

John Scurr Newsletter

BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE



Dear Parents,

'It takes a village to raise a child' African Proverb

Another year has flown by and we are now ready to start our Summer Holiday here at John Scurr.

This newsletter will outline some of outcomes and achievements this year and I hope you will feel part of the success story for your child and our supportive community. It really does take a village to raise a child and our school feels like a very busy village in a very large city. Thank you for helping to keep 'the village' calm, kind and welcoming and for all the support you give your child in ensuring 'they are the best that they can be'.

We will be saying good bye to a wonderful Year 6 cohort this year. Thank you Khan and Holmes class for all your hard work this year- your attendance has been the top for most of the year and your outcomes have been brilliant. Please remember that whilst performance at SATS is important it is only part of the picture and you leave this school as confident, friendly and trust worthy citizens who I know will go on to shine in secondary school.

We also say goodbye to our graduate teaching assistants who have joined us to help develop their careers- Andi, Nayab, Iqra, Mary, Hettie and Jemima you have all given our children so much inspiration and support over the year, thank you. We also say goodbye to Charlotte who has been with us for 3 years – Charlotte is going on to teach in a Nursery closer to home. Thank you Charlotte for the support given to the pupils you have taught. We also say goodbye to Daisy Hollis who has been with us for 2 years and had lead on RE cover this year. And to Dani who has been our teacher in Year 2. Dani we wish you well in the next stage of your travels and thank you for stepping into Year 2 this year.

We say goodbye to Ruhena, our TA in Packham Class – thank you Ruhena for the support you have given our most vulnerable pupils- Good Luck with your dream and studies to be an Educational Psychologist.

We welcome Laurie, Chloe and Ruby who will be new teachers at John Scurr in September – your children will have met them and they are all experienced teachers ready for their next challenge at John Scurr.

We also have another wave of Graduates who will be working with us and Joanne Power will return again in the autumn.

Keeley has included in our newsletter all the awards that we are proud of – it has been a really busy year for us. There have been chess awards, debating success and sporting achievements – this year was our first year in some time where we have included our pupils at County level tournaments and sporting excellence.

Your support with the Strike Days and the budget campaigning has also been felt- you all know that budget cuts will impact your children and the teachers in school feel supported by your kind words and understanding. We apologise for the disruption but we hope that the action will cause those that fund our schools to listen.

Thank you all for coming along to our events this year from meetings to celebrations, from fayres to picnics, from 'Stay and Plays' to consultations- your voice is always welcome and your support is always appreciated. Each assembly this term has been so well attended by you and we have raised so much money for the school fund to help contribute to trips and celebrations for pupils.

Next year there will be a further drive on attendance for pupils and we are focusing on handwriting to help improve presentation and writing style.

We look forward to seeing all pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 on the 4th September for a half day 'Meet the Teacher' day – until 1 30pm. Reception and Nursery – please look out for your own staggered days.

In the holidays – please make sure your child's uniforms are ready for term ahead- please remember- no black in the uniform other than trainers or shoes to run in.

Did you spot Satnam's book on our front over? Well done Satnam you are now a published author.

Thank you parents for everything you do to keep 'The village' of John Scurr the friendliest Hamlet in the East End ! Have a wonderful summer.

In Partnership

Manu Lemington

Summer Fayre

What an amazing day we had this year for our annual summer fayre. From Bric-a-brac to tombola and soaking the staff to munching cakes and samosas. The weather did not help us as we moved our stalls to sheltered areas because of the rain, but we still managed to have our fayre and give you, our community a day of fun filled activities.

The children had smiles on their faces winning prizes, knocking down tin cans, and you wonderful parents made it even more special by joining in with the fun events. The money raised will go towards your children having the chance to go on trips, buy new equipment and also support their learning. The total we managed to raise this year was a fantastic **£1,389.63**. Thank you so much; we have an amazing John Scurr community.

The Raffle was the finale which happened on Monday. Lots of our community businesses donated prizes like, cakes, chocolate bars, cinema tickets and kindles; the list is a little longer but we will stop there.

