



# St John's Newsletter

Friday 8th November 2024

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

I have been away on conference the last couple of days but once again, the newsletter is full of activities that our children have been learning and enjoying. We are now full steam ahead with family dining, something we have been enjoying at St Paul's for years.

Enjoy reading the newsletter. I will look forward to seeing you on Tuesday for our Parent/Carer visits and do look out for the information on becoming a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral!

Have a lovely weekend and be kind to one another.



## **Rushanara Ali Visits St John's**

We were honoured to welcome Rushanara Ali, MP for Bethnal Green and Bow, to St John's as part of our Champions for Change unit. Children learnt about the importance of making their voice heard. Rushanara went to school in Tower Hamlets and seeing how her career has developed inspired our pupils. Her visit highlighted the importance of community and the children had an enriching experience, engaging in discussions and showcasing the wonderful work happening at our school.



## **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.





## Reception Class Update

Our Reception class children are always working hard and learning new things. In the photos you can see the students focusing on their number skills, having fun and exploring new things.







## **Black History Month at St. John's**

Children in Class Six have been reflecting on Black History Month and using their sketching skills to draw significant people who are influential figures in black history.

In music, Mrs Bahi has done a great job in helping us learn more about significant black musicians who have shaped and influenced so much of the music we listen to today.

## **Art and Design and Technology**

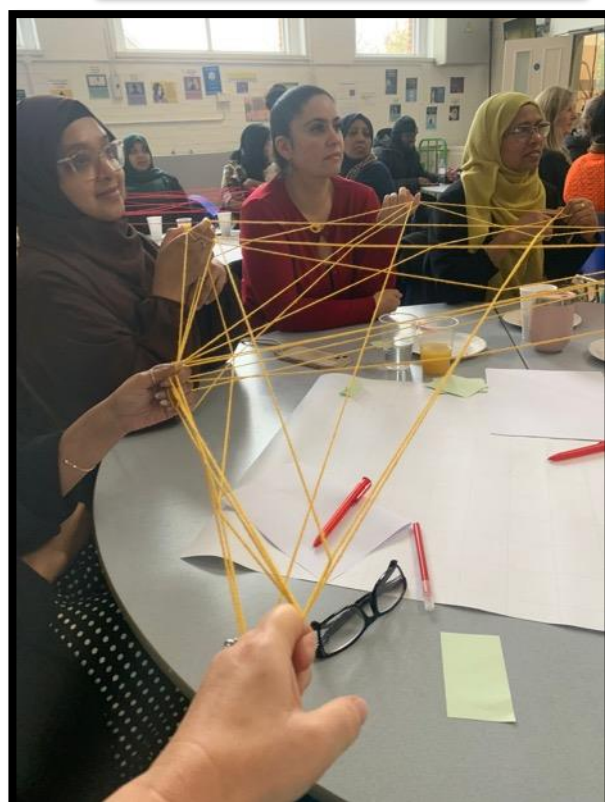
We have been working hard across both schools to have greater alignment of our curriculum. Despite being on two sites, there are many advantages to being a Federation. Sharing gives us a greater opportunity to learn more from experiences and opportunities in addition to benchmarking and celebrating good practice. I am delighted that our art and design technology curriculum is thriving. Below you can see our children using water colours and modelling.



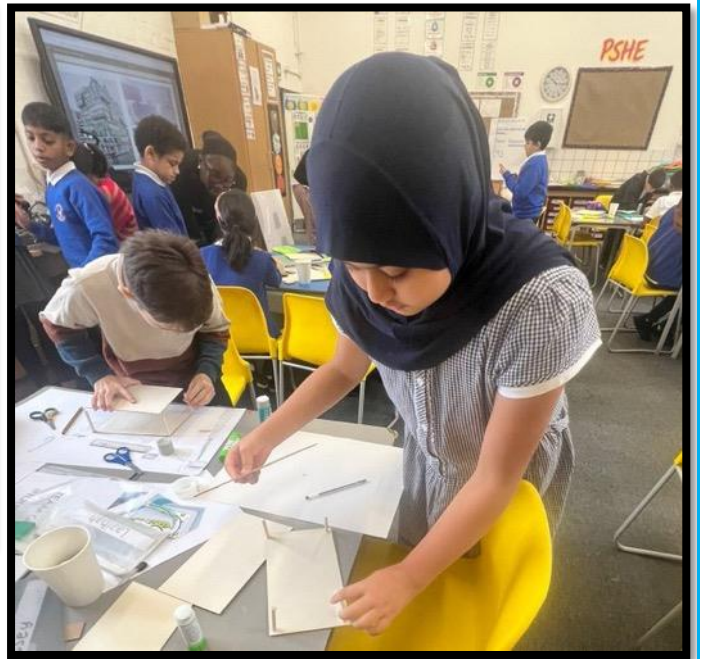


## Teaching and Learning at the Federation of St John's and St Paul's

I mentioned on the last page about the benefits the Federation brings us. Our INSET day was a great opportunity to share good practice. Many thanks to Mrs Jheeta who organised a fantastic speaker who allowed us to reflect on our pedagogic approach. Mr Boutflour led a discussion around successful strategies in writing and Early Years colleagues met up to disseminate effective techniques.







