



St John's Newsletter

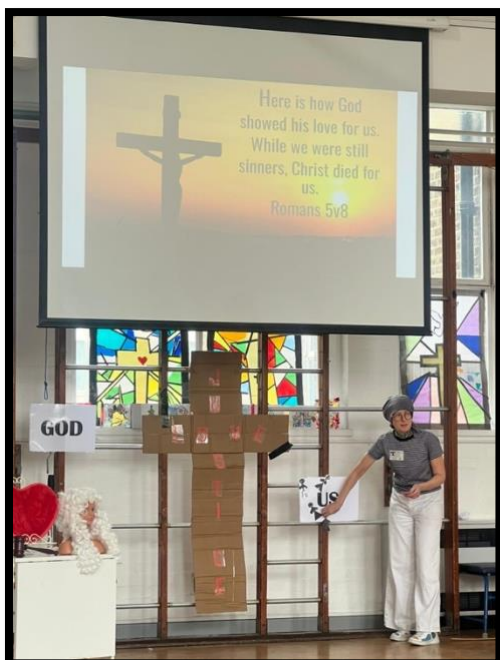
Friday 27th March 2026

An update from Mr. Rubin...

I can't believe this rather short term has flown by so quickly. I hope all is well and families that celebrated had a wonderful Eid. We have Easter coming up and the children took part in the Church service this week and had such a fun time engaging in Easter activities and Eid parties. My thanks to Mrs Bahi and staff for organising this. In addition, it has been a wonderful few weeks with athlete visits and an amazing science wow day. I know many of you will have met your child's teachers to discuss their progress too.

You will by now have received our Ofsted report. I hope you enjoyed reading it. We were the third primary school in the borough to be inspected under the latest framework and the first one form entry smaller school. The framework is very thorough and our children, staff and leadership team did everyone proud. I think this report is a very strong outcome. We were limited in a couple of gradings due to the low attendance rates. Attendance is extremely important and we will be working tirelessly to improve it. You will have noted that breakfast clubs and after school clubs are now free and Mrs Jheeta's class are trialling soft starts in the morning where children can come straight into class when the gates are open and do fun activities joining Collective Worship (Assembly) at 9:05am. This is proving to be popular.

Have a great Easter break, do get back to us if you require a foodbank slot as we will be in on Tuesday 31st March and do be kind to one another.



Cross Teach Share The Easter Story

Our friends from Cross Teach came to visit us to share the Easter story. They have been coming to schools for years now and are always so entertaining and interactive.



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=NHZsODOzc2w4NHZ2&utm_source=qr

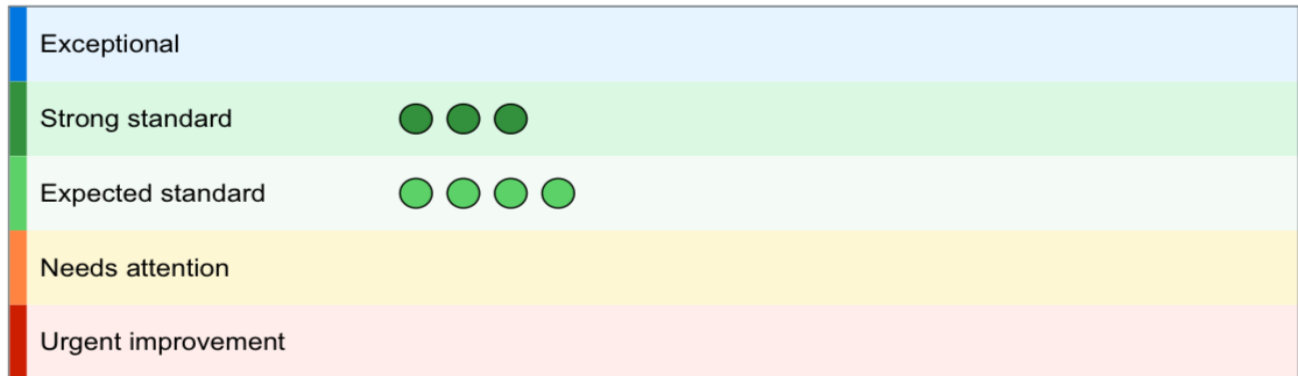
There is some lovely content on there so if you have this platform, please take the time to have a look and follow us.

