



St John's Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026

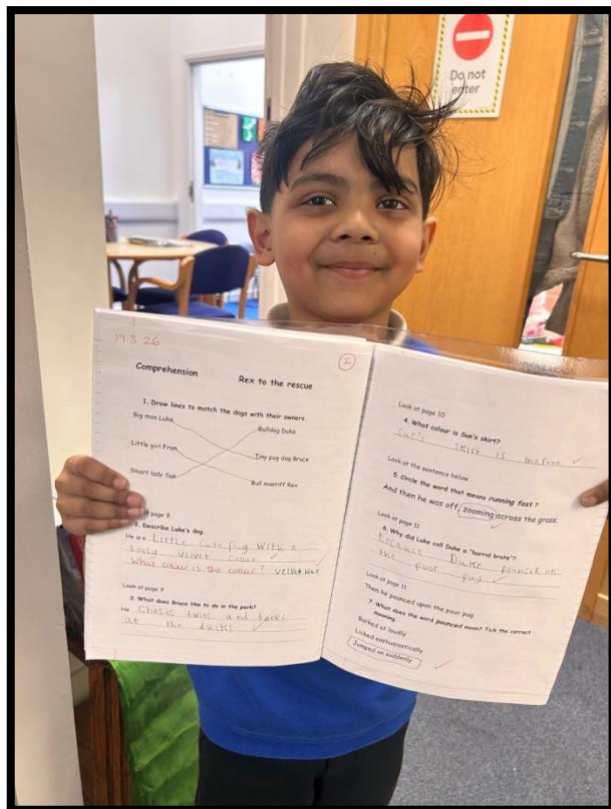
An update from Mr. Rubin...

It has been a busy few weeks since we returned after the Easter break. You will read on Page 9 a lovely letter from The Bishop of London who has commented on our Ofsted report. Thoughtful words and quite the surprise! We will be planning our Ofsted celebration for our children next term and I am sure it will be a good one.

The newsletter is once again a snapshot of all the things we have been up to since Easter. I hope you are impressed with the range of activities our children take part in. I am so grateful to all of our staff that always go that extra mile to provide amazing experiences for our children.

Numbers are rising in our school and I am delighted about that. It is important that we fill our Nursery so if you know families that don't have a place yet, do point them in our direction.

Have a lovely Bank holiday weekend and remember to be kind to one another.



Celebrating Great Work!

Without a shadow of a doubt, one of the best things about the job I do is when children pop into the office to share their successes. I was particularly proud of this pupil who always works so hard and takes great care in everything he does. A fine role model to his peers and an excellent example of someone who shines in everything he does.



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.



Fun Fun Fun in Year One!

Children in Class 1 have had a wonderful time enjoying the fresh spring air together. It is a joy to see them building such strong friendships and developing their social skills through active outdoor play. Whether they are navigating the climbing frames or racing down the slide, their energy and enthusiasm are truly infectious.

Outdoor play is a vital part of our school day because it allows our pupils to build physical confidence while learning the importance of cooperation and turn taking. These moments of shared laughter and adventure help create a positive atmosphere where every child feels included and supported. It is wonderful to witness them letting their light shine through their play and teamwork.

Key Dates Coming Up (Do check the calendar on the website too)

Bank Holiday Monday	Monday 4 th May
EYFS Stay and Play	Thursday 7 th May (9-10am)
Year 1 Trip to London Zoo	Friday 8 th May
Evensong Service (Every Thursday after school at St John's Church)	

Ascension Day Collective Worship	Wednesday 13 th May
Pentecost Collective Worship	Wednesday 20 th May @ St John's Church



