

GOOD NEWS CELEBRATION ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents,

We thought that the focus of this terms newsletter should be entirely on the successes of each class as we get to the mid way point for this year. We are so proud of your children and this newsletter is all about them!

Every teacher has written a short piece to celebrate their class and how proud they are to lead them. Look out for the children that have been given a special mention... well done and keep up the hard work.

I am so proud of how our school has carried on so determinedly this term, despite high levels of staff and pupil absence - our children and staff are doing all they can to put the disruption of the last 2 years behind them to show that EVERY DAY COUNTS and our attendance is now beginning to grow above national attendance figures again. Thank you for your support in getting children into school.

Parents, it has been lovely to see you for Workshops, parents meetings and Parent Gym and as we step into the second half of the term, these opportunities will grow. You may have noticed that we have held additional face to face individual meetings for all our Year 6 parents to help prepare them to support their child for end of year SATS, and secondary transition. I hope you have found this useful.

Next term, we will do the same but for Year 1 parents - to help prepare for the National Phonics Screening and for Year 4 parents - to help prepare for the National X table tests that your child will take. We believe that the investment in longer individual sessions for parents and teachers will help you support your child to **BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE**. Please look out for these appointments in February and March.

I cannot stress enough the importance of excellent attendance as we head into the last half of this academic year and the governors, the local authority and the DFE are being very strict about not allowing extended absence from the school year for travel.

Across the borough -more fines have been issued as unfortunately such travel often ends with children missing more of their education than necessary due to COVID measures on return flights. Please plan your travel wisely and if visiting sick relatives abroad ensure that one adult travels and your child is cared for here, at home with other family members so that they do not miss out on their education or in some cases face being removed from the school.

Please remember that we have daily updates on our pupils on our Twitter page [@JohnScurr_Sch](https://twitter.com/JohnScurr_Sch) and please ensure you check School Ping regularly.

CELEBRATION - GOOD NEWS ISSUE CONT'D.....

Have a lovely half term . **School opens on the 21st February for Reception to Year 6 but Nursery is closed on that day , and on the 22nd , as we are updating staff first aid training on those 2 days. Nursery pupils return on the 23rd February.**

Next term is World Book Day, Science week, Red Nose Day and lots of other events to look forward to. We have a new Mosaic being planned for the front of school and an extension to our edible garden. Ray Royner, our Premises manager , is also looking at developing the premises house into a hub for parents to receive ESOL training again- it's always so busy at John Scurr!

If you have a child at home that is currently 2yrs - then JOHN SCURR IS FOR YOU! - Please be reminded that if you are hoping for a 3YO Nursery Place for your child from September - you must complete the application on the [e-admissions Tower Hamlets](#) website by Friday.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to stepping into Spring with you.

In partnership,



OUTSTANDING LEARNING BEHAVIOUR

Firstly, a big well done to all children who have been arriving at school ready for learning.

Also a big thank you to all parents and carers who have been supporting with this.

We are very happy to see children arriving on time each day, dressed in full school uniform or in full PE kit.

Reading sessions have been starting at 8.50am and most children are in class at this time, raring to go.

We also have very good attendance in After School Clubs on Tuesdays, Readiness Tuition on Thursdays and Fridays and Booster Classes across the school.

We really are all working together to catch up on learning lost over the past two years.

We will be continuing to provide more of these opportunities next half term for your children.

Anna Southcott
Assistant Head for Inclusion

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for supporting your child/children's attendance, thank you all for making such a big effort in attending school- We all know how hard it's been throughout the Pandemic and keeping well and attending school.

It's really important to be in school every day and on time; it's always a pleasure seeing you – just wanted to share some exciting news with you, as you may know we celebrate the best attendance, where each class is monitored for the most 100% attendance, yes that's correct 100%.

Congratulations Simmonds class who won this terms award and was treated to a Bowling Trip organised by the office team.

We hope you enjoyed your day out and made wonderful memories – 100% attendance is something we can all aspire to. Looking forward to seeing who will be next to win.

