



John Scurr Newsletter

BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE



Dear Parents,

Awesome Autumn and Wonderful Winter

It's always harder when the days get shorter and darker. What makes it easier is having a wonderfully warm and inviting building – such as our school building, to come to everyday.

Despite the buildings age everyone who visits our school comments on how welcoming it is. This term we have had visitors from all over the UK to look at our curriculum in action and lots of prospective parents looking to make John Scurr their choice for their child.

We are one of the very few schools who are able to keep our building and facilities refreshed and the care of Ray and the team shows on a daily basis. This term we welcomed Mou , who is our lunchtime cleaner – who will , alongside Janet, David, Robyn and Tracy support us in the winter months to help with all our high touch areas and toilets over the winter months. Our cleaners always work very hard when the school is closed but Mou will be our winter addition!

This investment, in turn, supports our children and staff's wellbeing and health and ensures that our pupils and staff attendance is one of the very best in the borough. Of course, our visitors always comment on our pupils. 'Your children are so polite and well behaved.' 'Look at how calm your nursery children are' 'I can't believe how articulate your children are' – are just some of the comments we hear from our visitors. Thank you for supporting this and continuing to ensure that this level of respect and expectation starts at home.

Our team have welcomed lots of new pupils and staff this term – if you are one of our new families- then I hope you feel very welcome and have settled into 'the John Scurr Way'. We say farewell for a short period of time to Zoe, who leave us for her maternity leave and also to Nehara, who has been in role as a PPA and support teacher over the last 3 years.

We have also demonstrated that as a community we reach out beyond our own children and have this term collected, in total:

Unicef: £102.31

Children in Need: £252.43

As I write this we are preparing for own **Fundraiser on the 6th December**

I hope many of you will come along and enjoy a Winter Welcome at our 'Craft and Wellbeing Fayre.'

Our final Fundraiser of the term is for Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper' Day on the 20th December. All the charities selected at our school, have been our chosen charities for some time and the school carries out its due diligence and checks.

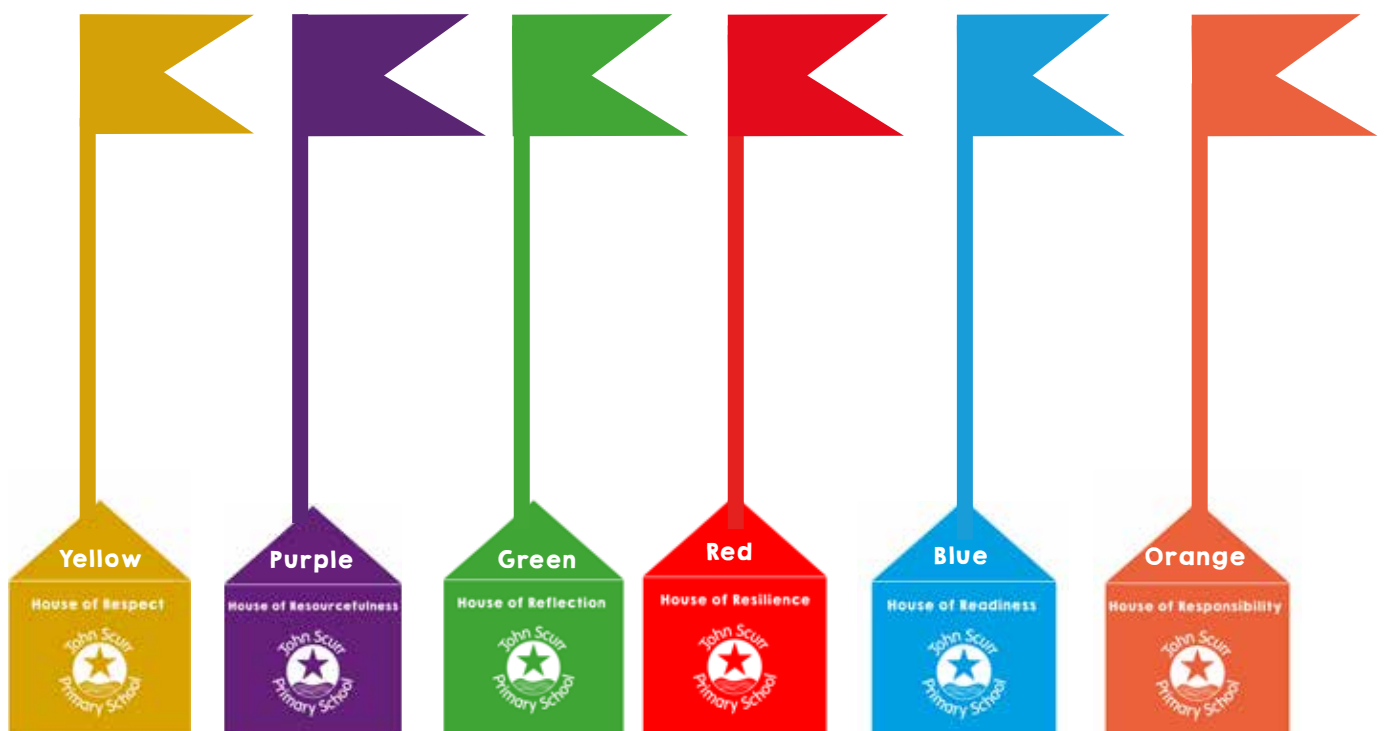
We have always chosen charities that support children and are Local Authority approved and in line with DFE policy- we are always non- biased towards faith and political leanings. We appreciate that in such tough times, giving to charity is difficult and we are very thankful for the whole of the school community for their generosity. We demonstrate to our children such important values when we come together, so positively as a community.

