



St John's Newsletter

Friday 17th October 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

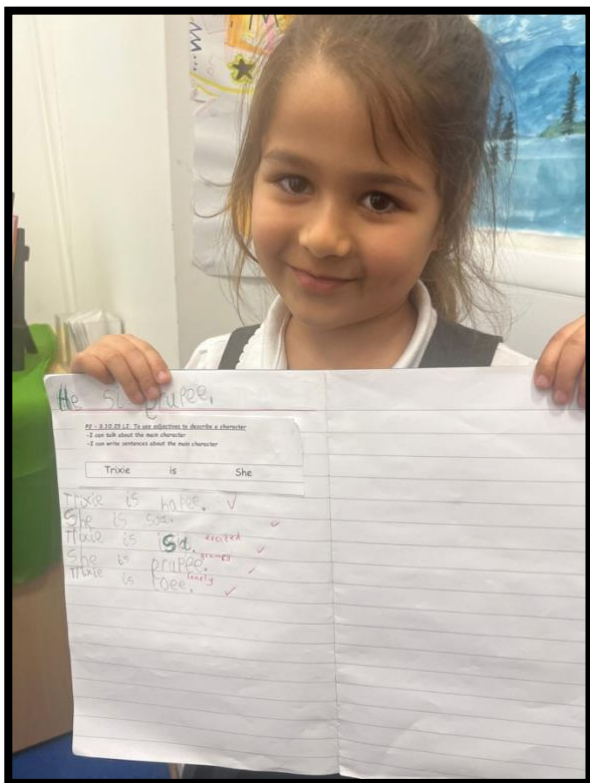
This is our second newsletter of the half term and the children have settled in well. It always impresses me how much we get done in such a short period of time. In the weeks that have passed, we have had internet safety workshops, borough cross country races where one of our pupils was victorious. We have written a song with musicians from The Lang Lang Foundation. (You may well have seen Lang Lang play the piano on Strictly last weekend!) In this week's edition you will see acts of kindness, both from our Reading Partners at Federated Hermes as well as our children. You will read about how well our children in the Early Years have settled and the way in which our library is developing. Classes have been out on trips plus we have had visits from the chefs at ITSU as well as reflecting on Black History Month and Collective Worship with Reverend Philippa.

In addition St Paul's had its SIAMS inspection a couple of weeks ago. Mrs Bahi is our Federation RE lead so you will not be surprised that we were pleased with the outcome. I look forward to sharing the report with you.

Have a lovely weekend, Happy Diwali for Monday and remember to be kind to one another.

Great Work!

What a treat it is to share great work with you. Nothing makes me prouder than when children pop into the office to show us great work. Sometimes we stumble upon it in the classroom and other times it just appears! Great work comes in all forms but consistently brings a smile to all of our faces!



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.



Borough Champion for the Second Year in a Row!

I was incredibly proud of our entire Cross Country team, who once again represented us admirably in the recent borough competitions. Congratulations to everyone who took part. I was especially impressed by one of our pupils in Class 4, who not only triumphed in last year's event despite torrential conditions but also competed again this year, successfully retaining her title. She exemplifies the values we hold dear here at St. John's and shines in everything she does. .

This pupil demonstrates remarkable resilience, outstanding endurance, and above all, genuine humility. Our whole school community is immensely proud of her achievement. Well done! Who knows—perhaps next year we will be celebrating a remarkable three consecutive victories!



Library Update

I am so pleased to have Ms Laura working at St John's with us. Not only is she a brilliant librarian which is a great skill, she makes the environment look incredible with her eye-catching displays.

She is also incredibly good at reading stories. You can see her pictured with Reception class. Our children love to hear stories! Thank you Ms Laura for your hard work with our



EYFS Update

We are delighted with how well things have settled in our EYFS this term. The children are confidently learning their new routines and thriving in a warm, welcoming environment. It is wonderful to see them feel safe, cared for, and eager to explore and learn each day. We look forward to welcoming families for our Meet the Teacher event, where we can share more about their children's progress and the supportive community we continue to build together.



Music Update

The Lang Lang International Music Foundation and Place2Be have partnered to launch the inaugural 'Uplift, Calm & Connect' program in London, which uses music to strengthen school culture, foster a sense of belonging, and provide children with safe spaces to explore emotions. The program's first session took place in our school with our pupils working with acclaimed artist Jordan Rakei to create a new school anthem inspired by our motto "Let Our Light Shine," offering a unique opportunity for creative expression, reflection on our school values and experiencing the transformative, mental health-boosting power of music. Our children were amazing as you would expect and absolutely loved it. A huge thank you to Ms Kam for organising it and Mrs Bahi for her enthusiasm and creativity.



