



St John's Newsletter

Friday 14th February 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

As we come to the end of this half term, I can hardly believe just how much we have packed in!

In this newsletter, you will read about the kindness of a lovely book shop in Brick Lane, an announcement from our Chair of Governors about more partnership work, the brilliance of our children in all departments and a class trip from our friends in Year one that gave them the opportunity to see the incredible sights of London!

Enjoy the newsletter, have a lovely half term and be kind to one another.



Thank You Brick Lane Bookshop

We are incredibly grateful to Brick Lane Books for their amazing generosity in inviting every child from Class 1 to 6 to visit their shop and give them a book of their choice. What an incredible act of kindness!

The joy on the children's faces as they explored the bookshop and selected titles was wonderful to see. A huge thank you to Brick Lane Books for their generosity and for showing our children the power of kindness and community! Thank you to staff and parent volunteers too!

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.



Message from Dr Robin Precey - Chair of Governors & Rev Richard Springer Vice Chair of Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

Darren Rubin (the Executive Headteacher of our Federation) will be advising the staff and governors at Christ Church CoE Primary school on Brick Lane on their strategic development, following their head teacher leaving in the February half-term. This will be for 5 days a month to be reviewed every term (up to 18 moths). Parents/carers should rest assured that planning has taken place to ensure the smooth running of the schools when he is at Christ Church.

We feel this is a great opportunity to forge links with another local school that shares our values. Apart from Christ Church benefitting from Mr Rubin's experience and skills, it will enable even more the sharing of good practice across the 3 schools. If there are any questions please email me via your school and your message will be passed to me.

*Dr Robin Precey (Chair of Governors)
Rev Richard Springer (Vice-Chair of Governors)*



Collective Worship Update

Mrs Jheeta led an inspiring session, guiding our pupils through the rich traditions and significance of this time of year. Did you know that Lunar New Year is celebrated by over a billion people worldwide? Our pupils were fascinated to learn about the various customs associated with the festival, from the symbolic red envelopes to the lively dragon dances. The theme of illumination played a central role in our Collective Worship. Just as lanterns light up the night sky during Lunar New Year festivities, we talked about how we can be lights in our community, spreading joy and kindness to those around us. Thank you Mrs Jheeta for organising this and helping our children learn more about this important time of year for so many people.



LDBS Service at St Paul's Cathedral

Year Six had an incredible day at the Annual LDBS Service at St Paul's Cathedral where they sang in a mass choir of over 100 children to a crowd of 1700. They sung the anthem 'Call of Wisdom' by Will Todd and the singing was simply sublime. A big thank you to Mrs Bahi and Ms Carly for taking the children. What an incredible opportunity for our children to sing in such an iconic building. As you would expect, their behaviour was immaculate and this is an opportunity that I would imagine will stay with them forever!

