



# St John's Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

I hope you are all well. It is a particularly special time in the calendar. Children have been reflecting on Holy Week and older children have taken part in a pilgrimage – which I think is a first for St John's! In addition members of our community have been fasting during Ramadan, an important time for our Muslim friends and it has recently been Holi, the Hindu festival of Colour, Love and Spring.

This newsletter coincides with the end of my second full term as Executive Headteacher. I am very proud to lead our school and am grateful to our team who work so hard to create these opportunities for our children.

Throughout the newsletter you will see what the children have been learning and experiencing. You will learn about our pilgrimage, share the fun that our Year 6 children had when they went on their residential and see how our children help out those who are less fortunate in our community. We are a small school but we are so proud of the role we play.

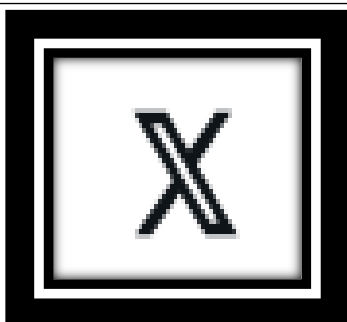
School is open again on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Our foodbank is open on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April so email [parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk) if you would like a slot. Have a great Easter break, Eid Mubarak and be kind to one another.

## **Staffing Update – Mrs Stevens.**

I am writing to share the news that Mrs Stevens has resigned from her position as our Early Years Nursery Nurse. Mrs Stevens has given twenty five years of service and we are immensely grateful for her hard work and dedication. She has truly touched so many lives of the many families that have been here. Mrs Stevens wanted to pass on a message to you all:

*"It is with a lot of thought and consideration that it is time for me to leave the school. I'm disappointed that I can't in person thank you all for your support, kindness and trusting me with your children. I can't believe that 25 years have flown by and the amount of children who I have seen develop into confident young adults. I end by wishing you happiness and good health and my sincere thanks for the fantastic memories and laughs along the way."*

We are in a fortunate position that Ms Kayla knows the children very well and is currently leading the Nursery class under the stewardship of Ms Shebli and Mrs Jheeta. We are reviewing the staffing structure and will be guided by what is best for the children.



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

## School Council Update

Members of our School Council have been extremely busy. Recently they visited City Hall to find out about the role of the Mayor of London and how he makes decisions. School councillors have to make difficult choices too so this was a very worthwhile visit that ended with a trip on the cable cars.

I also asked Ms Moses to take some of our older school councillors to have a look at the lunchtime family style dining setup at St Paul's. I am looking forward to catching up with them after Easter to hear what they liked and what they thought we could build on.

Thank you Ms Moses for leading our school council and thanks too to Ms Sharon for helping to take the children.





## Kindness Cup Updates

Another week passes and two very worthy winners of our Kindness Cup sponsored by Place2be.

One of my favourite parts of my role is reading out who our teachers have nominated to win the Kindness Cup. It never fails to generate a huge response in the assembly hall as the children eagerly await who has been selected.

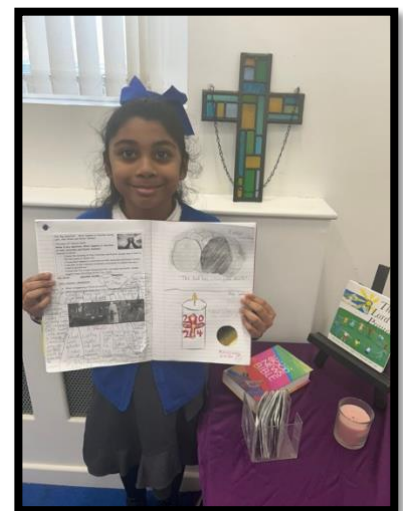
Compassion is such an important Value and our children are always so kind.



## Sharing Good Work

Another favourite part to my job is when children come into the office to share their fantastic work. I am always impressed with the effort and dedication the children put into everything they do.

In the picture on the right you can see a student from Class 5 sharing some of her excellent RE work.



