



St John's Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

An update from Mr. Rubin...

I'm sorry for the delay in getting this newsletter out but our friends from Ofsted decided to pay us a visit. We've been ready for them for months now so, although we were naturally a bit nervous, it was a relief to get the call just before half term as it had been on our minds for a while.

I can't share the final report yet as it hasn't been published, but we were pleased with the outcome and I look forward to sharing more details when I can, which should be in about thirty school days. What I can say is how truly humbling it is to lead a team who give their heart and soul every day to make St John's the wonderful school it is.

There's plenty to celebrate in this newsletter and I hope you enjoy reading it. Thank you all for your continued support.

Have a lovely half term and remember to be kind to one another.

St John's Champions

A big thank you to our incredible children who have performed so well in recent sporting events. Our Boccia team achieved a gold medal and our girls football team recently won the whole tournament.



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.

Inclusion Conference

The start of this term saw three of our schools meet at St Paul's for our Inaugural Inclusion Conference. One of the many advantages of working together is that we can learn so much from one another.

We were treated to presentations from Inclusion Leads, Speech and Language Therapists as well as an inciteful talk on misogyny. We were also treated to discussion from the Phoenix Outreach team as well as finding time to look at quality of writing across our three schools. Sharing better across the Federation supports our staff and informs best practice.

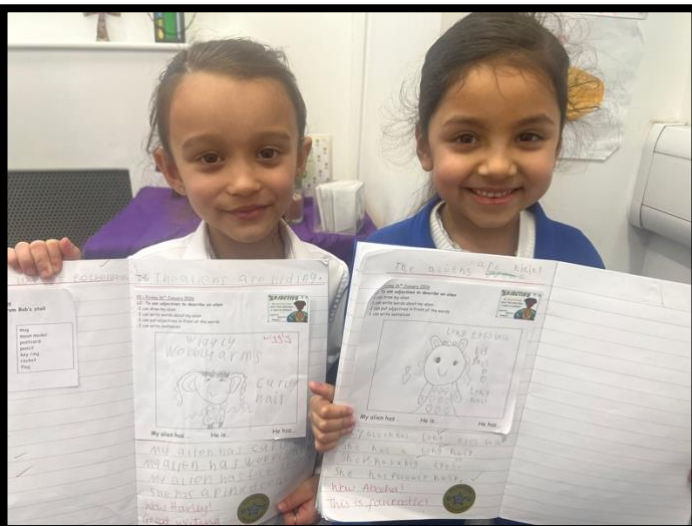
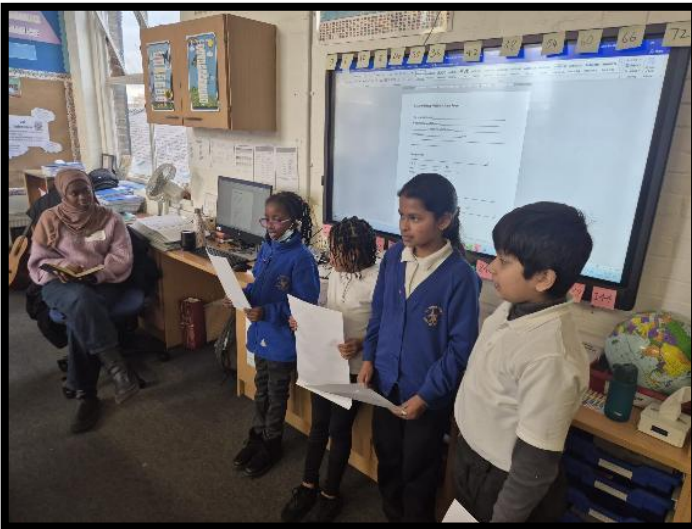
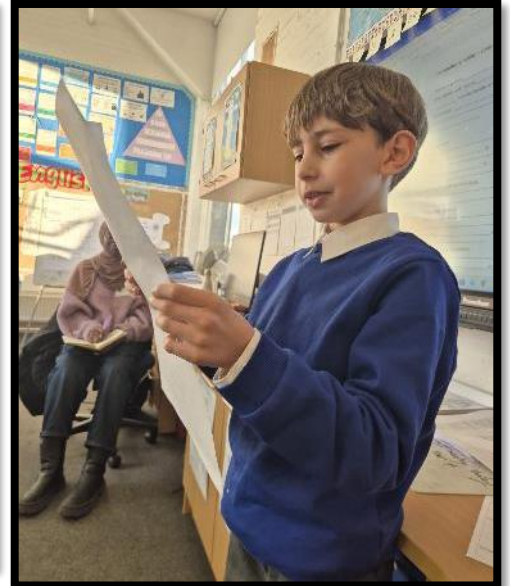
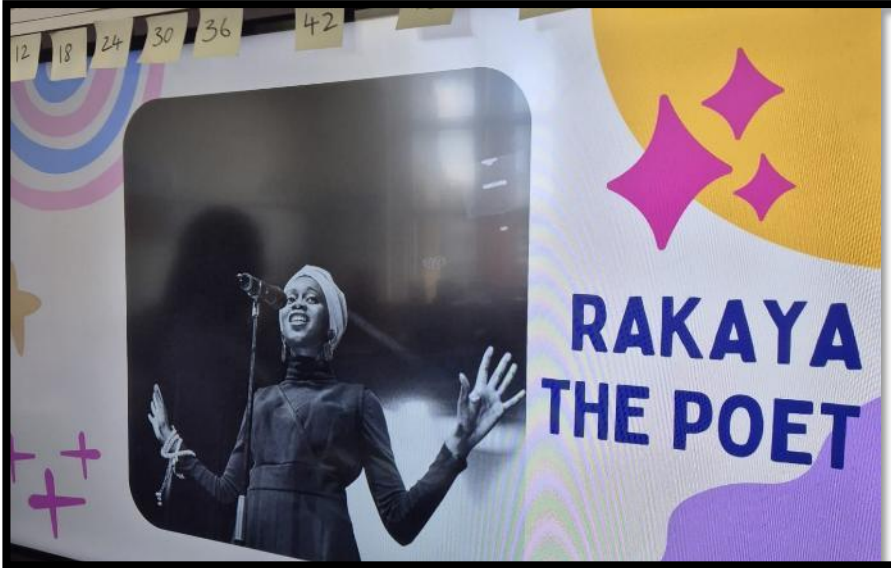