St John's Church of England Primary School

Address: Peel Grove, Bethnal Green, London, E2 9LR

Unique reference number (URN): 100953

Inspection report: 10 February 2026



✔ **Safeguarding standards met**

The safeguarding standards are met. This means that leaders and/or those responsible for governance and oversight fulfil their specific responsibilities and have established an open culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and concerns are actively identified, acted upon and managed. As a result, pupils are made safer and feel safe.

St John's Ofsted Report

I hope you have had the opportunity to read our report and I hope you feel it is a great reflection of our school. The report can be found here. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/100953>

Here are my favourite 5 quotes lifted directly from the report:

1. "Pupils say the school 'feels like home' and that adults care for them and solve problems quickly."
2. "Many parents and staff describe the school as an inclusive 'family', where every child is known and supported."
3. "Children make excellent progress from their starting points."
4. "Behaviour across the school is calm, orderly and respectful."
5. "Pupils are happy, safe and proud to belong to this welcoming school community."

These quotes paint a picture of a school that is much more than just a place of study; it is a deeply inclusive "family" where children feel safe, valued, and "at home". This strong sense of belonging is built on a foundation of "warm and respectful" relationships and a "calm, orderly" environment that allows every child to focus and thrive. Our pupils make "excellent progress" from their individual starting points. Ultimately, these highlights show that by putting children's wellbeing and happiness at the heart of everything, we help nurture a community where pupils are proud to belong and are perfectly placed to achieve their best.

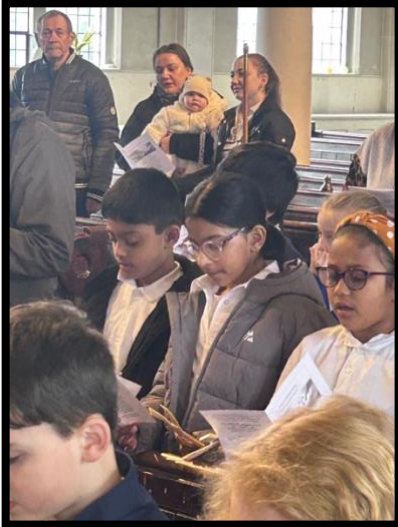


Year 4 Visit to Mulberry Academy Shoreditch – Mr Bouflour

For our final trip of the term to Mulberry Academy, for our latest Science STEM session, the pupils used a variety of resources to construct bridges that could support weight. The pupils had to think about material choice, design and test out their intentions.

Not only did this help our children apply their scientific knowledge, they had to work in teams and communicate effectively too. Huge thanks to the team at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch who are always so welcoming to our school.