Rofina Begum- Family Support Worker

RECEPTION - ROSEN CLASS

It is so lovely to see how wonderfully well Rosen class has settled in and how much they have grown since the start of September. Every day they come to school with a smile on their faces; eager and ready to learn. They are all becoming more independent every day and have all grown in confidence. There are children in particular who have shown great learning since the beginning of Reception:

You have a positive 'can do' attitude. I am impressed with your determination to explore and learn something new every day through questioning, really trying to have a go and always trying your best.



You have an amazing imagination. You are kind and a great role model to your peers – Politely reminding your peers to put the lid on the glue stick or it will dry out.

You have grown so much in confidence and with encouragement you are willing to have a go at learning new things.



You have a love for learning which is shown through your questioning, engagement in the learning environment and participation during carpet times.

MATHS MODERATION

This half term teachers in KS1 and KS2 have welcomed other local schools and the Borough's Maths Lead, Carolyn Lindsay, to John Scurr to work together to moderate the children's maths work.

Maths moderation involves teachers reviewing the maths work of selected children and then using this information to assess how these children are getting on against national expectations. Teachers also use moderation to identify areas of strength and weakness; this then helps them plan the children's maths for the rest of the year.

Moderating with other schools is especially useful as it improves our teachers' abilities to accurately assess our children, and make judgements about whether they are likely to achieve, or even exceed, age related expectations (ARE) by the end of the school year.

The teachers have found the Maths moderation extremely helpful and we look forward to having further opportunities to moderate with our partner schools later in the year.



THOMPSON CLASS

Nayla has become a confident bug hunter. She has learned how to carefully dig for worms, making sure she does not hurt them. She has also been encouraging her friend to look for worms with her and hold them with their hands!

Rokaya and Zunaina have been exploring the playdough area each day. Working together to great 'delicious' treats for their friends. They have learned the names of different herbs and spices and have been adding them to their playdough cakes and chocolates.

Yusuf has settled beautifully into the Nursery. He has been exploring all of the areas and meeting lots of new friends. Yusuf has loved using all the natural resources to practice his counting from 0-10!

Zeyad has been our superstar tidier this month. He has been working really hard on keeping the Nursery tidy. Helping adults and children when he can to keep the Nursery looking beautiful.



ADEPITAN CLASS

Adepiton Class have been working really hard this year. They are independent, kind and great learners. Recently we have learnt about Lunar New Year, Volcanoes and making fruit juice. Ask the children to show you our dragon dance!

- * The children below are great role models with their learning. They play with lots of different children and will always have a go. Well done!
- * They have been working really hard at home and are always sharing their learning on the Seesaw. They have shown us fantastic reading, brilliant singing and careful handwriting. Well done!
- * Abdur has worked really hard and is now a zip expert! He has also been learning to use a clear voice to share his ideas. Well done!



HOUGHTON - CLASS

I am very proud of all of the amazing children in Houghton Class for becoming so independent and responsible.

They have transitioned from Reception with such confidence and ease. In year one we have been having lots of fun cooking making rainbow wraps and learning about nutrition.

In science we have been exploring the garden for different living creatures and in English inspired by the story "Look up" we have been creating our own meteor showers!



MALALA CLASS

Fantastic work from Malala Class this year. We are independent learners who love asking questions. Everyone has made great progress with their reading and writing. We have enjoyed reading lots of new books and are becoming phonics experts ready for our phonics screening in the summer.

We are becoming confident mathematicians counting to 50, adding, subtracting and explaining how we work things out.

In Science we have been learning about living things with outdoor lessons in the forest school and testing materials.

In Geography we have learnt about continents and countries and in History we found out about Mary Anning and her amazing fossil finds.

Our DT and art lessons have been very exciting and we have even learnt to cook with healthy vegetables.



KANNEH-MASON CLASS

I am really proud of all the wonderful children in Kanneh-Mason class for becoming so independent and responsible. They have managed the move upstairs with maturity and confidence and settled really well! I would like to make a special mention for some children who have particularly stood out since the beginning of year two:

Sulayman – I am so impressed by your positivity and your energetic attitude towards learning and everything that you do. You are a true inspiration to us all at John Scurr!

Asiya – you only joined us on the second week of this term but have become a role model already. I love sharing your work with the class so everyone can see what amazing presentation looks like!