Family Style Dining

I am always so impressed with our children during lunch services where they support one another as part of our Family Style Dining approach. Our Ofsted Inspectors were very impressed with how the children take responsibility and I am so proud of our younger children who have really embraced this style of dining..

Poetry Slam Competition Update – Mr Bouflour

Year 4 and 5 are participating in this year's Tower Hamlets Poetry Slam. We have enjoyed two visits at school from the awesome poet Rakaya who has worked with all the pupils and then this week with the select performers. Both classes attended the finale performance at the Rich Mix in Bethnal Green on Wednesday 11th February. The performers were excited to showcase their skills and both the classes were an amazing and supportive audience. I will report on the finals in the next edition.



Sharing Great Work!

Our office doors are always open to celebrate student success. We were particularly proud to welcome two impressive Year 1 pupils who visited to share their exceptional work.

Seeing their pride and progress first-hand is a highlight for the leadership team. We love rewarding such dedication; keep up the brilliant effort and continue to let your light shine.



Early Years Update

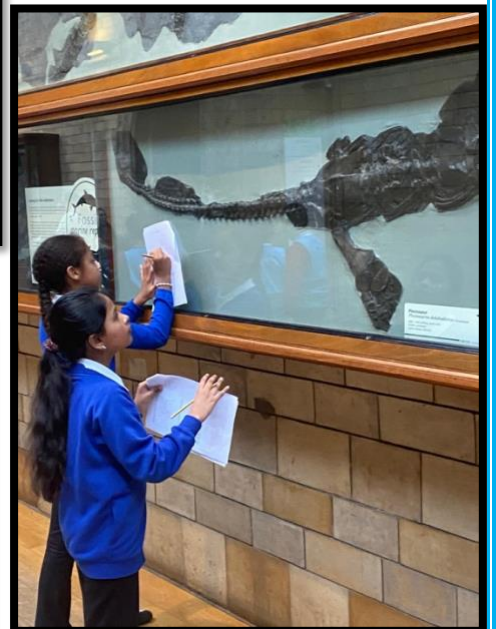
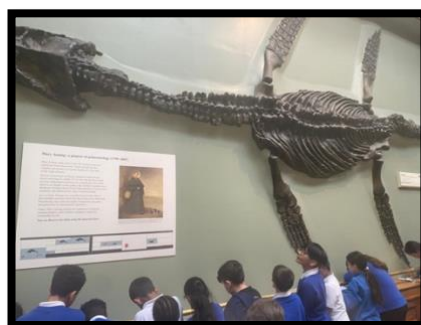
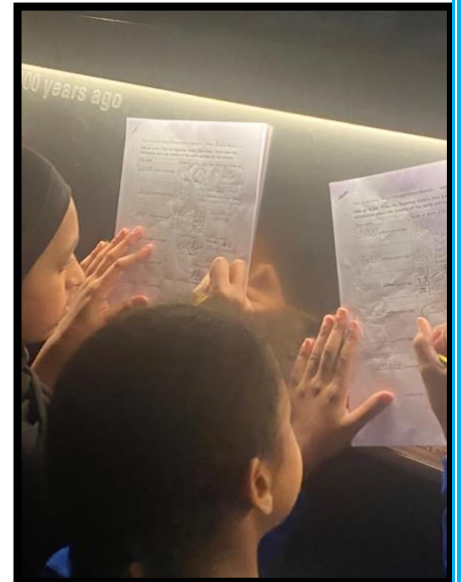
Our Early Years is thriving and growing and we are so proud of our children. We have recently introduced a Stay and Play which is attracting a healthy number of parents/carers to come in and see the delights of our Early Years. A big thank you to our team over there who have worked so hard to create such a beautiful, child focused and friendly interactive learning environment. I also wanted to thank Ms Blake, Our Federation Early Years Lead who is now working across all three schools to make sure that the standards of teaching and learning continue to flourish and thrive.





We Love School Trips!

Our children will often talk about what they love about school and school trips always feature. This happens because our staff work tirelessly to ensure that our children have the best opportunities and experiences.





Kindness Cup Updates

As we reach the midpoint of the academic year, our Monday celebration assembly remains the essential heartbeat of St John's. It is a time where we pause to recognise the moments that build character across our school. We share the joy of birthdays, and celebrate those who have earned their merit badges through dedication. We also highlight those walking beautifully through the school and reveal the high-stakes result of the attendance of the week award.

In our community, kindness is our most valuable currency. The Kindness Cup is our most prestigious honour because it proves that letting your light shine is about how you treat others. Halfway through the year, this culture of compassion truly defines us.



Thankyou Lions Club and Mrs Jheeta

Once again a huge thank you to Mrs Jheeta and the Wanstead Lions Club who previously visited the school to take part in vision screening for children at St John's.

In addition to that, they have kindly donated some money which has gone towards a beautiful kitchen space in our Early Years for our younger children to enjoy.

We are incredibly grateful to the Lions for all they do for our school community.



Breakfast Club

Our free breakfast club is open to all pupils from 8am every morning. By providing a healthy start to the day, we ensure no child begins their learning on an empty stomach. Why not let us organise the morning rush; get your children in early so they are settled, nourished, and fully ready to learn by nine. There is lots to do and I am delighted to say that Mr Fernandez will now be joining us in the mornings which means even more fun for our growing breakfast club children.





Library Update

Laura, our school librarian, comes to St John's every other Wednesday. She does an amazing job at looking after our library, adding in new and engaging books and even taking old books away. Laura also leads 'storytime' with our classes. In the picture you can see her reading to our lucky Year 2 class who loved the experience.

Thank you Laura!

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.