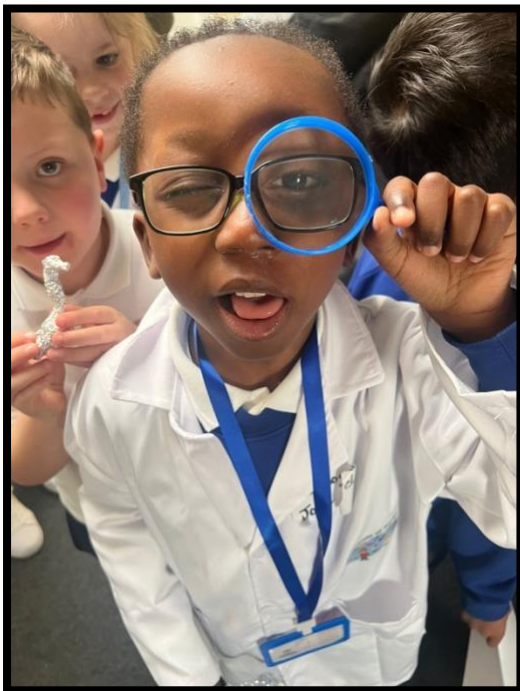
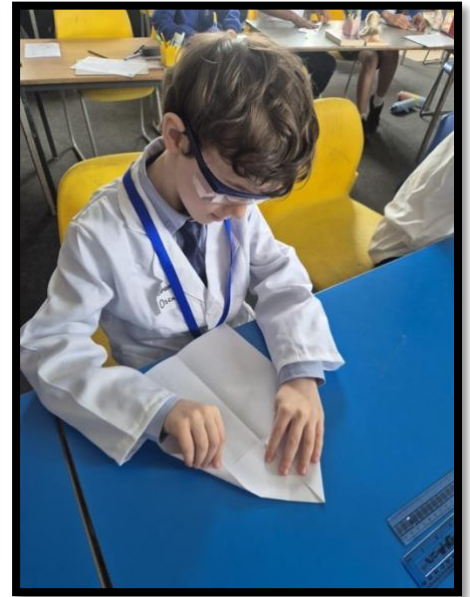


Easter Service @ St John's Church

A big thank you to Reverend Philippa and her team for organising such a lovely service at St John's Bethnal Green Church. We heard the story of Easter and reflected on how the crowd's response to Jesus changed so dramatically. Our brilliant choir, led by Mr Pease, sang beautifully, and Reverend Philippa even managed to include an Easter egg hunt, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

A sincere thank you to Mrs Bahi and Reverend Philippa and her team for making the occasion so special.





Science Wow Day

A big thank you to Mrs Reader over at St Paul's who organised our Science Wow Day. Children took part in practical hands on experiments, hypothesising, testing and finding conclusion whilst working with friends from different year groups. It was such fun!



EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade



Year 1 Trip to The Soanes Centre

Our Year 1 scientists took their learning into the great outdoors with a trip to the Soanes Centre. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the pond dipping. Armed with nets and magnifying glasses, the children identified a variety of aquatic life, practising their classification skills to sort their finds into different groups.

We are incredibly proud of Year 1. Their behaviour was exemplary, showing respect for the environment and the staff at the centre. This group has been on many adventures this year and their growing confidence in new environments is a testament to their hard work and maturity.

Located in the heart of East London, the Soanes Centre is a vital for our community. It provides a rare and essential space for children to connect with nature first hand. By offering high-quality environmental education, they help our students understand biodiversity and the importance of protecting our local ecosystems.



World Book Day Wonders!

A huge thank you to all our families for the incredible effort put into this year's World Book Day costumes. From classic literary heroes to modern favourites, the creativity on display across the school was truly wonderful to see.

Beyond the dressing up, the day served as a fantastic reminder of the importance of reading. Immersing ourselves in stories helps our students develop empathy, sparks their imagination and builds the vocabulary they need to succeed. It was a joy to see children across all year groups sharing their favourite books and discovering new adventures together.

The highlight for me is when everyone joined together in the hall for a big read! Thank you to Mr Bouflour for organising.





Playground Makeover

A massive thank you to Ms Leigh and Mr John for finding and organising a group of volunteers from Santander who came in to help us out. They got stuck into our back playground, which I think we can all agree was in desperate need of some serious love and support. It is hard to overstate just how much of a difference this kind of volunteering makes to a school like ours. It was great to see people from the business world coming in and showing our students that the wider community really cares about their school and their future. This tidy-up is just the start of what we've got planned as we are going to keep looking for more volunteers and local partners to help us out as we're determined to make sure the school grounds are as ambitious as the learning happening inside the classrooms.

We're so grateful to the Santander team for providing the elbow grease to get us moving. We'll keep you posted as we start planting and really bringing this space back to life.