## Follow Us on Instagram

Another way to keep up to date with what is happening in our school is to follow us on Instagram @stjohnsbethnalgreen

This is a new way of showing you what we are getting up to at St John's and I would be very interested to know what you think of this new format.





# Year 2 at the Natural History Museum



## Reinhardt Buhr

Over this Easter period, Reinhardt Buhr is our Musician of the Fortnight. Reinhardt Buhr (born in 1988) is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. He is an incredible multi-instrumentalist, which means he is skilled at playing many instruments. Aged only 36 years, Reinhardt has composed 16 albums and in the process of creating more.

At the end of 2019, his music went viral through social media, averaging over 4 million views per month, and the numbers continue to rise. Reinhardt combines the Guitar, Electric Cello, Australian didgeridoo, Israeli Shofar, Spanish Cajon, and the Piano to create an extraordinary orchestra in his own one-man improvisational band. Listen carefully and see if you can recognise some of them. I hope you enjoy listening to his evocative music this fortnight.

*Genre: Melodic House, ambient instrumental*



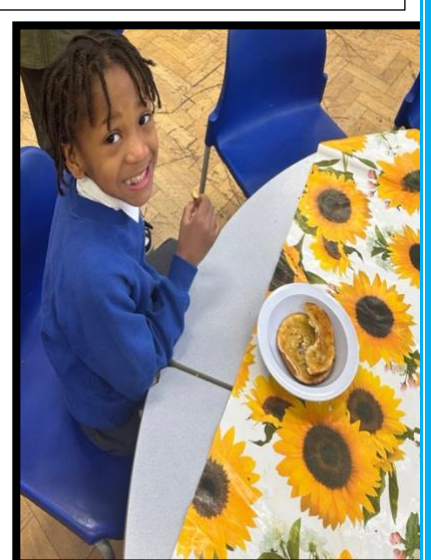
## Class 6 Tackle Cybercrime – Ms Kam

Thanks to Place2Be and Matt Kuningas and Krish Patel from Deloitte LLP for arranging a Digital Leader Training workshop for Year 6. They were very impressed with the children, Matt said: 'The students were incredibly engaged throughout, and were constantly asking questions and offering opinions and really got stuck into the topics...The presentations they did at the end were also really good – I was really impressed with how much they took in and learnt, and how quickly they created a presentation given the time constraints.'



### **Breakfast Club** **@ St John's**

Did you know our breakfast club is open every morning from 8am? You can have a delicious nutritious breakfast, play with friends or get your homework completed. It costs £1.00 a day from 8am and is free to everyone at 8:30am. Give it a try!





# Year 6 Gorsefield Residential





## Helping The Homeless

For the last four weeks, children in class four, five and six have been helping prepare beds for members of our community who are not fortunate enough to have a home of their own. What a lovely thing to do. Lydia wrote a beautiful card and I thoroughly agree with her message. Thank you to Mrs Jheeta, Ms Carly and Ms Leigh for taking the children.