We hope you managed to buy a ticket and pick up a wonderful prize.

Lets hope next year the sun shines brighter.

Satnam Sokhal



Why We Name Our Classes

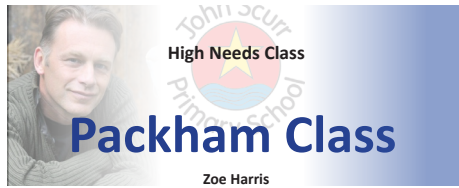
At John Scurr we name our classes after famous people who represent our values (Resilience, Respect, Resourcefulness, Reflection and Readiness) and can demonstrate how to present clearly, passionately and confidently. We also think it is important that our classes are named after people who are kind and try their best. Can you match the Famous person to their photo? Which class will your child be in next year and what is the class name and the lead teacher?

Hamza Yassin and Tani Grey-Thompson Class	Hamza is a wildlife photographer born in Sudan who you may see on Cbeebies. Hamza won Strictly Come Dancing Tani is a Paralympian who has won over 16 medals and the London Marathon several times.
Ade Adepetan and Michael Rosen Class	Ade is a Wheelchair Basketball Champion- Nigerian born, he has gone onto be a TV presenter and received an MBE. Michael is an author and Poet who as written lots a very famous books. Our favourite is 'We're Going on Bear Hunt!' Michael used to be a teacher at John Scurr in the 1980's
Nadiya Hussein and Malala Yousafzai	Nadiya is a second generation Bengali British chef who is a Times Columnist and Author. She won the Great British Bake off and is a prolific campaigner for Mental Health awareness. Malala is the world's youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her services to raising awareness of the importance of worldwide education rights for women and girls.
David Attenborough and Sheku Kanneh-Mason	Sir David Attenborough is a broadcaster, biologist and natural historian and is famous for helping us remain aware of the impact of global climate change on our natural world. Sheku is part of a famous family of musicians – he is a cellist and achieved the Young Musician of the Year award.
Stephen Wiltshire and Ellie Simmonds	Stephen is a world famous artist and architect who can draw landscape and buildings from memory with outstanding detail. Stephen is an autistic savant who was mute as a young child. Ellie is a world class Paralympian who has won gold medals for swimming. She has set world records and has gone on to be a sports presenter.
Marcus Rashford and Greta Thunberg	Marcus us a footballer for Manchester United and the England team but is well known as being a campaigner for families living with Food Poverty. He is also an author. Greta is world famous for inspiring all children and that even though they are small their actions can make a big difference to global climate change.
Emma Raducanu and Benjamin Zephaniah	Emma is one of Britain's top performing Tennis players and is one of only 2 British women to win a Grand Slam title. Benjamin is a Rastafarian poet and author – he writes and speaks about anti- black racism in the UK that he has personally experienced.
Akram Khan, Kelly Holmes and Jason Arday	Akram is a dancer and choreographer who specialises in Contemporary dance. He is British born and of Bengali descent – he is trained in Kathak dance and campaigns for everyone to keep active and physical. Kelly is a British middle distant athlete who has won world medals in her career. She is currently a sports presenter and an honorary Colonel of the British Armoured Corps and campaigns on the impact of historic treatment of some groups in the military. Jason is the youngest black professor to be appointed at Cambridge University. He could not read or write until he was 18 due to a developmental delay and is now an author.



Class Names - 2023-24

know where you are.....



Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



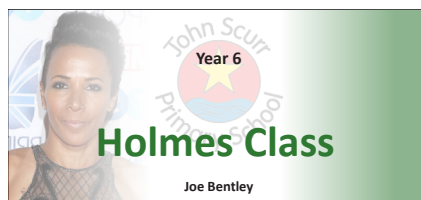
Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Attendance Improvement

As the academic year for 2022/2023 moves to a close – we are calling on all our community to support the school with an attendance improvement in the coming school year.

