



St John's Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

It does seem a bit late to be wishing you a Happy New Year at the end of the third week of term but I trust you had a restful break. As ever, there is a lot to pack into this edition. Our children have started the new year off as they mean to go on. Our choir have sung twice in front of the Mayor in the last couple of weeks and we have a number of new children joining us in Nursery and across the school as we continue to shine by supporting our local community with our food bank.

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



Choir Success

What a fantastic couple of weeks for our choir! They've been hitting all the right notes as our talented singers wowed audiences at the Outstanding Local Authority event in the Town Hall and even serenaded the mayor at a Cabinet meeting. Standing ovations all around! A big thank you to Mrs Bahi and Mrs Jheeta for their hard work. I'm bursting with pride at the incredible opportunity our pupils had to showcase their talents. Well done, everyone!

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.



Early Years Magic

Great things are happening in our Early Years Unit. It's a joy to witness our youngest pupils' imaginations soar as they learn and have fun. Our dedicated staff have been working tirelessly, making the most of both indoor and outdoor areas to provide rich learning experiences. It's no wonder that visitors are consistently impressed when they tour our facilities!

Our staff's hard work and dedication are truly appreciated and make a world of difference in our pupils.

Last term, we focused on the value of compassion, and I'm proud to say that our youngest pupils have shown a remarkable awareness of this important trait. It's heart-warming to see such empathy and kindness blossoming from an early age.





Artis Update

Our pupils are continuing to dive into the wonderful world of Artis this term. If you're wondering what Artis is all about, it's a fantastic programme that lets our children explore the curriculum through drama and singing. It's amazing to see their faces light up as they learn in such a creative way!

Our pupils across the school love these sessions while developing their skills and knowledge. It's truly a joy to watch. To find out more about this amazing intervention visit

<https://artisfoundation.org.uk/>

We owe a big thank you to Dasha Shenkman, a great friend of our school, for making this possible. Her support means the world to us and is making a real difference in our children's education.

Foodbank Update

On New Year's Eve, we held our biggest foodbank yet! It was truly a sight to behold, with our dedicated staff rolling up their sleeves to make it happen. We couldn't have done it without the incredible support from the Felix Project, the Hygiene Bank, the Town Hall Hotel and the generous donations from our school's friends.

The outpouring of kindness and community spirit was simply amazing. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of coming together and the positive impact we can have on others' lives.

Thank you to everyone involved – I am so proud of the work that we do. Our light continues to shine brightly like a beacon across our community.





Celebrating Kindness

We've had more worthy winners of our Kindness Cup award. Our children continue to be such excellent role models. Their actions remind us that kindness is at the heart of our school community and they demonstrate that week in and week out as they let their light shine. Our Tree of Kindness is continuing to grow as more and more children earn this worthy accolade.

This term our Value is humility. I think that if you show humility you are being kind and respectful, not showing off and remembering that everyone has something special to share. I think that sums up our school family nicely

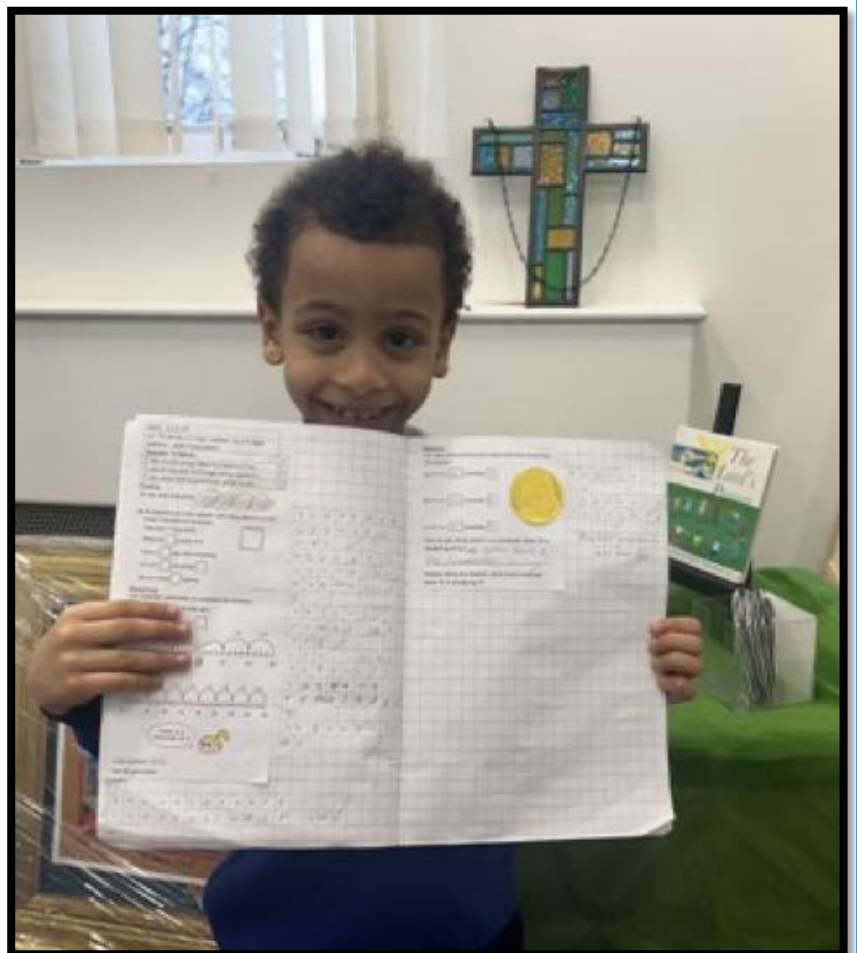
Outstanding Effort

It's always a joy to see our pupils' smiling faces as they pop into the office to celebrate their fantastic work. Whether it's for outstanding attainment or exceptional effort, these moments truly brighten our days.