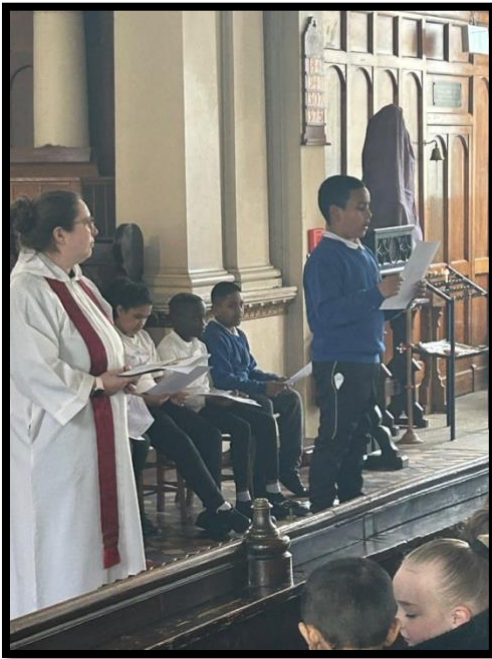




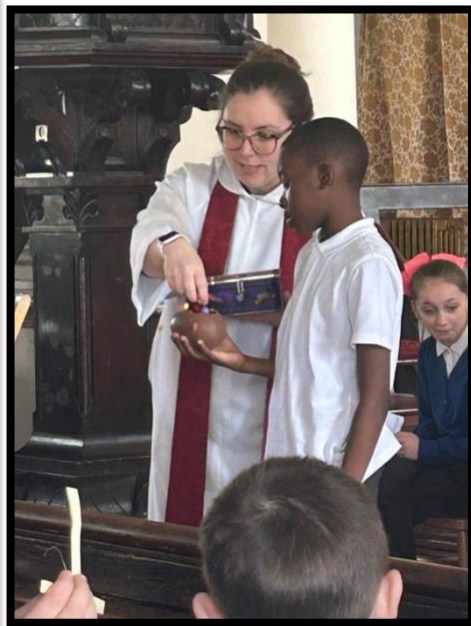
## Class Five and Six Pilgrimage – Mrs Bahi

After an in-depth study of the stations of the cross, during this Lenten period, we embarked on an Easter Pilgrimage which offers our children the opportunity to reflect on the key events of Holy Week in a range of sacred spaces across the community. Over the period of a morning, they enjoyed the experience of a real pilgrimage – from church to church and engaged in a variety of activities enabling our children to pause, reflect and ponder the events that mark the pinnacle of the Christian Calendar. Thank you to St John's, St James the Less, St Peters and Our Lady of Assumption for welcoming us so graciously.





Easter  
Service  
@ St John's  
Wednesday  
28<sup>th</sup> March  
2024



# Children's activities with St Margaret's House

Click on the photos to find out more on our website.

## Term-time activity:

### Crafterschool:

Weekly Wednesday Arts and Crafting Workshops for Children to have fun, learn skills, and be mindful.

Suitable for children in School Year 1 to Year 5.

**Spring Term:** running until Wednesday 27th March

**Summer Term:** Weds 24th April – Weds 3rd July (no session Weds 29th May)

**Time:** 3.30-5.30pm

**Location:** The Create Place, 29 Old Ford Rd.

**Session fee:** £3 per child (£5 for two siblings)



## Easter holiday activities & events:

### FREE Comedy workshops: Hilarity Academy

Join us over the Easter holidays for Hilarity Academy - a free, fun workshop for young people to learn and engage in the skill of making people laugh.

These workshops include learning how to tell jokes, creating sketches, writing stand-up material, and clowning!

Suitable for children in School Year 3 to Year 6

**Easter Holiday Dates and Times:** 2pm - 4pm

Monday 8th April, Tuesday 9th April, Thursday 11th April

**Location:** The Tramshed Community Hub, Digby Street, E2 0LS



### Performance: Du Iz Tak

**Date and times:** Saturday 6th April, 11am & 1.30pm

**Running time:** 35 minutes

**Ages:** 3+

Told through the language of insects, *Du Iz Tak?* is a story about the cycle of life and all its impermanence. Come and peer into a miniature world of little puppets to see a delightful group of friends exploring their ever-changing home.

Adapted from the award-winning and beautiful book by Carson Ellis, *Du Iz Tak?* is an enchanting, unusual and magical theatre show for young families.

**Location:** The Mulberry Hall, St. Margaret's House, E2 9PL

**Tickets:** £5 / £7 / £9





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.towerhamletsandcity.sendiass.com/>**



Bethnal Green

# JUNIOR CHOIR

... welcomes new members!



**Wednesdays, 5-6pm**

**St. James the Less Church  
St. James's Avenue, Bethnal Green,  
London E2 9JD**

**Completely free of charge!**

St John's & St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools  
**Term Dates and Holidays - 2023/ 2024**

**Autumn Term 2023** (75 days)

<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Tue 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>
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)

*New Year's Day Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January*

<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>
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)

<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>
First Day of Term	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>
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**