Saihaan and Rafsal – if anyone wants to see what a hard worker looks like, they should come and see you both! You have both worked so hard in every single lesson this year. Keep up the incredible work!

Sumaiyah – your confidence has grown so much and it's wonderful to see you using a big voice to share your wonderful ideas with a big smile on your face!



ATTENBOROUGH CLASS

On theme with our namesake, David Attenborough, our pupils have been exploring new landscapes of learning in Science with investigating the forest school for living things. Discovering in History about The Great Fire of London with a trip to the Museum of London where they represented John Scurr brilliantly and mastered the London Underground!

And finally they are always kind and enthusiastic exploring learners, we're very proud of Attenborough class as they work together as a team and don't leave any one behind on a learning adventure!

Amaya was a little shy to start the year off but has shone brighter than ever before, regularly illuminating our lessons with her answers and now offers daily Spanish lessons for us! Muy bueno! You are a pleasure to teach and making great progress every week, espectacular!

Amima is our racing reader so far! She has successfully completed 40 AR quizzes already and has moved her reading level up by 4 places! Very impressive Amima! It is so wonderful to see and we'll have to get thinking of an even bigger reading prize if she makes 100, which I'm sure she will!

Ilyas has been a great friend to our class, he is very kind, patient and funny! It is inspiring to watch him do so well in partner work and team work. The whole class can always rely on Ilyas to if they need help. An inspirational learner!

Ashraf creates works of art for us every day! We are inundated with drawings of his latest cartoon creations and have a full art book of them all! His rate of art work is aspirational and it is so impressive to see him express himself so creatively! Keep it up Ashraf!

Hamza and Mahiyan were new to John Scurr near the end of Year 1 and completely new to English. Their development in reading, writing, listening and speaking is outstanding. They always work very hard in lesson and impress us every day with their improving English! Fantastic learning Hamza and Mahiyan!



SIMMONDS CLASS

I am extremely proud of Simmonds Class for the enthusiasm that they bring to their learning and how they have been developing their oracy skills. They are working on their task transitions throughout the day; Masooma is a star at this!

A respectful individual to all is Taiyebah, and not only when teachers are watching! Each member of Simmonds Class is glad to have her as a partner because she is considerate and knows what it means to be a proactive listener.

A big well done to Luqman because he often demonstrates resourcefulness across all the subjects. He is brave in trying new approaches therefore he is a great role model to any apprehensive members of our class.

We have been concluding our history unit of Stone Age to Iron Age. Arsil is a fantastic champion of applying new vocabulary!

We give a loud applause at the announcement that Safiyah and Anas were awarded their pen license this term due to consistent neat presentation.

We commend our new pupil, Muhsinah, who has applied herself to learning our JSPS practices. A times tables and gymnastics icon too!



OLIVER CLASS

All the children in Oliver Class have made fantastic progress in improving their concentration since they returned from the Christmas holidays. I am so very proud at the dedication they have shown towards producing the highest quality work, even if the work is challenging. Some children have really stood out for their effort, focus and attention to detail.

Maryam listens so carefully during all lessons and always uses all her energy to do her best. She is also a great team worker and likes to support the children on her table.

Aadam is a real perfectionist and always wants to make his work look tidy. Aadam is really beginning to stand out for the good ideas he uses in his writing.

Alexandria is one of the bravest children in our class. She has a quiet voice but is now always trying to share ideas. It is wonderful to see her confidence develop.

Musa is great class leader in the way he always sets an excellent example of how to behave, how to treat others and how to learn. Musa absorbs new ideas like a sponge and he remembers everything he learns too!



THUNBERG CLASS

Thunberg Class have had a very busy half term and produced lots work we are very pleased with.

The children worked over a number of week to produce beautiful mixed media art work inspired by the Viking, Lewis chess set. Frazer, Fahad, Riya and Rahma took care drawing the chess set. They thought carefully about the position of the pieces, created their own unique rooks and then designed colourful backgrounds.

Raisa and Manha become our first AR million word readers. This is an amazing achievement. Both girls are great reading role models for all of the children in Thunberg Class.

Kitty has been attending Singing Club since September and last week we felt proud that she was part of the amazing Singing Assembly.