So looking forward to sharing Decembers Delights with you all- I don't know of another school that has so much for everyone to enjoy. I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of our Newsletter.

Manni Lemington

House POINTS this term

Throughout this term, all classes from Year 1 - Year 6 have been busy collecting DOJO points for their houses. We have collated all the points awarded, final out soon on how your child's house has performed.



Working With Parents

At John Scurr we continue to place our relationships with Parents at the core of our offer and know that the outcome of this ensures that we have culture of inclusion, celebration and excellence.

How do we do this?

Learning Celebrations, 1:1 meeting, Tea Parties, Assemblies and Stay and Play sessions have all provided opportunity for feedback from parents this half term. We do this to ensure that the information streams from school to home are open, factual and clear and that from these meetings your child can make progress:

Formal	Informal	Bespoke
School ping	School ping	School ping
School diary	Newsletter	Access to translation
1:1 meeting	Tea Parties	Early Help/TAC
Workshops	Assembly	Celebration Teas
Information meetings	Stay and Play	Headteacher conferencing
SEN reviews	Coffee morning	Phase Leader meeting
Lost learning calls	Induction Tour	THEWS
Absence calls	Greeting at the gate	Home visits
	FUDGE/MAGIC	SEN meetings
	Fitness sessions	
	Teachers available at the end of every day	

Some comments from this term-

'I am new, thank you for making my child welcome. We are all so happy here, please pass that to all the teachers,' Year 1 parent.

'There is nothing like the support that you gave us at any other school. We think about you all every day.' Alumni Parent of a child now in Year 7.

'Nothing like this when I was at School!!' Ex pupil, now parent of a child in Nursery at a 100% attendance tea party.

'Please can I come on the walk with my child and Luna?' Parent of a child selected for School Dog time.

'All 3 of my children are now here – it's taken a long time but we are so pleased as it helps with the punctuality in the morning.' A parent of a child, with a sibling who has just transferred to us.

'Who would've thought that Hot Chocolate would be such an incentive for my child to come to school!' – Year 4 parent.

'Have you seen my child's writing? This is what they have achieved since September- it's a miracle'- Year 1 child's parent at parents evening.

'My kitchen table has been covered in paper, boxes and cardboard for 2 weeks – we have loved this challenge' Year 3 parent after the Robot Technology Challenge.

'Your children are the best behaved and always so polite.' feedback from the swimming staff at Mile End.

'We are so happy with the 2-Year-Old Nursery as it helps my child sleep' 2-Year-old child's parent.