Next time you are in school, take a look outside our office. It's a testament to the creativity and hard work of our pupils.

Outstanding work from every year group decorates the walls, showcasing the amazing talents we nurture here at St. John's - a reflection of the vibrant, supportive community we've built together.

What a treat to see our pupils' achievements recognised and their efforts appreciated.



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.

'Let our light shine'

**TO DISCUSS FURTHER PLEASE
CONTACT THE SCHOOL
OFFICE**

020 8980 1142



admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk



www.st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk



@5tJohnsTower





St John's Nursery Open Days

Are you looking for a nursery school for your child this September? Come and meet the Early Years Team and tour our school on one of our Open Days.

Dates:

Thursday 30th January

10-11am or 3:45-4:45 pm

Friday 31st January 2-3pm

To arrange a visit to our school please
call the school office on:
020 8980 1142

September 2025 intake

follow us on Twitter! @5tJohnsTower

Access to Fostering scheme



Are you curious about becoming a Foster Carer, but need support with the process?

Join the Open College Network accredited course

You will learn about:

- The role of the Foster Carer
- The skills needed to become a Foster Carer
- Child development and attachment
- Supporting children's learning
- Supporting children's health and wellbeing
- Keeping children safe from harm

To find out more and to see if you may be eligible to join the course, come along to one of the fostering information sessions:

- Monday 27 January,
- Monday 10 February,
- Wednesday 12 February,

10-11am at The Parents Advice Centre 30 Greatorex Street, E1 5NP

The 11-week course starts on Wednesday, 26 February



To sign up for the course or for more details, email fostering.training@towerhamlets.gov.uk

leaving your name and number and we will call you back

This course is a co-production between the Parent & Family Support Service and Fostering

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

GET TALKING!

FamiliesMatter

Delivered by the Parental Engagement Team



**Communication course for
parents with children in nursery and
reception**



**Saturday 1st February 2025
11am-12 noon
Meath Gardens Family Hub,
Smart Street, E2 OSN**

**Learn how to
teach children
how to
communicate
effectively**

**For more details
Tel: 07858 689 243
Email:
[Parentalengagement@tower
hamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk)**

Share your views!

Free School Meals Parent Focus Group

Parents and carers are invited to participate in a Parent and Carer Council focus group at the Town Hall to share your thoughts on the free school meals at your child's primary and/or secondary school.

Friday 7th February 2025
9.30am-11:30am
Tower Hamlets Town Hall,
160 Whitechapel Road,
E1 1BJ



It has been over a year since Tower Hamlets Council became the first local authority in England to rollout universal free school meals to all primary and secondary pupils.

Universal free school meals provide financial, health and educational benefits to children and the council is committed to ensuring as many pupils as possible can benefit.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is reviewing the borough's free school meal provision to explore how the council can continue working with schools, parents and pupils to increase uptake and satisfaction.

The session aims to focus on strengths, areas for improvement, balancing nutrition and appeal, accessibility, and communication in relation to free school meals.

Refreshments will be provided. Places are limited and booking is required.

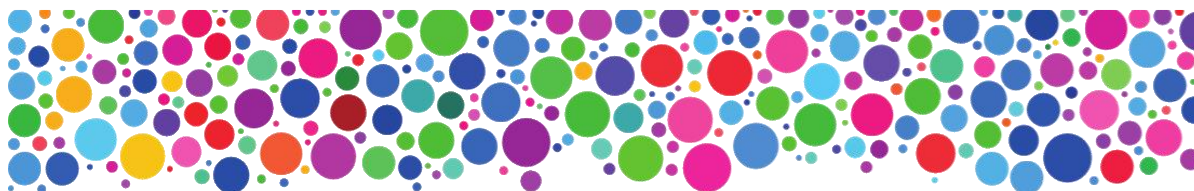
To book your place, email your name and your child's school to

parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

This Parent and Carer Council Family Voice Event will be facilitated by the Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement Team and Corporate Strategy and Communities Service.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentfamilysupport

Booking required



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

TOWER HAMLETS

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Ages 3-13 years old

The Tower Hamlets Childcare Scheme offers Ofsted registered childcare.