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

School Reopens

Evensong Service @ St John's Church

INSET DAY – School Closed for pupils

Stay and Play – EYFS

Year 3 Class Assembly

Year 2 Class Assembly

Year 1 Trip to Soanes Centre

Evensong Service @ St John's Church

Year 1 Class Assembly

Evensong Service @ St John's Church

Red Nose Day

Easter Service at St John's Church

Evensong Service @ St John's Church

Last Day of Term

Monday 23rd February

Thursday 26th February

Friday 27th February

Thursday 5th March (9am – 10am)

Thursday 6th March

Tuesday 10th March

Thursday 12th March

Thursday 12th March

Thursday 19th March

Thursday 19th March

Friday 20th March

Wednesday 25th March (9:30am)

Thursday 26th March

Friday 26th March



St. John on Bethnal Green



Let Your Light Shine!

A Service of Music and Readings for Candlemas

with music from St John on Bethnal Green Primary School Choir

Monday 2nd February, 2026 4pm



Candlemas Celebrations

Our Candlemas service was a beautiful celebration of light and community at St John's Church. It was a privilege to witness our growing choir church fill the building with such wonderful music, and I am incredibly proud to watch this initiative flourish. My thanks go to Reverend Philippa for leading the service, and to Jonathan Pease, our brilliant musician and organist, whose talent continues to inspire our children and elevate our worship. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Mrs Bahi for her organisation and vision and to our parents and carers for attending. Seeing our pupils so engaged makes me immensely proud. These moments truly define our school, bringing us together to let our collective light shine.



What's On at St Margaret's House for Children and Families: Spring 20 26

Join us for free half term workshops, a low-cost performance for families and find out about our weekly term-time activities



FREE Half Term Circus sessions

Sessions support the development of new skills, communication and creative thinking! Children will learn different juggling and balancing techniques.

Free to attend thanks to funding from the Tower Hamlets Mayor's Community Fund.

Venue: The Tramshed Community Hub, Digby Stree, E2 0LS

Dates & Time:

- Monday 16th February, 10am-12noon
- Tuesday 17th February, 2-4pm
- Thursday 19th February, 10am-12noon



Flyaway Katie - family show

Flyaway Katie is an inspiring flight of fancy about the power of the imagination, based on the book by Polly Dunbar with music by Tom Gray of Gomez.

The show is bursting with colour, movement and surprises, with puppets of varying scales acting the story.

Venue: Mulberry Hall, St Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Road

Date: Saturday 21st February

Times: 11am and 1.30pm

Running Time: 35mins plus 15 mins 'meet the puppets'

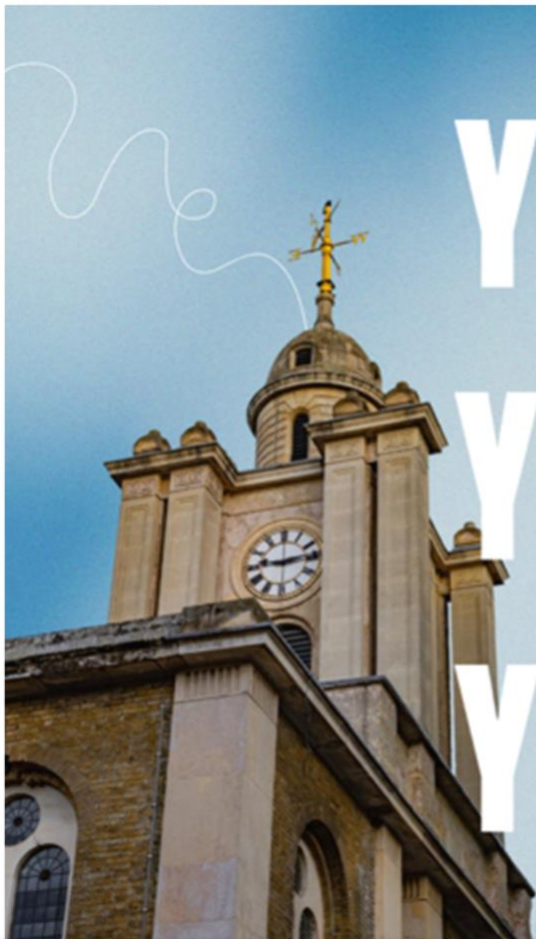
Suitable for children 2-7 years and their families