The most important part of the interactions with parents is that they feel listened to- we may not be able to accommodate the requests –but the team are committed to listening and responding as appropriate.

We always trust in the community and their unwavering support of the school as a community institution, understanding its inclusivity and its capacity and boundaries.

What to do if you have a concern or worry.

Firstly, talk with the class teacher- 95% of all our worries or concerns are met and dealt with at this stage.

If you are unhappy with the response or you feel you haven't been listened to then please raise this with the phase leader (Evelyn, Helen or Joanne) or email admin@johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Finally, Maria is available to listen to concerns or complaints in line with our policy, which can be found on the website.

Top Tips for Our Mathematics

This term the whole school have been focusing on our rapid recall of number facts.

We have been practicing our number bonds to and within 20 and our times tables. A big well done to Year 4 who have been doing fantastically on Times Table rockstars, Year 1 for their amazing work on NumBots and all the classes for making such great use of Freckle. Keep it up, there are lots of house points up for grabs! Over the winter holidays and beyond we recommend all children continue to practice these skills through songs, games and regular verbal repetition.

This edition we would like to share a fantastic problem which will challenge all our children across the key stages! Please bring in any results from their investigation to share with your class teacher. There will definitely be some resourcefulness house points on offer!

Ruby Muir



Questions to ask your child at home

How do you know we have found all the options ?

Can you see a connection between the total number of cubes and the number of ways you can break the stick into two pieces

How can you prove if this is always true?

How can we present what we have found out ?



Packham Class - A Celebration of Tower Hamlets

John Scurr provides a unique offer with Packham class. Packham supports children to make progress not just academically but emotionally and socially too. The use of the SCERTS framework enables children to flourish in their attention and use of communication strategies, emotional understanding and regulation skills. The tailored curriculum provides access to main subjects as well as Zones of Regulation and Sensory Diet to provide early intervention and support inclusion back into the mainstream classroom.

This model has been observed, and now broadened across the Local Authority with the Phoenix Project. In partnership with Phoenix, many schools in the borough now have their own 'Packham class' to support the needs of the school community. This has also been partnered with University College London and the University of Birmingham to research the positive impact this classroom model has on our children. The school will look forward to keeping you posted on how the project is going this academic year.

I start my maternity leave at the end of November and the class will continue to receive high quality teaching from the team. I am confident and excited to hear the progress Packham class makes during my absence, thank you for your continued support and hope to see you on my return.

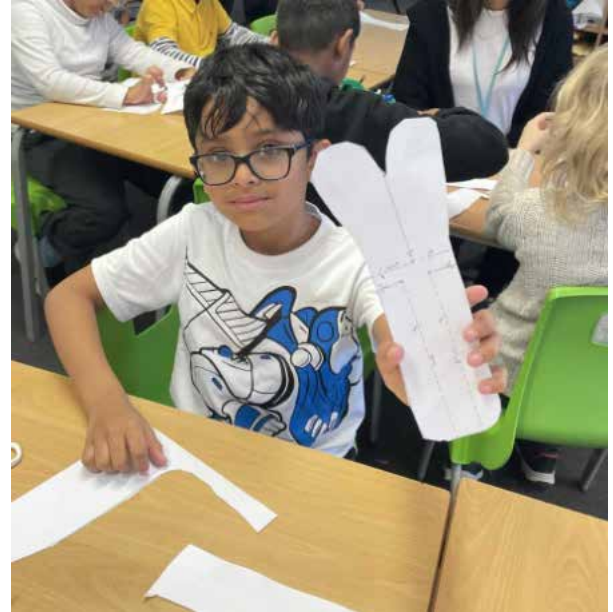


Zoe Harris

Gardening Class in Year 3

In Year 3, the children enjoyed some additional gardening lessons led by Cassie Liversage. The children learned about seed dispersal and how important it is for the reproduction of plants.

They really enjoyed making their own spinners which simulate the way sycamore seeds fall. The children then took their spinners outside (it was a windy day) to observe the way they fell from a height. It was a great, practical learning experience (with a few giggles included) as our pretend seeds didn't always fall the way we expected.



Autumn Term Garden Update

It's been another busy term of green-fingered fun in the Julia Scurr Garden.