We will be launching a focused effort in September – alongside parents and carers to improve attendance.

Attendance everyday means that no learning is lost – when your child misses a lesson this leaves a gap in the sequence of learning- ensuring good attendance means that no learning is lost. Poor attendance can also affect your child's wellbeing and they miss out on time socialising with friends and building positive relationships. In short – the 'connectivity' of school is simpler and easier if your child is here every day. We hope the grid below helps

Green- 97%- 100%	No risk of learning lost
Yellow- 95%- 96.9%	Risk of underachievement from lost learning
Amber- 93%- 94.9%	Serious Risk of underachievement from lost learning
Pink – 90%- 92.9%	Severe risk of underachievement from lost learning
Red- 0%- 89.9%	Extreme risk – potential court action

We are always happy to work with you to help support issues which may affect your child's attendance. We look forward to improved attendance overall next year.

Helen Davies – Assistant Head for Attendance



School Term Dates 2023/2024

These dates merge with Morpeth our local secondary school

Autumn Term

Pupil Days

Term 1	Friday 1st September 2023 - Friday 20th October 2023	36
Half Term	Monday 23rd October 2023 - Friday 27th October 2023	
Term 2	Monday 30th October 2023 - Thursday 21 st December 2023	39
Christmas Break	Monday 25th December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024	

Spring Term

Term 3	Monday 8th January 2024 - Friday 9th February 2024	25
Half Term	Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024	
Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024	29
Easter Break	Friday 29th March 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024	

Summer Term

Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024	29
Half Term	Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024	
Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 - Friday 19th July 2024	35

EID

- **School remains open**
Although school will be open for Eid day, staff and pupils who celebrate will be given exceptional leave

TWILIGHT SESSIONS

- **4 Sessions (Dates TBC)**

TRAINING DAYS

- **3 Days (TBC)**

Attendance Tea Party

The children attended with their parents and were treated to tea, juice, cakes and biscuits served to them by John Scurr staff. The tables were decorated and music added to the atmosphere. A wonderful time was had by everyone and was a great way to celebrate their attendance.

Congratulations to:

Saira, Nana and Giovanni – Nursery
Adam, Zaynab and Victor – Year 1
Lena, Noel, Arian and Evians – Year 2
Isabella – Year 3
Maryam A – Year 4
Lily, Loveyah and Riya – Year 5
Milo and Swayam – Year 6



We will hold an Attendance Tea Party every half term for those children, with their parents, who have 100% attendance. Let's start with a successful September.

Helen Davies - Attendance Lead

Parent Gardening

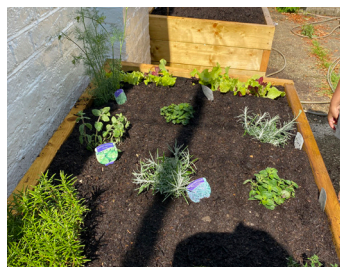
Hello parents and carers.

How wonderful is this? we now have a space for parents who wish to take up gardening in the learning lodge! Yes gardening, especially those of you who want to show your gardening skills please come along on Mondays afternoons. So far we have planted some wonderful aromatic herbs for the fantastic Italian/English dishes and we have grown some traditional Bangladeshi Kodu, uri (green Bangladeshi bean) and tomatoes- plan is to grow keep up with maintaining the garden and take vegetables home with you to showcase your hard work and effort to you family and friends.

Please come and find me if you wish to join our parents gardening project- we will continue after six weeks holiday see you in September

Have a Fantastic holiday-see you next academic year

Rofina Begum



Sports For the Summer



SUPPORTED BY THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

CRICKET COACHING PROGRAMME

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

VENUE: STEPNEY GREEN SCHOOL
BEN JONSON ROAD
STEPNEY
E1 4SD

WEEK ONE: MONDAY 24th JULY to THURSDAY 27th JULY 2023
WEEK TWO: MONDAY 31st AUGUST to THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST 2023
WEEK THREE: MONDAY 7th AUGUST to THURSDAY 10th AUGUST 2023
Every day, 10am-3pm