### **Year 4/5 Architecture Project**

We have been working with Open City for several years and every year I am always impressed with how our children engage so enthusiastically with the tasks. We have seen in previous years much success in this competition. I am really pleased with the final models and who knows...maybe we have inspired some architects of the future!







### **Family Style Dining at St John's**

I am absolutely delighted to share the news that our family style service has now started in earnest. You will see that under the supervision of our staff, children now serve one another their food. This encourages them to try different things as opposed to choosing one thing over another and helps to promote a more caring lunch service that meets are values. More to follow!







## **Bowling Success!**

Congratulations to our bowling team who, like most of our sports teams did ever so well in a recent borough competition.

A big thank you to Mr Malcolm and Ms Carly for taking the children and to Ms Pink for organising.



## **Quincy Jones**

This week, the music industry lost one of its music legends with the death of Quincy Jones.

Quincy Delight Jones Jr. (March 14, 1933 – November 3, 2024) was an American record producer, songwriter, composer, arranger, and film and television producer. His career spanned a whopping 70 years, with 28 Grammy Awards won out of 80 nominations, and a Grammy Legend Award in 1992.

Quincy has produced pop hit records for many well-known musicians and singers, such as Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra and Miles Davies to name a few. Notably, he conducted the charity song "We Are the World", which raised millions of pounds for victims of famine in Ethiopia.

Truly a music legend, this fortnight we will listen to the legacy of great music which he has left behind.

Genre: Soul, Jazz, Funk, Hip Hop, Rock & Roll



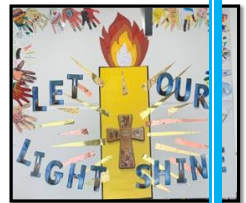


## Geography and Art and DT Update in Year 3 – Ms Palmer

As part of their Geography topic, *Active Planet*, the children explored *Form* in Art and DT lessons.

They investigated 2D and 3D shapes and practiced scaling inner sections of the Earth.

For their final project, using plasticine, they created impressive 3D cross-sections of the Earth.





# Top Tips for Staying Safe Online

## 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 [parentsafelgfl.net](https://parentsafelgfl.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.

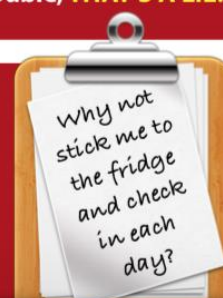
## Remind them of key online safety principles



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 [reportinglgfl.net](https://reportinglgfl.net), including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).





# MAGNIFICENT MONTH OF NOVEMBER



at St John's CE Primary School

## Thursday 7th November Cake Sale

Please bring donations of cakes to the school office by 12pm on Thursday 7th Nov.

## Thursday 14th November Non Uniform Day

Donations of £1 can be made on the gate before and after school.

## Thursday 21st November After School Disco - KS1 & EYFS



## Thursday 28th November After School Disco - KS2 (tuck shop will be open on both dates)

Disco tickets are priced at £3 per child and £2 for each additional sibling. Available to purchase from the school office.

Children to be collected at 5:00pm.



# BECOME A CHORISTER AT ST PAUL'S



Dear parent/guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. St Paul's Cathedral is currently recruiting the next generation of boy and girl Choristers to join its world-famous choir. We would be delighted if your child might be interested in applying. Invitations have been offered to students who have shown potential and enthusiasm in school, and I hope that you will encourage your child to explore the many musical and social opportunities that Choristership can offer.

Director of Music, Andrew Carwood MBE, writes:

*"Being a Chorister at St Paul's is an extraordinary and inspiring experience, offering children a unique start in life. Alongside a first-class musical education, our Choristers board at the Cathedral School, where they benefit from an exceptional academic curriculum. In addition to singing Choral Evensong throughout the week, Choristers participate in special services, concerts, broadcasts, and tours."*

St Paul's Cathedral is determined that no child should ever have to pay to sing in their Cathedral. Choristers learn and board at the Cathedral School and receive 100% bursaries for their education fees and up to 100% on the cost of boarding.

We are holding online introduction meetings for parents and their children on November 13th, beginning at 6:00 PM for boys and 6:45 PM for girls. These meetings will offer insights into the unique benefits of Choristership at St Paul's and how it can help shape a child's future.

For more details, including how to apply, please visit [www.stpauls.co.uk/join-cathedral-choir](http://www.stpauls.co.uk/join-cathedral-choir), or email me directly on [wbruce@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:wbruce@stpaulscathedral.org.uk).

With renewed thanks,

Will Bruce  
School Choral Director

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*"We believe that every young person should have access to the world's best music — that's why we're committed to providing progression opportunities at the highest level."*

Will Bruce  
Artistic Director of Choral Partnerships

 **St PAUL'S**  
CATHEDRAL





**St PAUL'S**  
CATHEDRAL

## **Become a Chorister**

If your child is between Years 2 and 5 and is enthusiastic about singing, scan the QR code or ask for a leaflet to find out more.






## 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)



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







# 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	Quorn 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.

Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS

Congratulations!



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



# 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**