Year 1 explored the sights and textures in our garden by doing leaf rubbing. They made some beautiful images. Year 5 have started learning about how to make flax thread using plants and a traditional method. The process is very complex but the children showed great skill in rippling, taking out the individual seeds and then putting them in pots. We can't wait to see what happens next.



Year 6 spent a morning learning about soil and how compost is made.

This included learning how plants break down into compost and the wildlife that can really supercharge your soil! Some of them were even brave enough to handle worms and other bugs!

Year 3 learned about seed dispersal and the role it plays in the life cycle of plants. After getting to grips with the theory, they designed and made their own spinners which simulated the way that sycamore seeds fall to the ground using air resistance. How exciting!



Our Incredible Gardeners Recognised

Finally, our incredible garden has been recognised with an award from the London Children's Flower Society. Four lucky Year 5 children attended the award ceremony at the Livery Hall in the City of London.

The award was presented by TV's Alan Titchmarsh who was hugely impressed not just by our gardening know-how but also by our confident, responsible and polite children. A big thanks to Cassie for her support making the garden such a success and well done everyone!



Flower Society Awards at the Guildhall



Personal, Social, Emotional, Health Education (PSHE)

At John Scurr the children are always learning how to be kind, polite and respectful young people whilst also having lessons that teach them to be safe and how to ask for help

The children spent lots of time thinking about others this term. They have been using good manners and learning how to be a good friend but also how to resolve conflicts and disagreements.

For the second year running, year 6 visited an important exhibition and workshop provided by The Ben Kinsella Trust. The purpose of this event is to develop the children's understanding of the dangers of carrying knives.

It teaches important strategies for staying safe and supports their successful transition to Year 7.

We have thought about other people during our Peace Day, where we celebrated the good in the world and all the people who do good things, whilst also understanding what peace means.

All the children and adults in the school made a white handprint which have been put together to create a beautiful white dove.

This is on display in the bottom hall, so please look out for it when you visit for a parent event.

We had fun dressed in our spots and stripes for Children in Need and the children learnt in class and assembly how the money raised helps children in the UK for a variety of reasons.



Helen Davies - Assistant Head



The Ben Kinsella Trust

The John Scurr Curriculum

We are so proud of our curriculum here at John Scurr. I know that so many parents are delighted by the knowledge our children have and the confidence they have to speak so articulately. This term our children are learning the following:

EYFS are working on a new 'Structured Story Time' with a real focus on developing aspirational vocabulary to prepare them well for the demands of key stage one – I have been in to observe several sessions and each time I am blown away by how well the children are able to focus and their participation. A lovely example was seen in the two year old provision where they are reading The Big Book of Kindness.

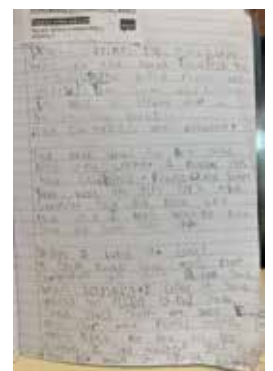
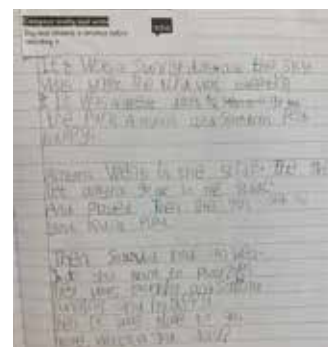
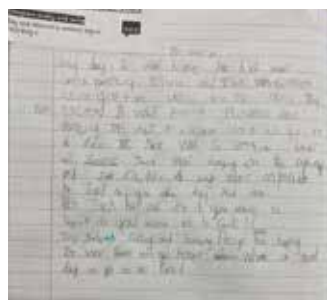
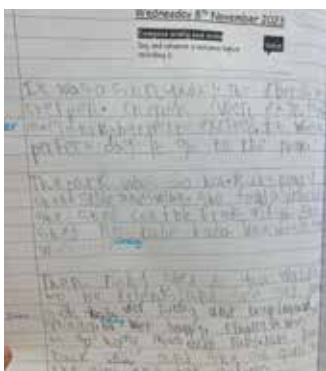
Immediately after the story and some role play about how to be kind to others, the children were offering their toy to other children and walked off holding hands. You will have witnessed some of the Design Food Technology happening in our Reception class following our Structured Story Time around two recent books, Pumpkin Soup and The Gingerbread Man.