PLATFORM

Supporting young people to progress through and in cricket



Supported by



SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMP

Ages: 8 to 15
Time: 10am - 2pm
Monday - Thursday
4 weeks, starting from 24th July 2023
Stewart Headlam Primary School
London, E1 5RE
LUNCH INCLUDED for children



Cost: FREE

Contact:
shakeel.ahmed@ckc.london

Registration mandatory

ckc.london

Forest School

Forest School sessions at John Scurr will start to take place regularly in the Forest School area by the KS1 playground after the summer holiday.

These sessions offer children the opportunity to extend their learning in an outdoor wooded environment through hands-on, practical experiences. Children love exploring the Forest School area and enjoy taking part in outdoor activities such as:

- **Mud painting**
- **Potion making**
- **Den building**
- **Digging and planting**
- **Playing hide and seek games**
- **Building a bonfire**
- **Making natural arts and crafts**

Forest School sessions offer fantastic opportunities for children to develop skills in a wide range of areas. Below are just some examples of the ways in which Forest School supports learning.

Physical development- Children develop gross motor skills through climbing, building and digging. Children develop fine motor skills using tools to make natural arts and crafts. These are the important skills children need to develop to be able to write. Social and emotional development- Children are encouraged to work as a team and help each other solve problems.

Confidence and self esteem- Adults support children achieve what they have set out to do. Children are encouraged to keep trying, even when something is tricky. Communication skills- Children must work collaboratively and discuss their ideas with friends and adults. Children are exposed to a wide range of vocabulary at Forest School.

Mathematical development- Children must problem solve during Forest School sessions. They frequently have opportunities to count, sort, organise and shape what they find. Scientific development- Children have the opportunity to learn about the natural world around them and carry out their own experiments.

Forest School is back!

Pupil Voice Round Up

It has been a fantastic year for the Pupil Voice Committee. All the pupils have worked extremely hard to achieve our goals and have contributed greatly towards ensuring that John Scurr is a happy, healthy and green place.

The Global Climate reps have organised lots of successful events this year, such as Switch Off Week, Walk to School Week and a Litter Pick. These events helped spread understanding of how important it is to look after our planet, and the small steps we can take to ensure we do this. We also collected plastic bottles and made beautiful fish sculptures out of them, to represent the fish in the ocean that can be saved if we recycle our plastic bottles.

The Healthy Lives reps have also had a big impact across the school this year. They organised Children in Need and raised a lot of money for this wonderful charity. They also made videos to promote the importance of good attendance across the school.

During Walk to School Week, they supported the Global Climate reps by raising awareness of how walking to school can be really beneficial for our physical and mental health as well.

I am extremely proud of everything that the Pupil Voice Committee have achieved this year. They have really grown into their roles and I can't wait to see them thrive as leaders of the future! Well done PVC!

Sophie Lewis - PVC

Welcome to our New Staff

We welcome Laurie, Chloe and Ruby who will be new teachers at John Scurr in September – your children will have met them and they are all experienced teachers ready for their next challenge at John Scurr.

We also have another wave of Graduates who will be working with us and Joanne Power will return again in the autumn.

New Teaching Assistants:

**Naheemat
Ahsan
Elizabeth
Maria
Maryam
Emrah
Deepa
Mizgin**

We look forward to welcoming them to the John Scurr community in September

Tania Bashir

Julia Scurr Garden



We've had another busy term in the Julia Scurr Garden, with yet more children engaged in active, practical learning, linked to their curriculum studies. We are so lucky to have this space to support the children's learning.

Recently Year 4 making flax bandages, using a traditional weaving method. This linked to Year 4s learning about the Ancient Egyptians, who preserved bodies by wrapping them in linen bandages.

Meanwhile Year 6 picking fresh herbs as ingredients for delicious quesadillas, cooked in our own classroom; Year 3 have been engaged in an Enterprise Project to grow their own herbs and vegetables which were later sold to lucky customers in an after-school sale.