Awe and Wonder!

This photo of our Year 1 children totally absorbed in their painting - mixing colours with that look of pure wonder - is a brilliant reminder of why the children love coming into school every day and seeing them dive into everything with such a smile is why our light shines.

That same level of engagement is what we see right across the school. Whether children are experimenting with art or tackling a new challenge in class, our children have a real appetite for learning. It is great to see them so settled and happy in their environment, making the most of every opportunity they get.



Kindness Cup Update

We are incredibly proud of our latest Place2Be Kindness Cup winner, who comes from Year 1. He has been setting a brilliant example for everyone by being so consistently kind and thoughtful towards his friends.

The Kindness Cup is such an important part of our school life because it celebrates the values that matter most. It ties in perfectly with our motto, "Let Your Light Shine." Our vision is for every child to recognise the unique strengths they have and to share them with the world around them. By showing such genuine care for others, he is doing exactly that—letting his light shine and making our school a warmer, happier place for everyone. IN the pictures below you can see some of our other marvellous role models.



Year 2 Visit The Sea Life Centre

Our Year 2 class had a brilliant trip to the Sea Life Centre this week. The children were fascinated by everything from the sharks to the jellyfish and it was great to see them so engaged with the underwater world.

They were a real credit to the school, showing exemplary behaviour and a genuine interest in the marine life they saw. The Sea Life Centre is such a fantastic resource because it gives the children a chance to see these creatures up close, helping them understand the importance of conservation and protecting our oceans. It was a lovely day out and a great way to bring their learning to life.



Football Teams Update

Congratulations to our football teams who have been doing so well in recent tournaments. Our girls team got all the way to the Semi Finals and our boys team made it to the finals. Both teams played with great spirit and upheld our values representing our school with pride. A big thank you to Mr Fernandez and our staff for taking the children.





Book Fayre

A packed library is a great thing – especially when we are holding our book fayre. Thank you to Mr. Boutflour for arranging this and Ms Carly and Ms Kam for being on hand to make sure that the books are going to our families. Thank you also to our parents, carers and children for their enthusiasm and being so enthusiastic about reading.



Oracy Update

Our Year 6 Oracy Programme continues this year as Mr Ian Graham works his magic with children in Year 6 at ST Paul's and St John's. Children work hard on their presentation skills building on the hints and areas for development that Mr Graham shares with our students.

This will culminate in a Federation Debating Tournament at the end of the year. Thank you to Mr Graham for giving up his time to help our children. I will update you on how the children are developing.

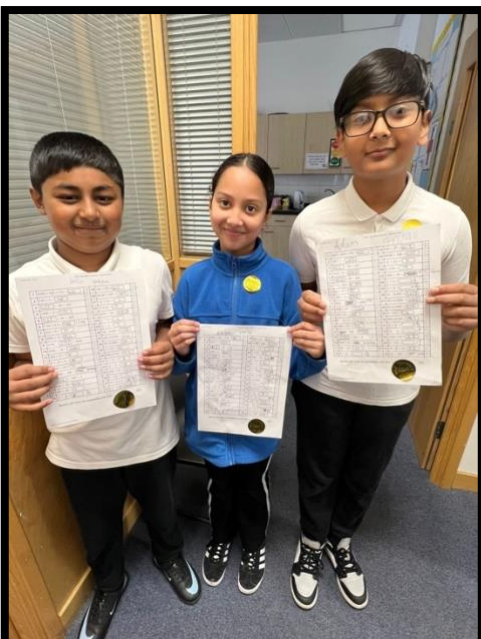


St John's Children Working Hard!

It was a pleasure to welcome Olympic bronze medallist Victoria Ohuruogu to the school. Following a recent visit from her sister, gold medallist Christine Ohuruogu, Victoria put the pupils through their paces with energetic sports challenges. Both sisters grew up in East London and seeing their medals was a brilliant reminder that, our pupils can achieve anything.

