



# St John's Newsletter

Friday 29th November 2024

## *An update from Mr. Rubin...*

What a busy few weeks it has been. From awards nights to trips to the British Museum. Presentation training to some quite remarkable dance movies at the recent school disco. We move into December, excited about Christmas and looking forward to all the fun and adventure ahead.

I also have some incredible news to share about a very generous offer that will be happening in January.

Have a lovely weekend, enjoy the newsletter and be kind to one another.



### **Winners!**

Congratulations to our children in Class 4/5 who have worked so hard this year on their architecture project. We were delighted to receive an award recognised for their engagement. One of our pupils gave the most incredible thank you speech!

### **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](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.



## **Presentation Coaching**

A huge thank you to our former Chair of Governors, Ian Graham, who has once again generously given his time to coach our children on improving their presentation skills. Ian was thoroughly impressed with the effort and dedication the children had put into preparing their presentations. He will continue to work with them throughout the year, and we are so grateful for his support. Thank you also to Mrs Bahi for helping the children prepare and, of course, to our hardworking pupils for their fantastic efforts!



## **The Felix Project**

Every week, we are so fortunate to receive food donations from the Felix Company, and while we never quite know what will arrive, we are always incredibly grateful for their generosity.

With increasing demand, I am considering adopting the system we have at St Paul's, where we prepare crates of food for families who need them most.

If this is something you'd be interested in or if you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to email us at [parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk).

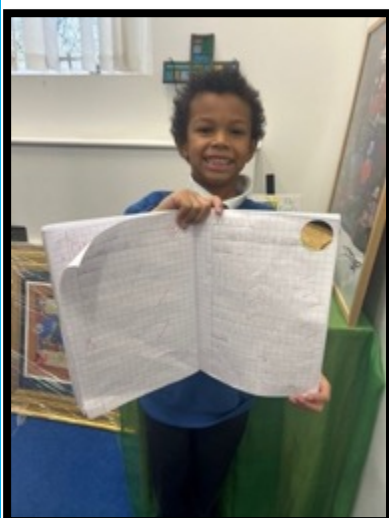




## Remembrance

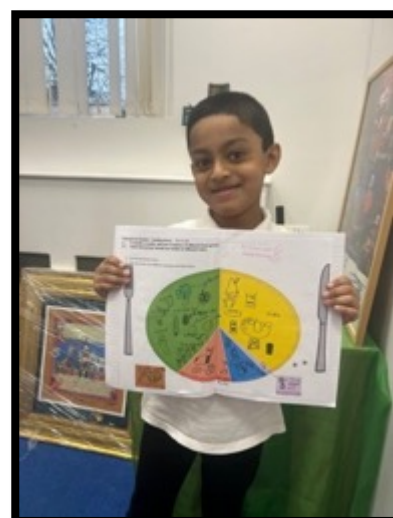
This is such an important time in the calendar, where our children pause to think and reflect on the significance of Remembrance Day.

Ms Foster from St Paul's kindly organised a range of meaningful activities for the children to take part in, helping them to deepen their understanding. We came together for a special Remembrance service in the hall, with a two-minute silence at 11 a.m. that was impeccably observed. A big thank you to Ms Foster for her efforts in making this day so poignant and memorable.



## Sharing Great Work

Outside my office is a display that shares amazing work from our pupils. I always think it helps inspire our children when they see their friends excelling. I have now taken that display down and am looking forward to refreshing it with more work that encourages. I look forward to sharing the results with you. Here are two examples







### **Class Three Visit British Museum**

As part of their history project on Vikings, Ms Palmer took the children to The British Museum to delve deeper into the fascinating world of Viking life and culture.

The children were captivated by the incredible artefacts, including weapons, jewellery, and tools, which brought their learning to life. Their behaviour was impeccable throughout. Thank you, Ms Palmer, for organising the trip and to our wonderful volunteers for coming along to help.



### **Value of the Term – Compassion**

Each week in Collective Worship, we focus on the importance of kindness. One of the most special awards we give to our children is the weekly Kindness Cup, which is given to those who demonstrate meaningful acts of compassion.

I was delighted to see that this pupil received this well-deserved honour in Celebration Assembly. Kindness is at the heart of everything we do, and it's wonderful to see it celebrated in such a meaningful way.







### Early Years Update

Imagination is vital in early learning, and it's fantastic to see our children fully engage with it. They love to imagine, as shown in the pictures. Role-play supports problem-solving, social skills, and language development. It nurtures creativity, builds empathy, and helps them explore the world around them in a fun and supportive way, laying the groundwork for lifelong learning. These moments of imaginative play are not just enjoyable but also essential for building confidence and curiosity.





## **Brick Lane Bookshop**

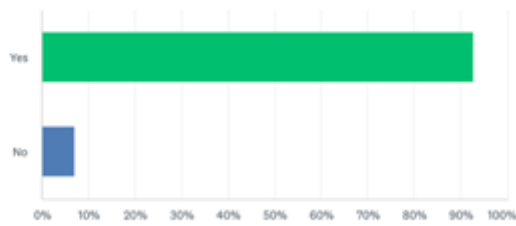
Brick Lane is one of the iconic streets in London. It is famous for a curry, incredibly trendy and has the most delicious bagels served at the top end of the street which is rather a staple in our house. Did you know that there is a fantastic book shop in Brick Lane which goes by the name of Brick Lane Bookshop? They have pledged to pay for a book for everyone in our school from Nursery up to Class 6. We are planning how we organise this and it will take place in January. There is so much kindness in the world and we are extremely grateful.