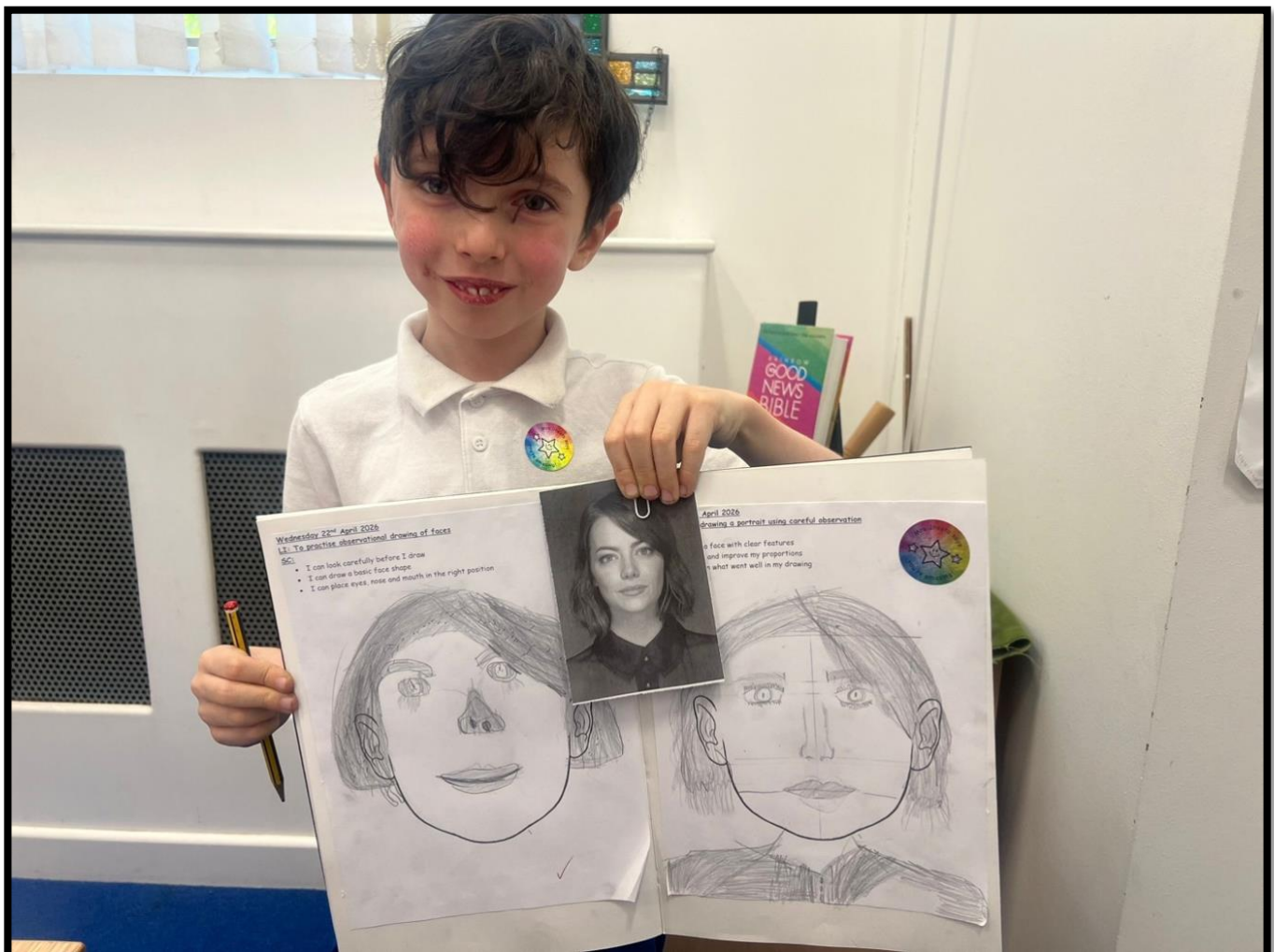


Food Bank Update

At the beginning of the Easter Holidays we opened our foodbank for friends and families to come and collect delicious produce from The Felix Project and the Hygiene Bank.

A big thank you to Ms Leigh and her family, Ms Moses and her daughter and Mrs Jheeta and Mr John for all of their kind help and support that makes such a difference.

Celebrating More Fantastic Work!





Collective Worship @ St John's

We are so grateful to Reverend Philippa and her team who visit our school week in and week out to help us deliver our Collective Worship sessions to our children. They are so engaging and fun and we are very lucky to have them!