Rezwan has worked especially hard this term. Habiba is particularly proud of the independent writing work he has produced. Rezwan has also participated enthusiastically in Chess Club. Manha with Ali and Loveyah have passed our times tables challenge, answering 100 questions in less that 5 minutes. Who will be next?



KARMAN CLASS

It's been a fantastic half term for Karman Class for many reasons. All the children have been working so hard and have made so much progress in just 6 weeks. We are particularly proud of our attendance – we have had the highest attendance for 4 weeks in a row! Really well done to all children for being extremely resilient and making sure they come to school every day.

I have also been very impressed by the children's commitment to reading. Every child is ensuring they read at home for 20 minutes a day and quiz regularly – let's keep this up to boost our word count even more! I have been particularly impressed by Eva who has been steaming through the Judy Moody series and getting high scores on her quizzes. Rumaisa and Swayam have also been enjoying the Harry Potter series, and as a class we are loving A Series of Unfortunate Events.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for Karman Class. Really well done to every single pupil for always being the best they can be. Let's keep it up!



PUPIL VOICE COMMITTEE

The Pupil Voice Committee have been busily putting plans together for Children's Mental Health week this half term. We came up with the idea of 'Mental Health Hour'.

Each class spent an hour with another class from across the school, getting to know each other and reflecting on our mental health. During this session, every child designed a lollipop stick to reflect their personality and their uniqueness. We are going to make a display out of these lollipop sticks to celebrate our individuality.

The PVC spent lots of time planning the logistics of the sessions and working out which classes would be paired up together. Alesha and Nusrat from Year 6 also spoke very confidently during assembly to share their ideas with the rest of the school. It has been wonderful to see the PVC working so collaboratively on their plan. They work extremely well together and it's lovely to see their plans and ideas come to life!



SANDERSON CLASS

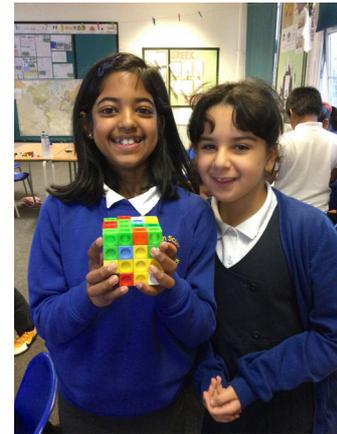
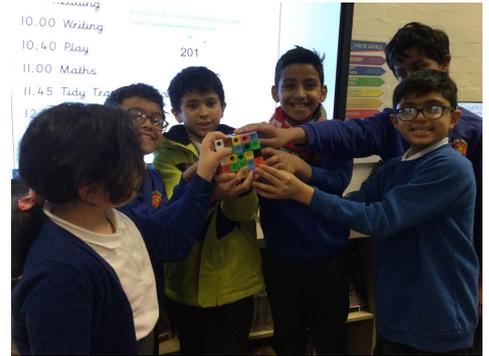
Sanderson Class have been working hard learning about all things to do with Space!

To begin the term, we received a record-amount of holiday homework about the solar system. We had a hard time choosing, but eventually voted all together that Yaaseen was our class holiday homework hero.

In Science, we have been using torches to explain why we see different phases of the moon. We also used fruit to compare the relative sizes of the planets. We really like to do practical experiments in Sanderson class.

We have also been working hard on our math skills this term. In the pictures you can see a fun Maths investigation we did all about cube numbers. In our music classes, Joanne Gibson has been helping us to record and compose our own space-themed music on the microphone and in the sound lab. Salma has also been helping us this term and she has made beautiful artworks with the children as well as helped us every day in our lessons.

To finish the term's wonderful learning about Space we even have a special trip to the Science Museum planned on Friday. We can't wait!