We can't wait to see what next year brings for our amazing garden.

Joe Bentley

Year 6 Matilda Performance & Farewell

Year 6 have spent this summer term preparing to put on John Scurr's debut performance of Matilda. They have been busy learning songs, dances and scripts off by heart. Their theatrical talents are some of the best we've seen and the end result is fantastic. Huge congratulations to the entire year group in what has been a combined effort to put on a great show.

We are extremely sad to see you all leave us this term, however, we wish you all an enormous amount of success and happiness in your new secondary schools.



Vicky Beedle - Year 6 Teacher

Performing & Creative



The summer term is always busy for the Arts and what a wonderful, creative term it has been so far!

New Keyboards and Performances

We have enjoyed using our new keyboards this term. The school has been very lucky to receive funding for the purchase of 60 new keyboards, which will be used with our Year 5 and 6 classes next year. You will have also seen some fantastic musical performances in class assemblies this term, including some recorder-playing by our Year 3s. and fantastic singing from many year groups.

Art Festival

Here is our fantastic shared art work from the John Scurr Art Festival. Every year group contributed some art work and they also had the chance to complete some live-workshops with real artists!

This Summer

Over the summer, you can also take your children to enjoy the newly opened Young VA Museum at Bethnal Green. This is a free gallery with art, music and performance activities specifically aimed at children! <https://www.vam.ac.uk/young> Have a wonderful, musical summer!

Amazing Progress & Outcomes

We are very proud of all our children who have worked hard to achieve amazing results across various assessments and tests this term. This year we have been very busy with our Early Learning Goals in Reception, Phonics Screening in years 1 & 2, Year 2 SATS, Multiplication Check in year 4 and Year 6 SATS.

In Early Years, 67% of children achieved a Good Level of Development. This is in line with national results and above Tower Hamlets average results.

In Key Stage One, we had our phonics screening. 85% of children in year 1 passed this screening. We are very proud of our year two children who passed the retake, bringing our year 2 results up to 93%. Year 2 have also been very busy with the SATS – 55% of children achieved age expected levels or above in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.

In Key Stage Two, we had our first round of Multiplication Tables Check in year 4. We had a mean score of 21.7 out of 25 – higher than national and local figures for 2022. In the Key Stage two SATS, 78% of children achieved age expected levels or above in Reading, Writing and Maths combined.

All our children have worked very hard this year as they continue to develop and learn more. All our children have made excellent progress and we are delighted with their work.

Building, Health & Safety Updates - July 2023

Hello parents and carers!

Since I last updated you, in the autumn of 2022, there has been a huge amount of improvement to the safety and security of our school building.

Our LED light replacement programme has now installed these energy-saving, brighter lights to over 80% of the school building.



We have also strengthened the security of everyone in the building by installing an extra 5 electrically locked doors which can only be unlocked with the use of a key-fob. These have added extra protection for our youngest children in the Nursery classrooms as well as making sure that ALL external non-classroom doors in ALL our playgrounds are protected. These doors will automatically unlock in the event of Fire Alarm activation.

Our CCTV system has been upgraded to ensure that there is improved coverage and quality of image both in the playground areas, the street immediately outside our main and car park gates and in the main office reception area.



The re-surfacing of the Key Stage 1 playground took place over the Easter break making this a smoother, safer and more attractive area to spend time in.

Following the lead of many schools around the country we have installed an internal communication system across the entire school – both inside and outside. This allows us to broadcast safety and information messages to all areas. It can also be used to play music!

You may have noticed the outside area of Packham class now has a freshly decorated window frame which looks so much better than the tired and tatty version from before! I also think that the 'grass' area for the children to play in has made a huge difference too.

Our Learning Lodge continues to provide a great new space for parents and staff to meet.

Other planned projects for the remainder of 2023 include:

The repair and refreshing of the outside pupil toilets (including the external brickwork) in the KS2 playground – we are hoping that this will take place over the summer break.