We also want to say a massive thank you to our children for their fundraising efforts. The money raised will go directly towards brand new sports equipment.

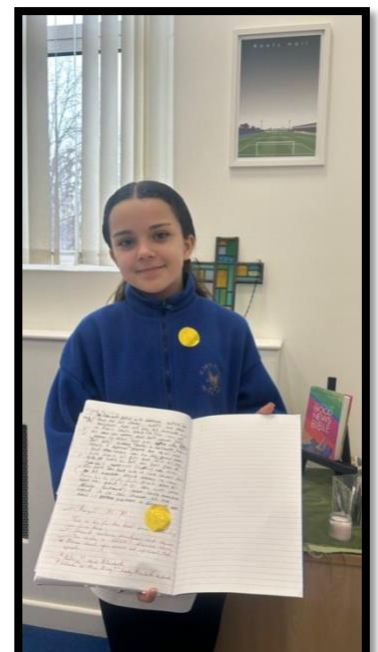
Seeing the children work so hard to improve their school is a perfect example of our family community in action. Victoria was a true inspiration and we are so grateful to her for sharing her time.



Celebrating Outstanding Achievement

Our children in Year 6 always impress us and I was delighted to see these children sent down to our office to share their amazing successes both in literacy and mathematics.

Our gold award stickers are not easy to obtain and these pupils have really shone in their achievements. Congratulations to them all!



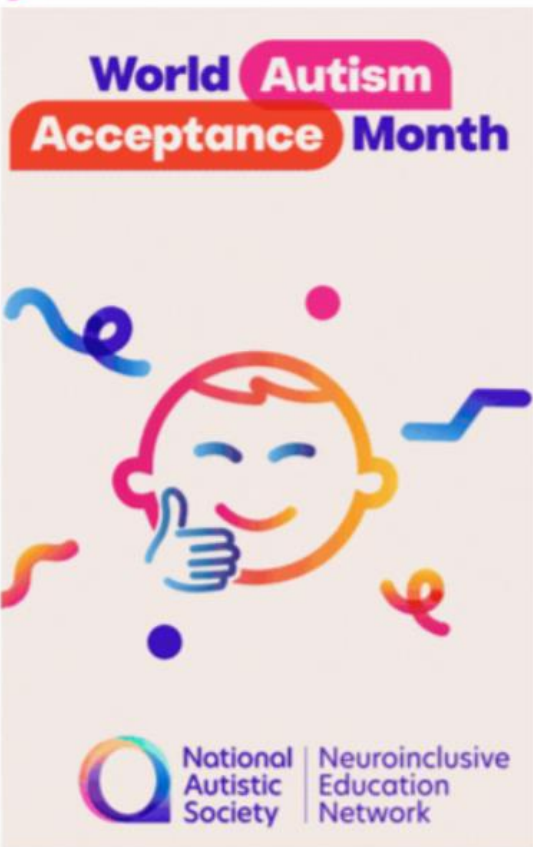


Breakfast Club

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.



Coffee Morning with Phoenix Outreach



Join us for a relaxed Parent Coffee Morning this Autism Acceptance Month. Come along for a warm drink, friendly conversation, and a supportive space to connect with other parents and carers.

Together we'll celebrate neurodiversity, build understanding, and support one another as a community.

 **Date: Tuesday 14th April 2026**

 **Time: 10am - 11am**

 **Location: Training Suite 1, Phoenix Upper School, South Building, Paton Close, E3 2QD**

Drop in, meet other families, and help us mark Autism Acceptance Month with connection, understanding, and good coffee.