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

Tuesday 21st October
Tuesday 21st October
Harvest Festival in School
Cake Sale
Non Uniform Day
EYFS & KS1 Disco
School Photographs
KS2 disco
Christmas Fete
Christmas Service at St John's Church

EYFS Meet the Teacher 9:10am
Parents afternoon/evening
Wednesday 22nd October
Thursday 6th November
Thursday 13th November
Thursday 20th November
Wednesday 26th November
Thursday 27th November
Friday 12th December
Thursday 17th December – 7pm

Kindness Cup

Compassion is one of our most important Values and every week our staff will identify a member of their class who has earned the Place2Be Kindness Cup. Here are six of our very worthy winners who shine in everything they do.



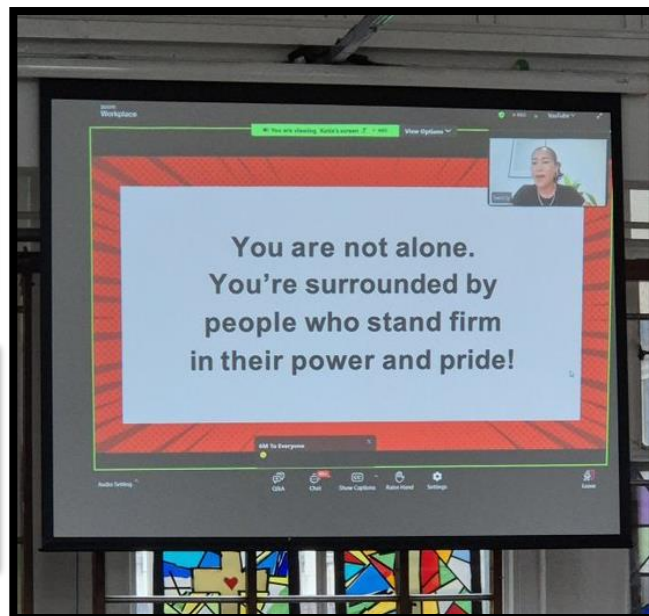
Parent Governor Needed!

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.



Black History Month Update

Children at St John's participated in a significant national assembly to mark the start of Black History Month, joining over half a million children nationwide. The core of the message delivered was important: it focused on the enduring values of standing firm and proud and the essential duty to fight for what is right even when such actions require great courage and perseverance. This discussion serves as a powerful foundation for understanding character and social justice.

We were deeply impressed by the focus and maturity with which our pupils listened, demonstrating a beautiful capacity for engagement with complex issues. We hope this experience reinforces within them a lasting commitment to integrity and self-respect, encouraging them to thoughtfully advocate for fairness, not just as a principle, but as a practice in their daily lives.



Collective Worship Update

In our clergy collective worship this week, the pupils built a shelter and worked on making it comfortable and strong. We thought about St John's and God as a place of strength and shelter for us all! Thank you to Reverend Phillipa for your time and creativity. The pupils engaged deeply in the experience, reflecting thoughtfully on how God's protection supports them in their daily lives. This meaningful worship opportunity helped them connect practically with their faith and inspired a sense of community and care.



Keeping Children Safe Online

Andrew from Konflux Theatre came to school to deliver fun, interactive, and important messages to our pupils about how to stay safe online. The workshops were lively and engaging, capturing the pupils' attention through drama and participation. Pupils were encouraged to think critically about their online behaviour and the importance of protecting their personal information in a digital world. The sessions provided practical strategies that pupils can use to navigate the internet safely and responsibly. Throughout the workshops, pupils demonstrated excellent engagement and responded thoughtfully to the scenarios presented, showing a clear understanding of the risks and how to manage them.

Thank you also to Ms Moses for organising these valuable workshops and ensuring that our pupils have access to quality online safety education. This initiative is a key part of our commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and informed school community where pupils can thrive both in and out





Pupil Enrichment: Exploring Food Groups with the Itsu Youth Kitchen!

Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to take part in the engaging, 'Food Groups & Fresh Veg' session with Itsu. The children were engaged and enthusiastic as they explored topics like what "healthier" means, essential food groups, and the benefits of eating fresh vegetables. A massive thank you to the Itsu Youth Kitchen team for investing in our children's education.

Thank You Federated Hermes!