While there are a number of budding dentists and doctors in nursery; ask Ruby to get permission from each child in advance



Year One:

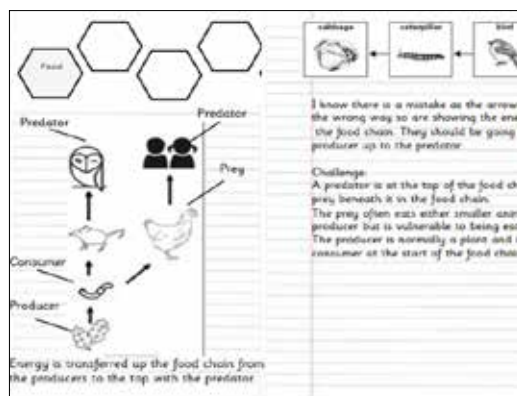
Thank you to so many year one parents who are ensuring your children are getting the best start in life by arriving on time every day to get their full reading lesson – the impact of this can already be seen in their writing:



Year Two:

Year Two are making full use of our Forest School. Please do ask your children about their science – they are currently learning about Food Chains as part of their Living Things and their Habitats unit. Please do ask your children about their science – they are currently learning about Food Chains as part of their Living Things and their Habitats unit:

Year Two:



Year Three:

We are so very proud of the conversational French already being developed in year three this year. The children are confident in a variety of greetings, including explaining how they are feeling when asked.

They are learning how to name and describe items found in the classroom and to respond to instructions given in French; enjoying a French version of the game Simon Says:

<div> KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: </div>				
Year 3 Greetings and the classroom				
Greetings	Greeting people	Instructions	Colours	Classroom nouns
bonjour	bonjour Monsieur	écrivez	bleu	une table
bonsoir		répétez	blanc	une chaise
non	bonjour Madame	écoutez	rouge	une fenêtre
salut		lisez	vert	une porte
coucou	bonjour Mademoiselle	regardez	Orange	une gomme
au revoir				un stylo
à bientôt				un cahier
				un crayon

Year Four:

In history, Year Four have been building on prior learning about communities that starts in the Early Years and continues through to Year Six and beyond. This term, they have been learning more about why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and why this community settled in Britain.

Year Four:

The children learned to think like historians as they learned how religion influenced the Anglo-Saxons and how archeologists have discovered artefacts to prove their findings:

3. What was life like for Anglo-Saxons in Britain?

Anglo-Saxons

- settled alongside the ancient Britons
- England looked a very different place from what it is today
- forests covered most of the land
- wolves roamed wild

Anglo-Saxons

- lived in small villages near rivers and the sea
- most were farmers
- families lived in wooden huts
- poorer families lived with their animals in the same room

Wootton Bassett Anglo-Saxon Village

- nearest meeting or holy place
- Archaeologists discovered
- unfortified village
- situated in a cemetery
- 7 huts
- 70 buildings
- animals pens
- Roman coins

Wednesday 4th October

Remember two things - show what you know

Situated close to a river
The river is a regular supply of clean water.

Huts that faced the sun
The sun helped them keep warm.

Areas of the forest were cleared
To make room for farmland and to harvest wood.

Tall fences
To protect themselves from ir and dangerous animals such as wolves and bears.

Choose 2 features and explain why Anglo-Saxon settlements included them.