Let us know you are coming along by sending an email to training@phoenix.towerhamlets.sch.uk

What's On at St Margaret's House for Children and Families: Easter Holidays and Summer Term 2026

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



FREE Crafterschool Easter Holiday Workshops

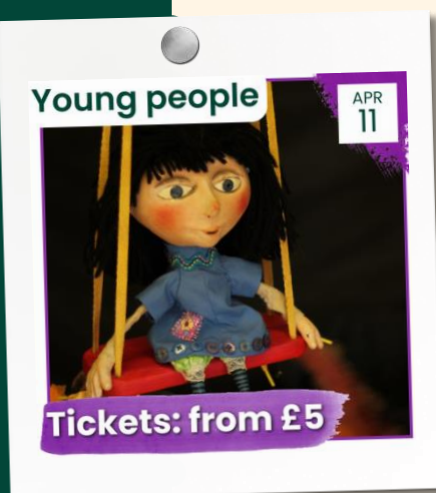
These sessions help young people engage creatively in a collaborative piece of art that will be exhibited somewhere round the St Margaret's House site

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

Venue: The Studio at St Margaret's House, 15 Old Ford Road

Dates & Time:

- Tuesday 7th April, 10am-12noon
- Wednesday 8th April, 2-4pm
- Friday 10th April, 10am-12noon



Snow White, Rose Red, Bear Brown - family show

Snow White and Rose Red – sisters, twins, best friends – have lived in the forest since they were Babes in the Wood. Brought up by their hardworking mother to be kind, caring and forest fluent...if sometimes a little over enthusiastic in their deeds!

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

Date: Saturday 11th April

Times: 11am and 1.30pm

Running Time: 55 minutes

Suitable for children 4+ and their families

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

www.stmargarethouse.org.uk / email Lara@stmargarethouse.org.uk



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



WE ARE

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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 Krumpfli)	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.





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

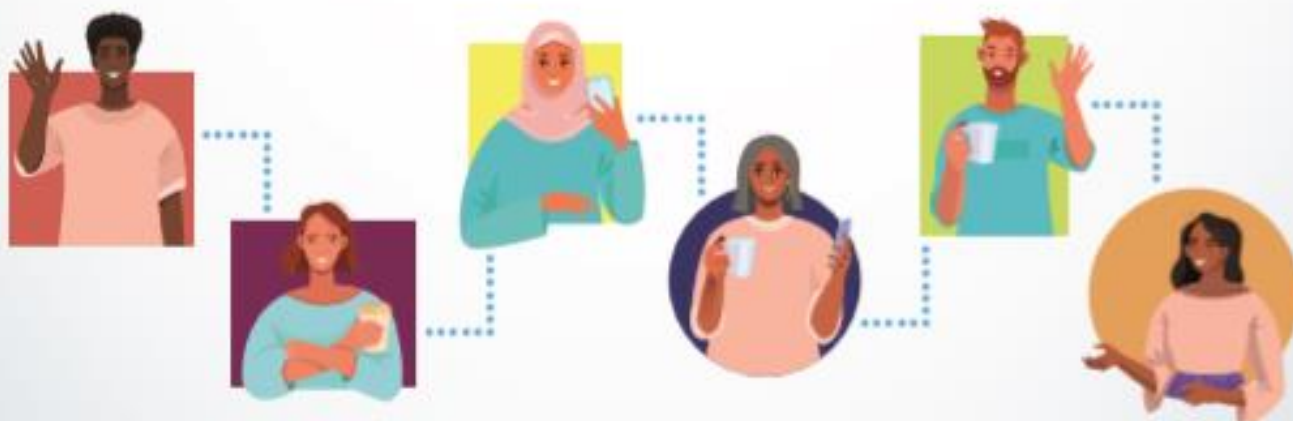
Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

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 1st & Tuesday 2nd September (2 days)
Term 1 Wednesday 3rd September – Friday 24th October (38 days)
Half Term Monday 27th – Friday 31st October
Term 2 Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th 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 5th January (1 day)
Term 3 Tuesday 6th January -Friday 13th February (29 days)
Half Term Mon. 16th to Fri. 20th February
Staff Training Friday 27th February (1 day)
Term 4 Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th 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