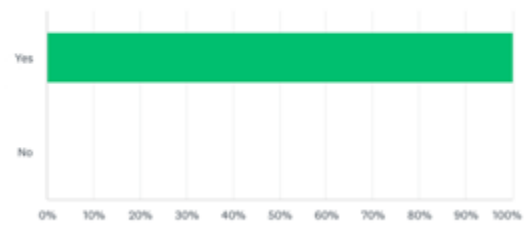
Was the time you were given convenient for you?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



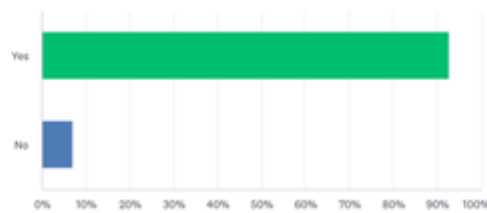
Did you find the information given to you helpful?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



Was it helpful to have the option to take your child home if you had an earlier meeting?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 0



## Parent/Carer Feedback

Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on the recent parent/carers evening. I have attached some of the bar charts which tell us that on the whole, you are happy with the arrangements that we have in place. There was also some lovely praise for our Class 6 Guides who made sure that everyone knew where they had to go,



Preparedness of the teacher. Data to support the discussion and inform on of support to build on key skills as part of the transition to secondary school

13/11/2024 18:40

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags▼](#)

Seeing their books to see what they have been learning.

13/11/2024 17:12

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags▼](#)

Able to get a update on my child's level or progress so far.

13/11/2024 16:25

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags▼](#)

Teachers lovely

13/11/2024 16:14

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags▼](#)





### **Disco Fever Hits St John's**

As we complete the Magnificent Month of November, I wanted to say a big thank you to Mrs Jheeta and all of our staff who worked incredibly hard to put a series of events on for the children. I was at St John's on Thursday and the hall was transformed into a dance arena. There were some incredible moves on display and everyone had such a lovely time.

We have an incredible team at St John's and I am so grateful for all the things they do for our children.







# Fun Times at the Disco

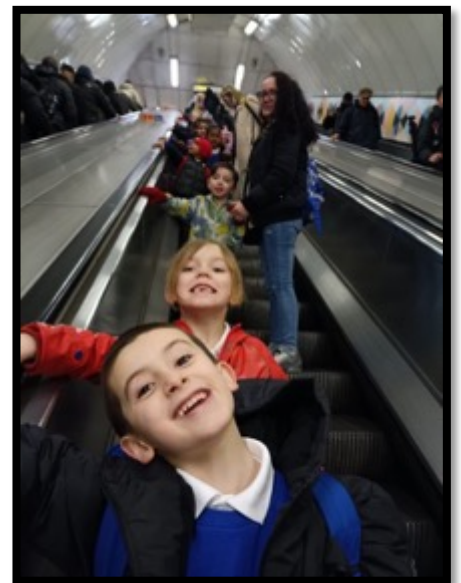






## Year 2 Visit The Transport Museum

What a treat for our children as Ms Moses led her class on a trip to the Transport Museum in Covent Garden followed by an outing to the cinema. A big thank you to all of our parents and carers that volunteered to come along. We are very grateful!





# 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](https://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](https://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](mailto:LBTHAttendance&WelfareServiceAdmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk) Telephone: 020 7364 3450

The best of London in one borough

*"The school's desire, through its vision, to be a beacon of hope to its community, is a living reality. The vision is inspirational."*  
SIAMS - Feb 2024

  
**St John's CofE Primary School**  
Bethnal Green  
*'Let Our Light Shine'*

*"Staff have high expectations of pupils. They expect pupils to do their best by working hard. Pupils respond well to this challenge and enjoy learning new things."*  
Ofsted - Nov 2021



**FREE**  
**NURSERY PLACES**  
**FULL TIME & PART TIME AVAILABLE**

**BREAKFAST CLUB AVAILABLE TO ALL NURSERY CHILDREN FROM 8AM ONWARDS.**

**Contact our school office for more information.**

 020 8980 1142  
Peel Grove,  
Bethnal Green

 [admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)  
 [www.stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](http://www.stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)



## Some Dates for your Diary – More information to come...

Y3 Intensive swimming  
EYFS Nativity  
Winter Fayre  
Christmas Lunch  
Church Service  
Class Xmas Parties

WB Monday 9th December  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 20th AM at 9.30  
Friday 20th Dec PM

## 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](http://www.stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk)



[admin@stjohns.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto: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 and City  
**SEND IASS**



# **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](mailto: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 <sup>nd</sup> & Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Half Term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Staff Training	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Second half of term	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December

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

#### Spring Term 2025

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January</i>
First Day of Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	Mon. 17 <sup>th</sup> to Fri. 21 <sup>st</sup> February
Second half of term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April

<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April</i>

#### Summer Term 2025

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

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