



St John's Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

You'll notice a seasonal theme running through this edition, reflecting the busy and joyful time we've had at school. Our Class 3 pupils have been enjoying an intensive swimming course, making great progress and having lots of fun. There have been several exciting trips and outings and Mr Graham has been working with children on their presentation skills—more on that in next month's newsletter.

November was a magical month filled with fundraising activities and the spirit of Christmas truly taking hold. The EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances dazzled families, while children enjoyed a festive Christmas dinner, a wonderful grotto and a lively party at the Town Hall Hotel. It was a privilege to celebrate our Christmas service at St John's Church led by Reverend Philippa. She always makes our visits so engaging and fun! Also great to see our choir shine alongside the East London Evensong Choir, led by the brilliant Mr Jonathan Pease. Huge thanks to Mrs Bahi for organising these memorable events.

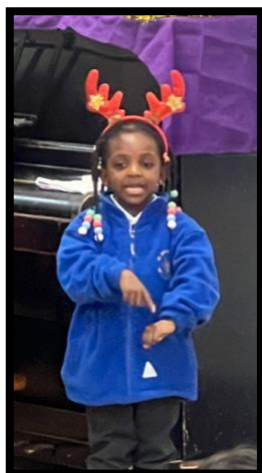
To top it all off, children enjoyed free ice creams and lollies thanks to The Caring Foundation, and went home with special cookies to enjoy or share.

Have a lovely Christmas break, enjoy the newsletter, see you all on Tuesday 6th January and remember to be kind to one another.

The Nativity

Our EYFS children told the Christmas story in front of a packed school, family and friends in the audience. They brought the house down! Congratulations to everyone in the Early Years Team.

We are always so impressed with the quality of teaching and learning you give to our children.



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=NHZsODOQzc2w4NHZ2&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.



KS1 Nativity

Congratulations to our children in Year 1 and 2 and to all the staff team who put this brilliant performance together. The children were simply amazing!





St. John on Bethnal Green



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 17th December, 2025 7pm

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Children had the privilege of participating in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols during the Christmas Evensong service at our church St John's. It was a memorable occasion blending the spirit of the season with beautiful music. Pupils experienced the joy of singing as part of a choir alongside the esteemed East London Evensong Choir.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols holds a special place in Christian tradition, weaving scripture readings and carols to tell the story of the Nativity.

Thanks to Jonathan Pease for his invaluable support and Reverend Wolf for leading the service. A special thank you goes to Mrs Bahi, whose dedication and passion have nurtured and grown our school choir, enabling our children to shine in such a beautiful setting.



Prefects at St John's

Congratulations to our first draft of prefects for the academic year. Children had to apply to give up their time to be representatives of the school taking part in additional duties ranging from supporting children in the early years to helping clear the PE cupboard. Being a prefect is a big responsibility and these children are great role models to others.



3D Printing at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch

Children in Mr Boutflour's class have been working at Mulberry Academy Shoreditch School having additional Design and Technology lessons.

They were able to use some of their equipment to design and produce keyrings using their 3D printer. Thank you to everyone at the school for their kindness. Our children really enjoyed it.

Christmas Fun!

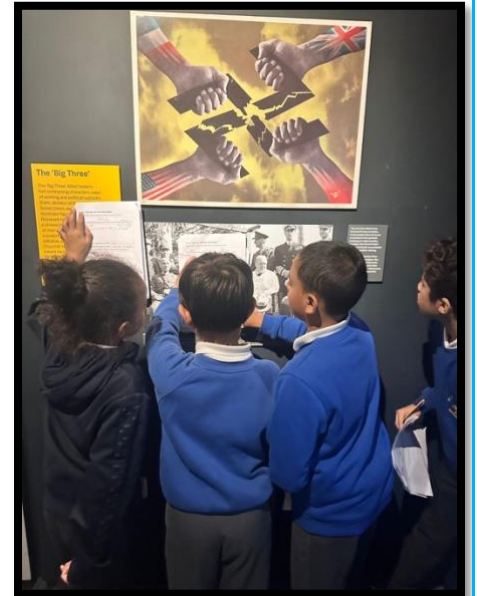
Children have thoroughly embraced the Christmas spirit at St John's. Huge thanks to The Caring Foundation for supplying ice cream and cookies to every child in the school. Thank you to our school cooks who made a delicious Christmas lunch for everyone.