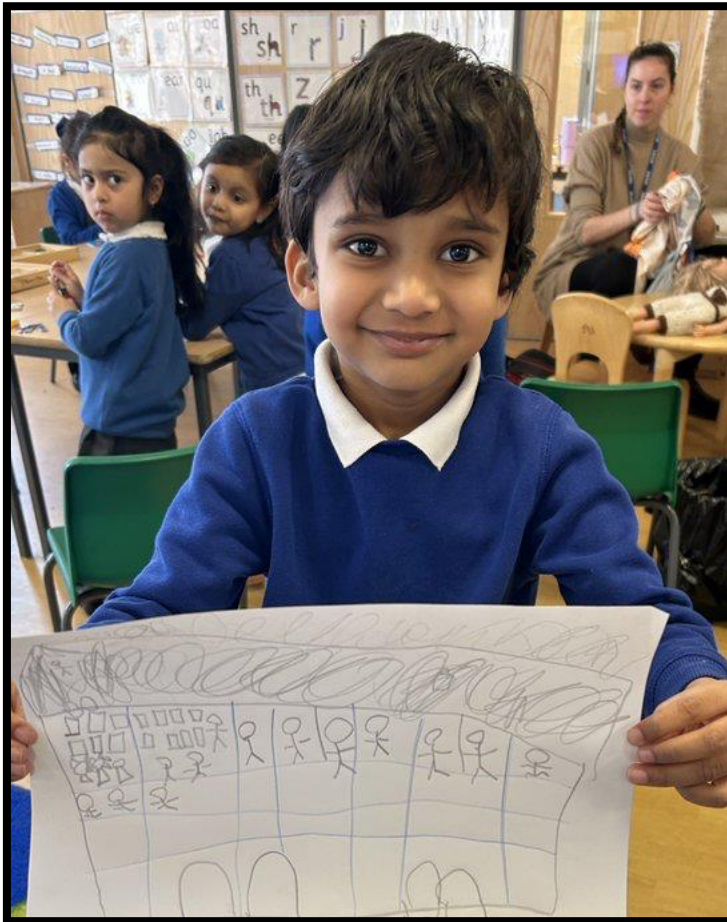
Candlemas Service at St John's Church

Recently, we had the privilege of participating in a beautiful Candlemas service at St John's Church. This special event, led by Reverend Philippa, was a moment of reflection and celebration for our children in Choir Church supported by the incredible Jonathan Pease.

Candlemas is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple by Mary and Joseph. It's traditionally associated with light and purification,

The theme of Candlemas is particularly poignant and aligns beautifully with our school's vision. Just as the candles are lit during the service, symbolising the light of Christ, we encourage our pupils to let their own unique lights shine brightly. Whether through academic achievements, acts of kindness, or through creativity. Big thanks to Mrs Bahi for her Endurance and Mrs Jheeta for her Kindness in making sure these services take place.





Early Years Update

Our Early Years children are working incredibly hard while having so much fun in their learning!

In art, our youngest learners are developing their creativity and fine motor skills through painting, drawing, and hands-on craft activities. Whether experimenting with colours, cutting and sticking, or using different textures, they are building confidence in expressing themselves.

Mathematics is brought to life through the use of manipulatives, helping children develop a strong foundation in number work. From counting with cubes to exploring patterns with beads and shapes, our children are gaining a deep understanding of early maths concepts in an engaging and practical way. Most importantly, our setting is a place where children feel happy, confident, and excited to learn. They are encouraged to be curious, ask questions, and work collaboratively with their friends. The warm and nurturing environment allows them to develop key social skills while building independence. With our EYFS continuing to grow, this is fantastic news for the school. A thriving Early Years means a strong foundation for future learning, and we are so proud of the enthusiasm and joy our children bring to their day-to-day experiences!





Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is a fantastic way for children to start their day, providing a welcoming space to enjoy a healthy meal. We are incredibly grateful to Magic Breakfast for their support in ensuring every child has access to a nutritious start.

A huge thank you to Mrs Jheeta and all the dedicated staff who work so hard to make Breakfast Club a success. Their commitment ensures our children not only receive a healthy breakfast but also begin their day happy, settled, and ready to learn. It's a vital part of our school community, and we are proud of the difference it makes each morning.





Celebrating Kindness

Kindness continues to shine across our school as we celebrate more Kindness Cup winners. Each week, our children set an example of what it means to be caring, thoughtful, and respectful. Whether through small gestures or big acts, their kindness makes our school a welcoming and supportive place for everyone.

Our Tree of Kindness is flourishing as more children earn this well-deserved recognition. It's inspiring to see their efforts celebrated, reinforcing how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

This term, we are focusing on humility, showing respect and recognising that everyone has something unique to offer. Our school family embodies this value every day, creating a culture where kindness, respect, and encouragement help every child grow and thrive.



Class 1 Geography Update

Class 1 had an unforgettable trip to Horizon 22 as part of their Geography topic on London. At 254 metres high, it's the tallest free public viewing gallery in Europe, offering stunning views across the capital. The children were amazed to spot landmarks like The Shard, Tower Bridge, and St Paul's Cathedral from above. Seeing London from such a height made their learning come alive! Thank you to Ms Pink and our staff along with parent volunteers—your support made this trip possible. It was a fantastic day of learning, discovery, and awe-inspiring views that the children will never forget!



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



Dads' Network Baby Massage Session

A fun session for dads and children aged under 2,
exploring the benefits and techniques of baby massage!