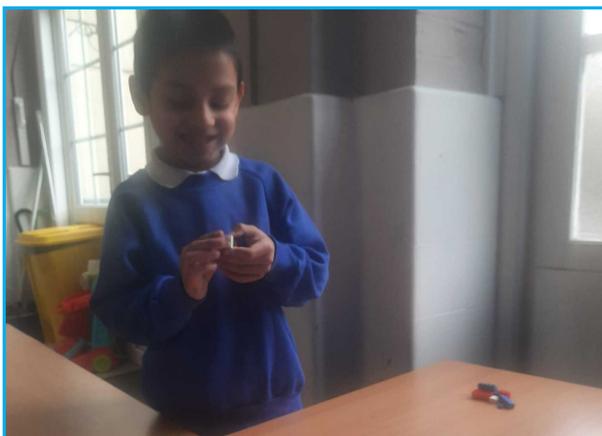
PACKHAM CLASS

The half term in Packham class, we have had lots of fun learning all about travel. In particular, we really enjoyed our geography unit, comparing London and Nairobi. The children have all worked very hard to learn new skills and knowledge. We have continued to work on our communication, social skills and self-regulation.

Anhaf has shown a keen interest in learning all the countries, flags and languages of the world. He has been proud to show adults when he has made flags using lego and has taught us how to say hello in over 10 languages!

Isabella has led the way in teaching us how to calm our bodies and minds, through engaging in mindfulness and Yoga. She is on her way to becoming an expert Yogi and will even help her friends to calm down with their favourite toys.

Yamin has shown a great joy for learning this half term and is excited to take part in a wide range of learning



RASHFORD CLASS

Rashford Class have had a really fun and memorable half term and have worked really hard in a variety of subjects. Here are some of our highlights from the past month, and some children that deserve special recognition:

Maryam is always incredibly helpful. She typically finishes her work quite quickly, especially in maths, but she always supports her friends, helping them to be successful too.

Hazera and Nabila have improved their English so much since September. They can now both share ideas in class and join in with the whole class learning. Some of their writing has been excellent!

Yaqub has improved his reading ability a huge amount. He can now recognise many words by sight and is reading books at a far higher level than before. It has been a pleasure to see how much his confidence has grown.



Locating different countries around the world in geography



Making weather stations



Learning about teeth in science

Nourish
contract catering

John Scurr are proud to introduce you to NOURISH our new school lunch catering partners who are providing us with healthy and nutritional school lunch.

All children now have a red tray, a wider selection of food with a salad bar, a small group to have lunch with and new catering staff to serve them. Lunchtimes are now a big hit with larger food portions and more choice. There is also a lot of conversation taking place between children while they enjoy a good meal. The lunch hall is 'BUZZING' with a fabulous atmosphere. Below are some children's views on how they are finding NOURISH.

"One good thing about NOURISH is that we now have more incredible, delectable options to choose from"

Mariya Y5

"I like NOURISH because of the food- It tastes way better. We have a bigger variety of food to pick from. The new lunch staff are great overall. It is a great lunch system."

Ibrahim Y5

KHAN CLASS

As always, we are incredibly proud of Khan Class's achievements this half term. This week, children who attend Debate Mate finally got to represent John Scurr School in a debating competition.

One of the questions was, 'Should people be given a second chance?' Our clever Year 6s took the chance to use some recent English learning about betrayal to support their arguments. What impressive young people they are.

Khan Class have demonstrated their number skills this half term in a series of tournaments on TTRS. Not only did they participate brilliantly, but they won the overall competition against Year 5 and 6. What a great achievement. Special shout outs go to Priority, Nusrat, Tasnima, Suha, Labibah, Ihsan, Tahmid and Yaaseen for being the most valuable players in each tournament.

Khan Class's reading continues to go from strength to strength. We already have three millionaire readers in Tahmid, Faiza and Nusrat, and Wahid is close behind with over 900,000 words! As a class the children have read over 10.7 million words! We are so proud of their effort and engagement in reading, which is a delight to see.