The removal of the overgrown ivy plants on our KS1 perimeter fence. This should have taken place by the time you read this.

Improvements to the heating system – including a full flush and replacement of time-expired control valves- to make all the radiators even hotter for the autumn/winter cold season!

I would like to add my personal best wishes to you all – for the summer break and the remainder of 2023.



Ray Royer- Premises Lead

Steven Blyth - Compliance Consultant

Awards and Accolades



Leaders have established a positive place for learning here.

Ofsted

Leaders ensure that children from age two upwards are well cared for and engage in purposeful learning throughout the day.

Ofsted

Awards and Accolade

What a year! We are so proud of each and every child at John Scurr and so proud of what we have achieved as a team.

This year we maintained a 'good' rating with **Ofsted**, with three of His Majesty's Inspectors recognising lots of the hard work of the staff and the 'mature and sensible' behaviour of the pupils. You can read the full report here: [Ofsted-Inspection-10255397-John-Scurr-Primary-School-100906-final-PDF.pdf](https://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publication/10255397-John-Scurr-Primary-School-100906-final-PDF.pdf) (johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

We are so proud of our achievements for Inclusivity. Do take the time to read this report, it captures lots (not all) of the John Scurr offer that Inspectors do not have the time to write in their Ofsted reports:

The children also said, "The teachers treat us with respect, they help us to become independent and they give us time to think". They like the reward system and agree with the sanctions. One child said, "Being polite and kind should be normal behaviour".

IQM (Inclusive Quality Mark)

John Scurr Primary is a fully inclusive school and richly deserves the Inclusive School Award. Senior leaders recognise that their task is hard here but they have created a well organised school ensuring the provision is suitable to address the needs of all children.

IQM (Inclusive Quality Mark)

The team at John Scurr have worked hard to achieve the recognition and status of being an Asthma Friendly School. You can find our school policy here: [2023 Allergy-Asthma-friendly-schools-policy.pdf](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/ourEastEnd/OEEJune2023.pdf) (johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk)

Finally, we hope you saw the June edition of OUR EASTEND <https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/ourEastEnd/OEEJune2023.pdf> where John Scurr feature on page 7, which celebrates our Gold Health Schools Award.

John Scurr Primary School in Tower Hamlets has been officially recognised as supporting the health and wellbeing of their pupils to the highest attainable level.

OUR EASTEND

Eden Rainbow-Cooper said: "I was honoured to be able to go to John Scurr Primary School and spend the day answering the children's questions. The commitment that the staff have shown to the mental and physical health of the students is something I applaud and I am so impressed by how enthusiastic the children were about doing the Daily Mile."

Eden Rainbow-Cooper, Paralympian

Please do ensure your children remain active this summer so that they are ready to continue with their Daily Mile in September.

We are so proud of the achievements of the children and the school tea this year. National and data is not yet available but we are keen to share the results we have as a school so far:



Physical Education at John Scurr & Sports Day



Our highly anticipated Sports day was hosted by Jermaine & Helen, this grand sporting day was a day for our children to showcase their talent, skills and abilities in variety of sporting event.

Not only was it an opportunity for our children to showcase sporting talents but also camaraderie and a passion for sports which included Sack Races, Football and sprinting.

This sports day served as a memorable occasion for our students and parents alike who came to watch and support in a fun fulfilled day of sports.

Some children won medals (Gold, Silver or Bronze) while others who participated showed resilience and great team spirit in all the activities they participated in.

Sport day not only promotes physical health and fitness but also fosters positive relationships between peers, teachers and families. It provides a platform for our students to **be the best they came be** regardless of their physical or mental skill set, and through participation in sports our students gained a valuable life lesson that will serve them well in their future lives.

Thank you for your continued support within our John Scurr community and we look forward to the great success for next year.

Jermaine Pemberton-Smith

Our John Scurr Chess Champions



**Chess in Schools and Communities
CHAMPIONS 2023**