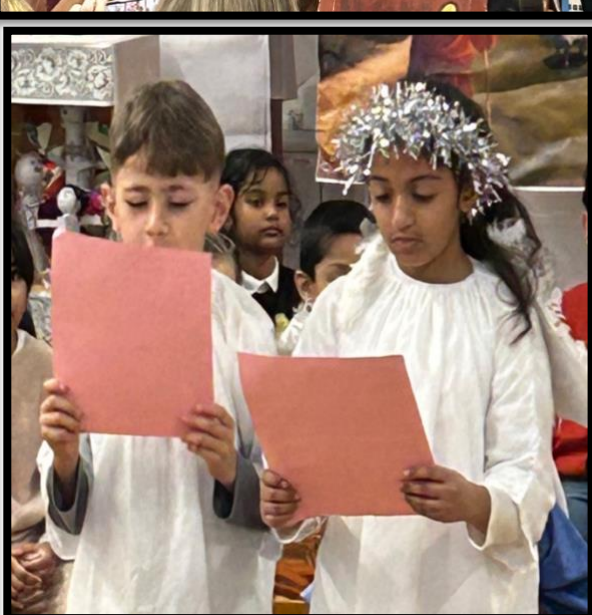
Christmas  
Service  
at  
St John's  
Church  
  
December  
2023







Early Years and  
Key Stage 1  
Nativity  
December 2023





# ST JOHN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bethnal Green

## NURSERY & RECEPTION

### 2024 INTAKE

*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](mailto:admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

[www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](http://www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)



*'Let our light shine'*



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

## Term Dates and Holidays - 2023/ 2024

### Autumn Term 2023 (75 days)

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

*Christmas Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December*  
*Boxing Day Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December*

### Spring Term 2024 (54 days)

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January</i>
Staff Training	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January
First Day of Term	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	Mon. 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup> February
Second half of term	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
Last Day of Term	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March

*Good Friday Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March*  
*Easter Monday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April*

### Summer Term 2024 (66 days)

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

*Ramadan begins Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024\**  
*Eid Al-Fitr Tuesday/ Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>/ 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024\**  
*Eid Al-Adha Sunday/ Monday 16<sup>th</sup>/ 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024\**

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**