ZEPHANIAH CLASS

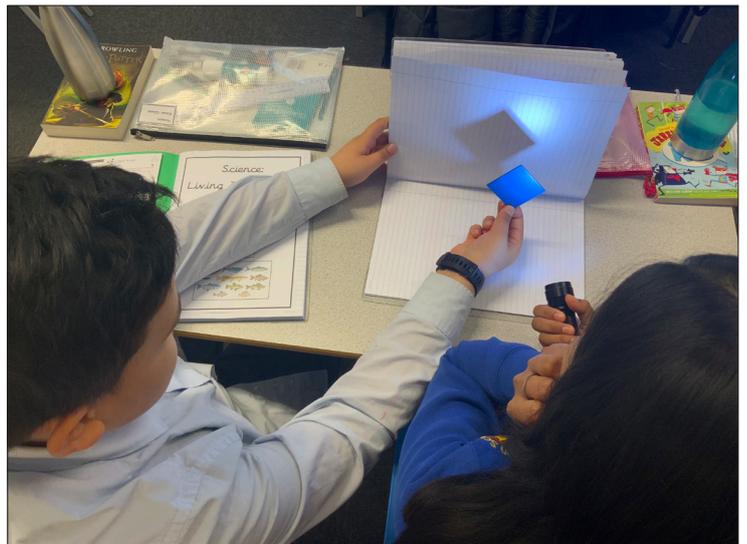
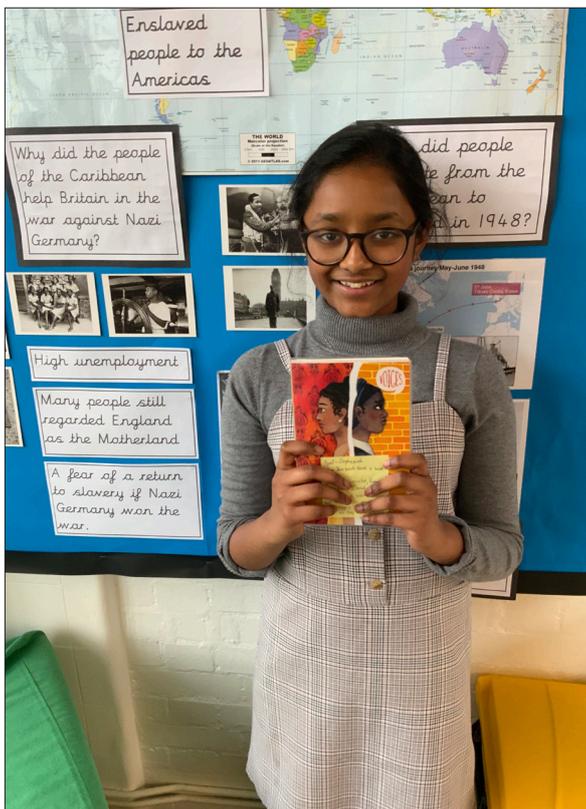
What a half term it's been in Zephaniah Class. The children have been putting in extra effort to work on their times tables by competing in TTRS challenges.

Everyone has played their part but Riad, Hana, Alif, Abdullah and Ifran have been the most valuable players in the Battle of the Bands. Another impressive achievement is that Yaqeen has recently joined Samira in being a Millionaire Reader.

As a class, we have now read over 6.5 million words! Well done to all those who have put in extra effort to develop their reading habit.

As always, Zephaniah have demonstrated how kind and caring they are. This was shown again this week when Abdifatah joined us. Everyone has helped him to settle in really quickly. I'm also delighted with his attitude to learning and positive contributions. Well done everyone – I'm so proud of you.

A number of children represented John Scurr in an athletics competition this week. It's a big challenge getting used to competing with other Tower Hamlets schools but our Y6 athletes rose to the challenge and got stuck in. Next time they'll be even more confident to show what they can achieve.



2 YEAR OLD PROVISION

Welcome to our new 2-Year-old children. We have had two new children join us this half term in the 2 Year Old Nursery class.

Subaha and Amaya who have settled in so well, we are so proud of the way you are becoming confident at separating from your parents and joining your friends in the classroom. We know you will love learning and exploring the Nursery environment. Well Done!

Name Writing

We enjoy lots of mark making in the 2 Year Old Nursery which helps develop our fine motor skills. We explore this using a wide range of tools e.g. pens, paint brushes, pencils, chalk, crayons etc. This half term Caesar and Giovanni have been trying so hard at practicing name writing using their name cards. We love to celebrate your amazing hard work – keep it up!



JANUARY ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Well done to these children of year 5 & 6 for competing in the January Athletics Competition. The competition was challenging but we gave our all.