Weekly Food Bank

I am very grateful to Mrs Jheeta who has managed to get even more delicious food to our school to give out to members of our community. Managed by our brilliant children higher up the school and staff, if you would like your name added to the list, do contact us on parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.co.uk





Learning Through Play in the Early Years





Kindness Cup Update

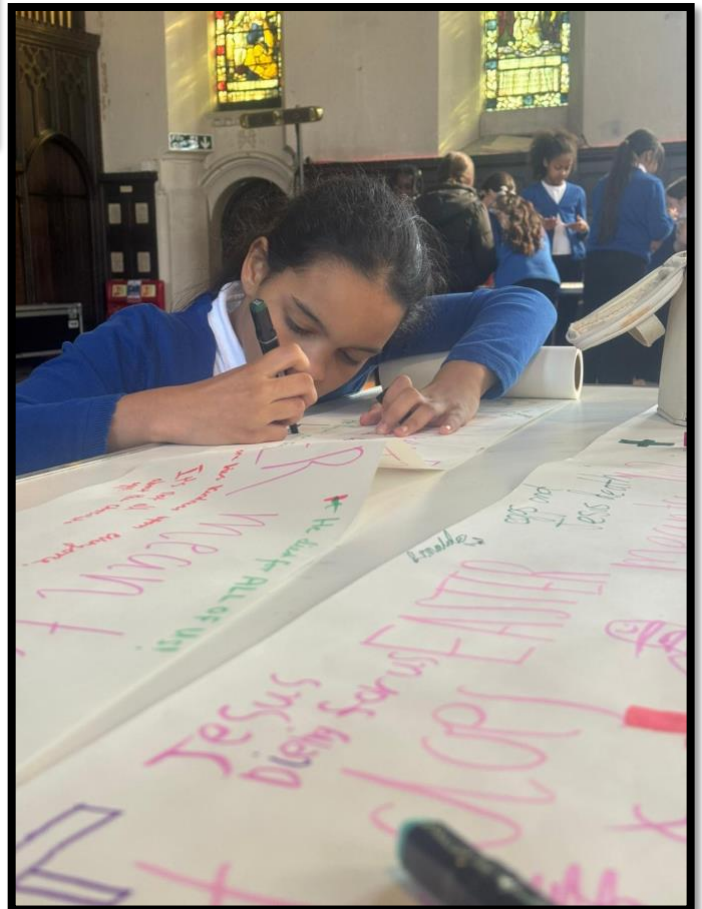
We are thrilled to announce our latest recipient of the Place2Be Kindness Cup who comes from Year 2. She has been a fantastic example to her peers by showing consistent care and a truly helpful spirit towards her friends.

The Kindness Cup is a vital part of our school community because it highlights the character traits we value most. It aligns perfectly with our motto "Let Your Light Shine". Our goal is for every child to discover their own unique strengths and use them to support the world around them. By demonstrating such genuine empathy, she is doing exactly that: letting her light shine and making our school a more welcoming and joyful place for everyone. We have so many other marvellous role models following her lead



Easter Activity Afternoon Mrs Bahi

Year Six enjoyed a fun Easter Activity Session at St Peter's Bethnal Green. Led by Reverend Philippa and Reverend Luke, they were able to participate in fun and thought-provoking activities linked to the Easter Story. By far the most popular activities were making edible Easter Gardens and colourful Easter bracelets - a great way to celebrate and remember the story of Easter.





School Council Update – Ms Moses

Our school council enjoyed a brilliant joint trip with pupils from St Paul's to the heart of London government. They learned from experts about the Mayor of London and the London Assembly, exploring how decisions on transport, policing and environmental projects affect millions. Seeing democracy in action helped them understand how to represent their peers. Although too windy for the cable car, spirits remained high and collaboration shone through.



Quality Teaching and Learning

We place a high value on the impact of small group interventions across all year groups and this was rightly noted in our recent Ofsted Inspection. Focused sessions provide a quiet space for all children to receive support and dive deeper into specific tasks.

Working in smaller numbers allows our staff to address needs and build the confidence of every learner through high quality interaction. The children find these sessions rewarding as they tackle challenges and master new skills in a supportive setting. When we support one another, our entire community thrives.



Dear Mr Rubin

The Ofsted Inspection Report for St John's CE Primary School reached me recently. It is very encouraging to read that Ofsted recognises the school operating at strong and expected standards across education provision, development and management. I note that the "next steps" recommendations contain two directives one of which is to strengthen recent improvements, building on the good work you already do. I hope that the second, to ensure misconceptions are identified to secure key concepts across key stage 1 and 2, is not too onerous to incorporate.