Booking required

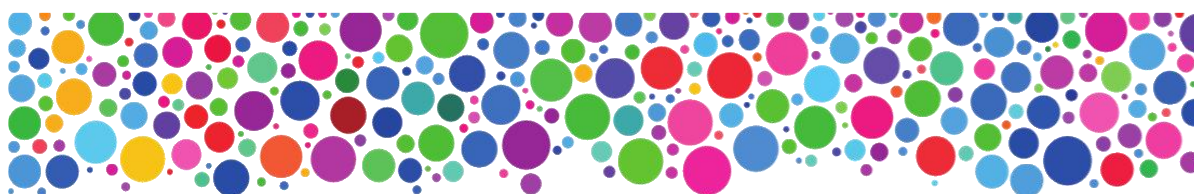


**Saturday 15 February,
11am-12 noon
Meath Gardens Family Hub
1 Smart Street, E2 0SN**

Facilitated by The Parent and Family Support Service

Email: parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Telephone: 07858 689 243



Holiday Childcare February Scheme 2025

Information for professionals

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare February 2025 Scheme is now open for bookings for working parents' resident in the borough, and for vulnerable referrals. Non-working parents / carers are welcome to book places from 28th January 2025.

Scheme dates

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025 (5 days).

Our scheme dates are based on the Tower Hamlets school holidays.

Booking closing date: 11th February 2025 by 12pm or earlier once bookings are full.

Venue

St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 0BD

Please support and share this information with families you feel may benefit from our scheme. To refer a child please complete our [referral form](#) and support the family to book following the steps on our [booking system](#).

More information can be found on our website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs.

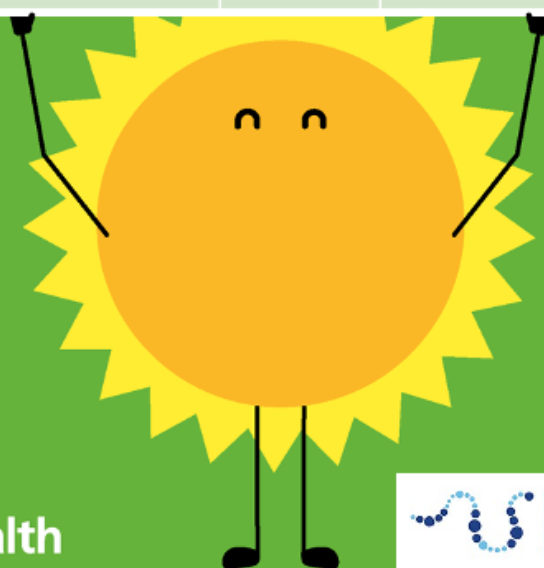
We will look forward to receiving your bookings.

Holiday Childcare Team
Parent & Family Support Service
Education Directorate
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Children's Services are offering Toileting Troubleshooting sessions in Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs for parents of children with additional needs

- If you are interested in attending:
- 1) First attend a Toileting Workshop in any Tower Hamlets Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs.
 - 2) After trialling strategies from this workshop, you feel you would benefit from further support please choose a date that suits you to book onto.
- The workshops happen on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Month	Date	Time	Children Centres & Family Hubs
January	8 th January 2025	1-3pm	Marner
February	5 th February 2025	1-3pm	Ocean
March	5 th March 2025	1-3pm	Meath gardens
April	2 nd April 2025	1-3pm	Isle of Dogs
May	7 th May 2025	1-3pm	Overland
June	4 th June 2025	1-3pm	<u>Chrip Street</u>



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.

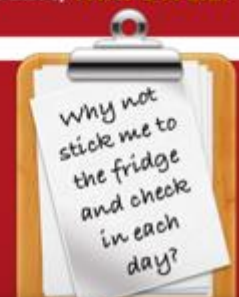
Remind them of key online safety principles



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

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



CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2024 - Apr 2025



Bethnal Green



Tower Hamlets and City

SEND TASS



TOWER HAMLETS



St John's & St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools

Term Dates and Holidays - 2024/ 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Staff Training	Mon 2 nd & Tue 3 rd September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 th September
Half Term	Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November
Staff Training	Mon 4 th November
Second half of term	Tuesday 5 th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 th December

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

Spring Term 2025

New Year's Day Monday 1st January

First Day of Term	Monday 6 th January
Half Term	Mon. 17 th to Fri. 21 st February
Second half of term	Monday 24 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th April

Good Friday	Friday 18 th April
Easter Monday	Monday 21 st April

Summer Term 2025

First Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term	Tuesday 27 th to Friday 30 th May
Second half of term	Monday 2 nd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd July

Ramadan begins	Friday 28 ^h February 2025*
Eid Al-Fitr	Sunday 30 th March 2025*
Eid Al-Adha	Friday 6 th June 2025*

195 days including 5 staff training days - 2 staff training days to be arranged

* to be confirmed