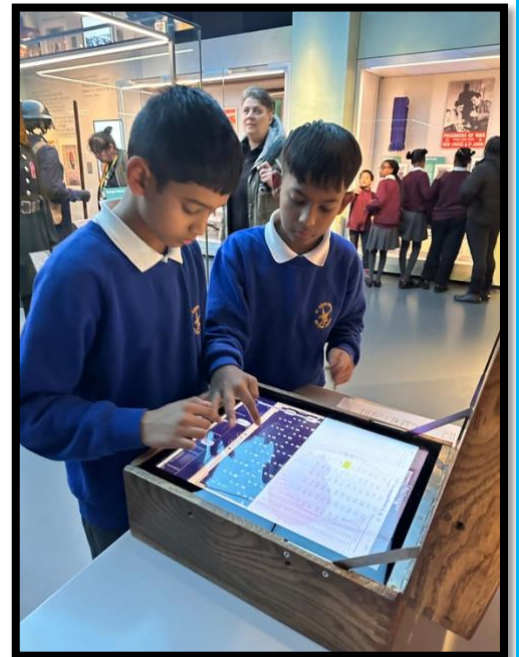


Christmas Service at St. John's Bethnal Green Church





Visit to the Imperial War Museum





Attendance Update

If you are well, it is so important to come to school every day. Good attendance and punctuality play a key role in achieving positive outcomes at school.

In the picture above, you can see our children who have attended every single day since September. Sadly, St John's currently has one of the lowest attendance rates in the borough. It is vital that we work together to change this. Breakfast club is already free for all pupils, and from January, after-school clubs will also be free to encourage children to attend school every day. Congratulations to these children – we are very proud of their commitment!



Booster Classes

There is no doubt that Christmas is a busy time of year at school but I have been very impressed with the dedication of our children who have come to school early to attend additional booster classes in maths and English. Some people might think that doing early morning mathematics might not be appealing but our children embrace it and do very well indeed!



Y1 Visit The Wallace Collection

Class 1 enjoyed a cultural visit to the Wallace Collection. They explored a landscape painting by Canaletto and a portrait painting by Denning of Queen Victoria. They also discussed what they could see in the painting and created their own sketches. After this, they tried on some traditional armour and had a look at the amazing sword collection.



School Council Update

Here is another picture of our brilliant school council. I met with them along with Ms Moses to discuss how to improve the activities that take place at lunchtime and they had some excellent ideas.

Young people often have the best ideas and I am really looking forward to their input into school improvement and development.



Singing at St Paul's Cathedral Churchyard

How lovely it was to have both our choirs across the Federation sing together at St Paul's Cathedral Churchyard. A huge thank you to Mr Bruce and Mr Cook who organised everything and of course to our children who once again, performed so well!



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 is a reminder of our latest winners who show great compassion to everyone and 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.



Thank you to the Bethnal Green Town Hall Hotel

What incredible friends we have at the Bethnal Green Town Hall Hotel who hosted all of our children for a Christmas party and Christmas grotto. Our children got to meet Father Christmas and had such great fun.

Thank you so much to everyone at the hotel for your kindness!





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

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.



TOWER HAMLETS

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



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 & 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 22nd December – Friday January 2nd

<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 Johns are:



Darren Rubin – Executive Headteacher

Monday & Tuesday



John Boutflour – Assistant Headteacher

Wednesday



Bal Jheeta – Deputy Headteacher

Thursday and Friday