Year Five:



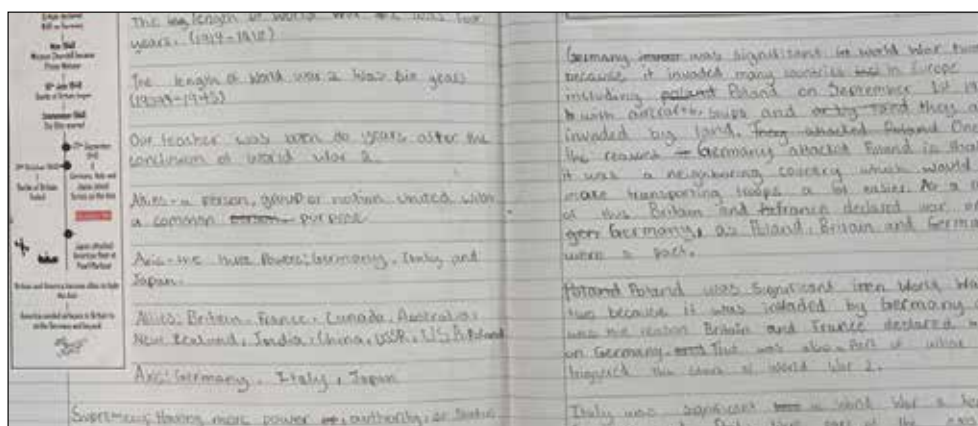
Year Five have been working hard to understand place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division:

Before the children learn the abstract equations, we make sure they understand using concrete resources first, then alongside abstract equations. A simple barrier to maths is missing number fact knowledge.

You can help by asking your child to use Hit the [Button](#) daily for ten minutes or [Times Table Rock Star](#) This will really help your child to feel more confident in their maths. The teachers will be so appreciative.

Year Six:

In history, Year Six have been building upon their understanding of concepts such as democracy and community as they study The Battle of Britain. On Tuesday 14th November they visited the Imperial War Museum to see some artefacts first hand.



Finally, a big thank you to you all for joining us in celebrating your children with 1:1 Parent Consultations, Stay and Play sessions, assemblies and our recent Learning Celebrations.

Keeley -Deputy Head

Magic Fitness

Well done! to those **Magic Mums** attending Magic Fitness every Tuesday **Morning at 8.30am**, each and every one of you have shown resilience and great spirit. As the winter is here, we must still keep up the good work we have achieved. **Go Magic Mums!!**

Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning with me has also been a huge success we welcome All parents to join us every **Tuesday morning from 9-10am**

Rofina's Magic Fitness
Magic Fitness for Mums, Aunts, Grans and carers

Every Tuesday 8.30 - 9am

Power walks (bring along your little ones in a buggy) Games, Dance, Saton relay Kabaddi, relaxation, steps, exercises and many more

Gimme 5
Mum's & carers are invited into the classes to find out about their children's learning, from week beginning 18th October

ESOL classes
Tuesday 9.15 to 3.15, Start: 12th September - 12th February
Wednesday 9.15 to 3.15, Start: 13th September - 14th February

Coffee Morning with Rofina
In the staff room every Tuesday from 9am

If interested in any of these events please see Rofina or ask at the front office



Rofina Begum

Fudge Football

This term FUDGE FOOTBALL has taken off strong with 12 dads aiming to get fit and healthy on our fabulous 4G pitch. Football is a chance for all Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Granddads and Everyman to get involved in what is known as the **'Beautiful game'**.

It is a chance to enter your child's school and use a facility free of charge, to meet other dads and build friendships and partnerships. It also allows for parents to share with each other how the school is working for them and their children and what they are learning.

Your children LOVE to see you on the pitch and the feeling of pride is clear on their faces. Comments heard from your children are:

"Satnam, my dad plays football with you" and "I hope my dad comes today".

Recently, one child was concerned about their dad not being able to make it because he was feeling unwell. Your children are engaged more than you know when you take part in FUDGE Football.

Finally, remember that your fitness will be a big lift for your child's fitness. Let us be a good example to our children and get involved and get fit together.

So what are you waiting for. Come along every **Tuesday from 3.15 - 4.00pm. It will be great to meet you and play some football.**

Satnam Sokhal -



Soanes Centre

This Autumn term, Year 5 took a trip to the scientific Soanes Centre located in Tower Hamlets Park to take part in exciting experiments around our subject focus, Materials.

Our workshops were led by a very experienced facilitator, Dim, who showed us how materials can go through both physical and chemical changes over both short and long periods of time.