020 7364 0523

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs

February scheme Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 (5 days)

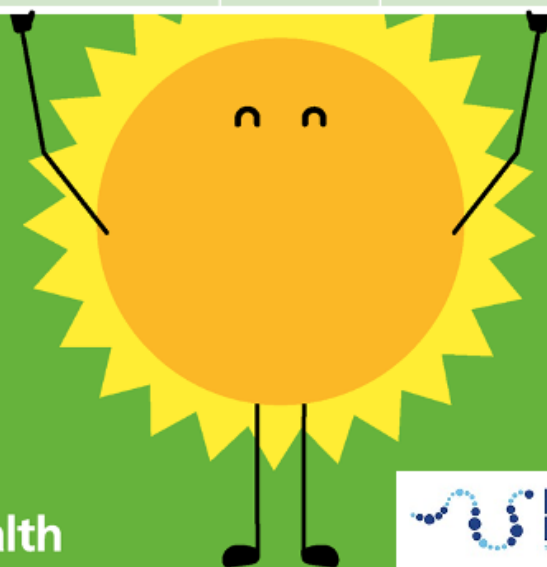
Bookings now open

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>Chrisp Street</u>



Young Barts Health



Supporting you,
for a brighter future

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





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2024 - Apr 2025



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Lebanon	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	04 Nov 2024 • 18 Nov • 02 Dec • 16 Dec • 30 Dec • 13 Jan 2025 • 27 Jan • 10 Feb • 24 Feb • 10 Mar • 24 Mar • 07 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Beef, Pepper & Onion Pizza with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Chicken Sausage with Mash Potatoes & Onion Gravy	Chicken Shawarma with Lebanese Rice or Lebanese Flatbread	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
Option 2	Vegan Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges	BBQ Vegetable Strips Wrap with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Vegetable Hotpot	Falafel in Sumaq & Za'atar Sauce with Lebanese Rice	Lentil & Vegetable Dahl with Rice
On the side	Sliced Carrots and Peas	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Cauliflower and Sliced Carrots	Mix Vegetables	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Green Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Fattoush Salad	Macedoine of Vegetable Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Banana & Date Yoghurt	Apple & Sultana 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 Ireland	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	11 Nov 2024 • 25 Nov • 09 Dec • 23 Dec • 06 Jan 2025 • 20 Jan • 03 Feb • 17 Feb • 3 Mar • 17 Mar • 31 Mar • 14 Apr				
Option 1	Piri Piri Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Italian Beef Meatballs Marinara Subroll with Cajun Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Irish Beef Stew with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes	Battered Pollock Fillet or Bubble Salmon Fillet with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Balti with Rice	Vegetable Nuggets with Katsu Curry Sauce and Rice	Jacket Potato with Leek, Onion & Beans	Veggie Sausage with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes & Gravy	Guorn Frankfurter Hotdog with Chips and Homemade Tomato Sauce
On the side	Green Vegetable Medley	Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Green Beans & Cauliflower	Green Cabbage & Sliced Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons	Tomato & Pasta Salad	Chef's House Salad	Potato Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Raspberry & Mango Fruit Fool	Apple & Banana 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

NEW AWARD
BRONZE

proveg
SCHOOL
PLATES

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.



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.



Contract Services CPU team were WINNERS at the Staff Awards Ceremony for "Excellent Support Services"

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 & 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**

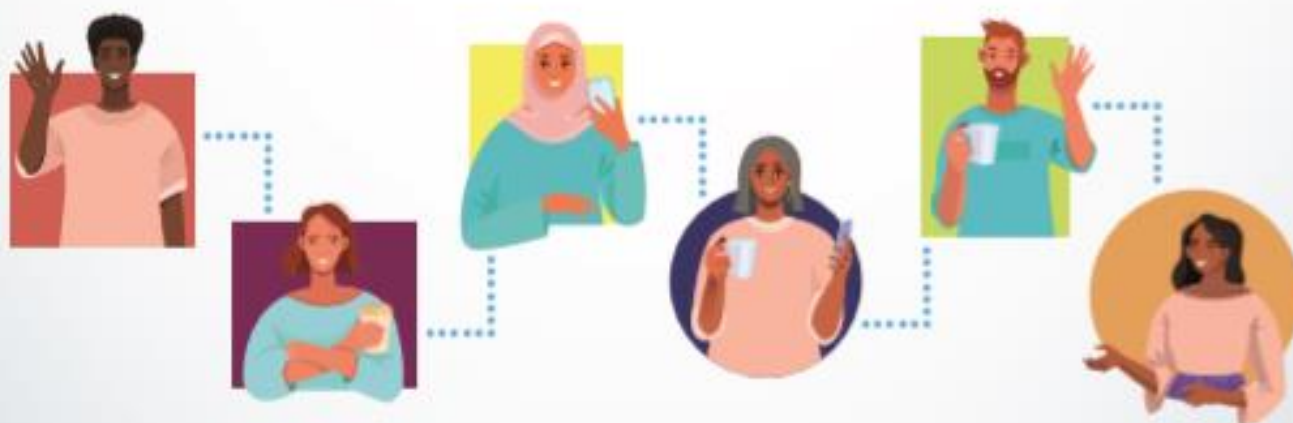
Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

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 & 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
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Thursday 26th December</i>

Spring Term 2025

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Monday 1st January</i>
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
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 18th April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 21st April</i>

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

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

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

* to be confirmed



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