Thank you to Polly, Rowena and our amazing reading partners from Federated Hermes who not only read with us every week but also have contributed two boxes of books to add to our school library. Kindness comes in so many forms and we are so thankful to have friends like you!

Thank you so much



What's On at St Margaret's House for Children and Families

Join us for free workshops, a low-cost performance for families and find out about our 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.

Sessions are aimed at children aged 5-8 years.
Click the picture to find out more and book your ticket

Venue: Tramshed Community Hub, Digby Street, E2 0LS

Dates & Time:

- Tuesday 28th October, 10am-12noon
- Thursday 30th October, 2-4pm
- Friday 31st October, 10am-12noon



Dan of All Tricks – Family Show

Roll up, roll up! Dan's got some circus tricks to share with you! Prepare to be wow-ed! Join us for a whistle-stop-tour through juggling, balancing and much, much more. This show will amaze as you travel through the many tricks Dan has got up his sleeve. This is a family experience not to be missed. Click the picture to find out more and book

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

Date: Saturday 1st November

Times: 11am and 2pm

Running Time: 35mins plus 15 mins of circus play

Suitable for children 3+ 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**

MAGNIFICENT MONTH OF NOVEMBER



at St John's CE Primary School
Thursday 6th November
Cake Sale

Please bring donations of cakes to the school office by 12pm on Thursday 6th Nov.

Thursday 13th November
Non Uniform Day

Donations of £1 can be made on the gate before and after school.

Wear something bright or sparkly and let your light shine!

Thursday 20th November

After School Disco - KS1 & EYFS

Thursday 27th November

After School Disco - KS2

(tuck shop will be open on both dates)

Disco tickets are priced at £4 per child and £3 for each additional sibling. Available to purchase from the school office.

Children to be collected at 5:00pm.





BE WELL

HEALTH | WELLNESS | PLAY

Half term swimming crash courses

Get a head start with swimming this October half term with our short, intensive swim crash courses at Mile End, Tiller and York Hall leisure centres. Perfect for:

- ✓ Beginners needing extra support
- ✓ Building confidence during half term
- ✓ Trying out our fantastic swimming lessons

- 📅 27-31 October
- 🕒 Daily 30-minute lessons
- 👤 For ages 4+
- 👥 Small class sizes for focused learning

This course is open to everyone, and our friendly teachers are in the pool with beginners to provide support and make learning fun! Secure your child's spot today!

**Book your
place today!**



TOWER HAMLETS



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

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 OND
Whitehorse Road E1 OND



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

LET'S TALK SEND

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.

NEW 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.

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 & 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**

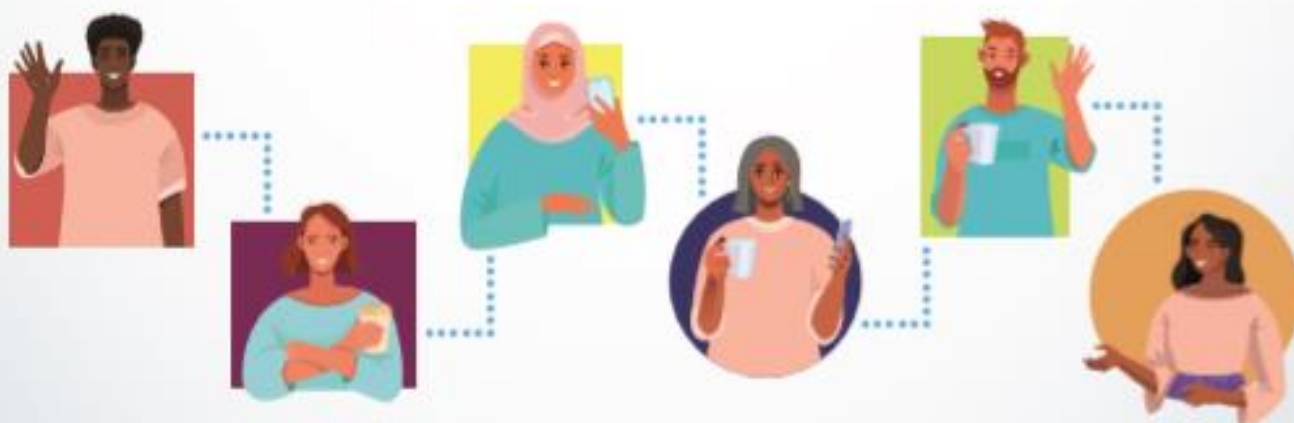
Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

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