We foraged for the right wooden sticks to burn in a fire and create an irreversible chemical change. This left us with charcoal which we have continued to use in our art lessons! Thank you to parents for their contribution to this invaluable trip supporting the science learning of year 5!



Rebecca O'Brien - Class Teacher

Bonfire Celebrations

Every class at John Scurr Primary school gathered around the bonfire. Each class came with songs, stories and poems to share. It was fantastic to have all of the children at our school gather around the fire for time together. To stop and reflect during a busy day of learning and enjoy the forest on a bright but cold autumn day.



Ruby Goodchild - Class Teacher

Behaviour For Transitions

At John Scurr, we are proud of our very well-behaved children. However, we also know that there is always room to improve our behaviour, to ensure that absolutely no learning time is lost during the school day.

Each year group at John Scurr is working hard to improve the way they behave during transitions.

The children are improving the way they move within the classroom as a lesson ends and a new lesson begins, between different rooms at school, from the classroom to the play-ground and during lunchtimes.

We are happy to see the controlled and mature way, John Scurr children are moving into a new part of the school day.



Ajanta Kabir-West - Class Teacher

Meet Our Wonderful New Pupil Voice Committee

With a new school year comes a new Pupil Voice Committee. Last year's committee worked extremely hard to leave a positive and lasting legacy, and our new committee have been eager to carry on this with this tradition. Since their appointment, the committee have been working hard to consider how they can improve the lives of the John Scurr Community. From helping to organise the Bearpee challenge, to encouraging the school to wear spots or stripes and donate to Children in Need, the committee led the school in raising an incredible **£252.43**. It's amazing how much good 10, 20 or 30 Bearpees a day can do to help children in need all over the world!

The Pupil Voice Committee are already setting to work on their next project, helping to keep John Scurr's attendance up as we progress through the dark, cold nights of winter. So keep an eye out for more exciting things to come!



Spohie Lewis - Pupil Voice Lead

Reception Children's Learning - What A Great Start !

What a brilliant start to Reception it has been! The classrooms are full and the children are all settled!

The children have been busy making new friends, creating new games and trying new foods. So far this year the children have read lots of new books and there have been some firm favourites- Supertato, Anansi and the Golden Pot and Pumpkin Soup to name a few. The children had a wonderful time at Owl Babies Night and particularly enjoyed the torch lit night walk!

Stay and Play has had a strong start and the team and children have enjoyed seeing you every Friday.

Thank you for helping your child to bring in their bookbag everyday. Please keep reading at home every day and support your child in becoming a confident reader.



Lily Pettitt - Class Teacher

How We Look After Our School Building

Hello Parents and Carers!

We look after our school building by keeping it a SAFE place. We are using our new communication system to keep us safe and families informed about important messages both inside the school and in the playgrounds.



We have removed most of the overgrown ivy plants through our KS1 perimeter fence. This is to make sure that our fence stays strong and safe for everyone. We look after our school building by keeping it a WARM place. We have fitted modern heating controls to all our radiators – so that we can all stay warm and not waste money on heating costs.

We have made our Multi-Use pitch even safer by fitting the fence with a new lightning conductor. A major repair to the toilets in the Key Stage 2 playground is now scheduled to take place during the Easter holidays in early April next year. The toilets will be made warmer, brighter and more welcoming than ever before.

Ray Royer - Steven Blyth, Compliance Consultant

Bethnal Green Library - Must Read Books for Pleasure

Author Visit

This term, our Year 1 children had an amazing time meeting Nishani Reed. Nishani read her latest book, “Oliver Steals a Penguin” and then the children enjoyed drawing penguins. Some of the children were able to take home a signed copy of the book to enjoy.

Must Reads and Reading Pledge

We are also thrilled to announce that in addition to our wonderful literature spine we have also launched Must Reads for each class from Nursery to Year 6.

We hope that you enjoy sharing these beautiful books with your children!

Please continue to ensure that your child is reading at home daily for pleasure.

If your child reads everyday their confidence in reading and writing will grow. Their vocabulary will increase and they will be able to use their knowledge to gain access to more opportunities in the world.