St Margaret's House Arts and Wellbeing Centre, 21 Old Ford Road, E2 9PL

www.stmargarethouse.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



WE ARE

**YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH**

WE ARE

**A YOUTH MOVEMENT IN TOWERHAMLETS
CREATING COMMUNITY AND CHANGING CULTURE**

AT ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN

FREE DROP IN YOUTH SESSION
FROM 3:30-5:00PM

EVERY MONDAY TERM TIME





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES LUNCH MENU Nov 2025 - Apr 2026



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Hungary	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	03 Nov 2025 • 17 Nov • 01 Dec • 15 Dec • 29 Dec • 12 Jan 2026 • 26 Jan • 09 Feb • 23 Feb • 09 Mar • 23 Mar • 06 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato, Basil & Mozzarella Potato Gnocchi	BBQ Veggie Chicken Tenders with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Veggie Bangers and Mash	Layered Cheesy Vegetables & Potatoes (Rakott Krumpli)	Vegetable Nuggets with Sweet and Sour Sauce & Rice
Option 2	Thai Red Vegetable Meatballs Curry with Noodles	Keralan Style Chicken Curry with Savoury Rice	Minced Beef Cottage Pie	Hungarian Beef Goulash (Pörkölt) with Mashed Potato	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
On the side	Sweetcorn and Green Beans	Broccoli & Carrots	Braised Red Cabbage & Peas	Green Vegetable Medley	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Bean Salad	Crunchy Red Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Hungarian Cucumber Salad	Asian Noodle Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Apple & Cinnamon Greek Style Yoghurt	Dates & Banana Yoghurt
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 Brazilian	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	10 Nov 2025 • 24 Nov • 08 Dec • 22 Dec • 05 Jan 2026 • 19 Jan • 02 Feb • 16 Feb • 2 Mar • 16 Mar • 30 Mar				
Option 1	Macaroni Cheese & Sweetcorn	Margherita Pizza with Cajun Potato Wedges	Vegetable Hotpot	Black Bean & Vegetable Stew with Rice	Mediterranean Puff Pastry Tart with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Chicken Shawarma with Rice	Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Feijoada with Rice	Battered Pollock Fillet with Chips or Jacket Potato with Tuna, Salmon & Sweetcorn Mayonnaise
On the side	Carrots and Broccoli	Vegetable Medley	Roasted Cauliflower and Green Beans	Baby Corn & Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Beetroot & Spring Onion Salad	Carrot & Sultana Salad	Chef's House Salad	Brazilian Slaw (Salpicão Salad)	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Banana & Mango Fruit Fool with Toasted Coconut	Mandarin 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

LOOK OUT FOR OUR POPULAR THEME DAYS.



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.



Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS



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 4.15pm



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

stjohnonbethnalgreen.church

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.

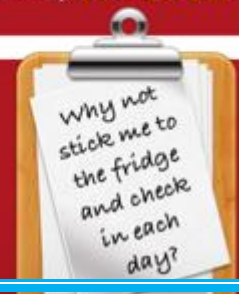


Remind them of key online safety principles

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



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 & 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 & Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools Term Dates and Holidays - 2025/ 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff Training	Monday 1 st & Tuesday 2 nd September (2 days)
Term 1	Wednesday 3 rd September – Friday 24 th October (38 days)
Half Term	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October
Term 2	Monday 3 rd November - Friday 19 th December (35 days)

Christmas break Monday 22nd December– Friday January 2nd

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December
Boxing Day Friday 26th December

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training	Monday 5 th January (1 day)
Term 3	Tuesday 6 th January -Friday 13 th February (29 days)
Half Term	Mon. 16 th to Fri. 20 th February
Staff Training	Friday 27 th February (1 day)
Term 4	Monday 23 rd February – Friday 27 th March (24 days)

Good Friday Friday 3rd April
Easter Monday ~~Monday 6th April~~ /

Summer Term 2026

Term 5 Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May (29 Days)

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 4th May
Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25th May
Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Term 6 Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July - 2pm (35 days)

Ramadan begins 18th February 2026
Eid Al-Fitr 20th March 2026
Eid Al-Adha 27th May 2026

190 School Days, 5 Staff Training Days (1 as a twilight)



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:



Darren Rubin – Executive Headteacher

Monday & Tuesday



John Boutflour – Assistant Headteacher

Wednesday



Bal Jheeta – Deputy Headteacher

Thursday and Friday