It is evident that every individual feels valued and supported. It is particularly lovely to read of the nurturing environment where pupils feel they truly belong and love learning. The report recognises that your pupils achieve highly across the curriculum, make good progress and are well prepared for life beyond the school gates. Support is there also, importantly, for those with additional needs and difficulties. The children clearly enjoy the school day and are inspired to learn from the range of enrichment visits and school-run clubs that are available to them.

I am sure you are – rightly so – also very proud of your leadership team, your staff and, most importantly, the children under your care. Please know that the work that you all do in school does not go unnoticed and, in fact, it inspires and propels us all. We know that from these tiny seeds can grow great faith and a proud spiritual foundation and I want to thank you for your efforts teaching the children and preparing them for when they leave primary school.

Such successful feedback does not come overnight or without immense thoughtfulness and consistency in strategy and lesson planning. It is right that this should be recognised.

I would like to end by saying thank you: to you for your leadership and also to your whole team for their commitment and dedication to caring for those in your care so they can flourish, which they evidently do as you follow your vision 'Let Our Light Shine'!

With every blessing for the rest of this academic year,

The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson
Bishop of Kensington and Acting Bishop of London

CC. The Bishop of Stepney

Science Update – Ms Moses

Our Year 1 scientists have been busy exploring the allotment as they hunted for minibeasts as part of their recent science learning. Armed with curiosity and collecting tubs, the children scoured the school grounds to discover where various bugs make their homes. This hands on approach to science allows our pupils to observe nature up close and understand the diversity of living things in our local environment.

It was wonderful to see their excitement as they spotted worms and snails hidden among the plants. These outdoor adventures are essential for fostering a love of discovery and scientific enquiry from a young age. By engaging with the natural world so directly, our students are truly letting their light shine through their enthusiasm and teamwork. These pictures capture our budding researchers in action as they learn about the world around them





MEASLES CASES ARE RISING

Measles is a very serious illness and can spread very easily between children who are not vaccinated.

Measles starts with cold like symptoms, with a cough, fever and red eyes. Days later, a red or purple bumpy rash appears.

If you think you or your child has measles do not go out. Stay at home. Call your GP surgery or NHS 111. Rest, drink plenty of fluids and take paracetamol or ibuprofen.

The free MMR/MMRV vaccine gives the best, most effective protection against measles - it's quick, it's free, and it could save their life.

If you think you or your child have missed a vaccine dose, check their Red Book or ask your GP surgery.

More information
www.nhs.uk/measles





NHS

হামের প্রকোপ বাড়ছে

হাম একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুতর রোগ এবং টিকা না দেওয়া শিশুদের মধ্যে এটি খুব সহজেই ছড়িয়ে পড়তে পারে।

হামের শুরু হয় সর্দি-কাশির মতো উপসর্গ দিয়ে, সাথে থাকে কাশি, জ্বর এবং চোখ লাল হওয়া। কয়েকদিন পর, শরীরে লাল বা বেগুনি রঙের ফুসকুড়ি দেখা দেয়।

যদি আপনার মনে হয় যে আপনার বা আপনার সন্তানের হাম হয়েছে, তাহলে বাইরে যাবেন না।

বাড়িতে থাকুন। আপনার জিপি সার্জারিতে (GP surgery) অথবা এনএইচএস ১১১-এ (NHS 111) ফোন করুন। বিশ্রাম নিন, প্রচুর পরিমাণে তরল পান করুন এবং প্যারাসিটামল বা আইবুপ্রোফেন খান।

বিনামূল্যে দেওয়া এমএমআর/
এমএমআরভি (MMR/MMRV)
টিকা হামের বিরুদ্ধে সবচেয়ে ভালো
ও কার্যকর সুরক্ষা দেয় - এটি দ্রুত
দেওয়া যায়, বিনামূল্যে পাওয়া যায়
এবং এটি তাদের জীবন বাঁচাতে পারে।

যদি আপনার মনে হয় যে আপনি
বা আপনার সন্তান টিকার কোনো
ডোজ নিতে ভুলে গেছেন,
তাহলে তাদের রেড বুক (Red Book)
দেখুন অথবা আপনার জিপি
সার্জারিতে (GP surgery) জিজ্ঞাসা
করুন।

আরও তথ্য www.nhs.uk/measles





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.



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





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