Bethnal Green Library

Year One had a lovely visit to the library. Thank you to all the parents who came along. It was great to see that so many families were already members of the library and those who weren't have joined since. The children really liked choosing different stories and sharing them with their family members. Some of the children have also shared that they have been back to the library since and have attended some of the events offered by the library.



Joanne Power & Chloe Alecock

My Memories of John Scurr - Ex Pupils Who Have Become Staff

My memories of primary school are a nostalgic blend of laughter and imagination.

Michael Rosen would frequently work with the school and captivate me through his storytelling of one my favourite story of his, 'Chocolate Cake'. The joy of Rosen's animated narratives created a magical atmosphere that has left a lasting impression on me.

Another standout memory for me is from the end-of-year staff pantomimes. I'll never forget when Tracey Argent played Cinderella, and Tony, the school caretaker, orchestrated an unexpected twist. He somehow got Tracey's Mini Cooper into the bottom hall, hidden behind the screens. When the pumpkin transformed into a golden carriage during the play, out rolled Tracey's Mini Cooper.

We were all taken aback to see a car inside the hall-it was quite a surprise!

Those years were guided by remarkable teachers, filled with cherished memories and a warm sense of community.



Hafiza Begum - Teaching Assistant



Joe Bentley - Year 6 Teacher

It's strange to think that – quite a long time ago now – I attended John Scurr as a pupil.

Although the school has changed in so many ways I am struck by how many of the routines continue. I remember travelling to Gorsefield with my teachers and the excitement of days when we went swimming (although we went to York Hall for my lessons – much closer than Mile End!) And music was a big part of school life then, just as it is now.

I learned to play the drum kit as part of the John Scurr Steel Band. We would perform in assembly and in lots of other places around London, in venues large and small.

I actually have a photo of myself in my current classroom, taken when I was about 10 years old, the same age as children in my current class.

I wonder how many of our current pupils might end up working at John Scurr in future years...



Jack Fernie - HLTA

I remember having endless fun as a child at John Scurr and making lots of friends. Water-fights with Satnam, hilarious puppet shows in assembly, freezing swims in the swimming pool, school trips on the school bus and endless games of football.

My Memories of John Scurr - Ex Pupils Who Have Become Staff



Halima Begum - Early Years Educator

I came to John Scurr when I was 9 years old from Bangladesh with no English language.

To my surprise the teachers were welcoming me with open arms.

My headteacher 'Mr Tarrent' was so lovely and very friendly. He made me feel at ease with myself.

I was in 'Mr Chokroboti's' class. He was a very friendly and approachable teacher. Everytime I would complete a piece of work, 'Mr Chokroboti' would proudly show 'Mr Tarrent' my work. This made me feel very inspired and motivated to work harder.

Being the only Asian girl in my school year, I had picked up on the English language. I began articulating myself and was able to interact with peers, friends and teachers.

I started feeling special as I had made many friends that I formed great bonds with. We would play many different games which include chasing as well as catching games and would sing different rhymes such as "Ring a Ring a Roses" with my friends. It was amazing!

My teachers were very welcoming and supportive. They always guided me and taught me new skills. I really liked my teachers as they were kind, loving and caring.

I have really happy and pleasant memories of my childhood in John Scurr School which I would always cherish in my heart.



Samina - Graduate Teaching Assistant

Thinking back on my time at school, I remember the playground/sporting games that we used to play during break times- double dutch skipping, stuck in the mud, rounders, and cricket, to name a few.

I also remember the many exciting and adventurous trips to Gilwell Park, Gorsefield and Kingswood, the yearly summer trip to Broadstairs enjoying the sun, sea and sand. I enjoyed learning to play many musical notes on the steel pan drums, flute, and recorder.

Though there are many changes to the school, some things still remain the same- like the opportunities to join extra curricular clubs now with a vast selection of activities to choose from, as well as the sound of the school bell ringing which just never seems to get old.

Looking back on my memories of attending John Scurr, it certainly was one filled with many joyous years of fun, laughter and smiles!

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

Attendance Update

Group	No. of Students	Maximum No. of possible attendances	Total Absences				Total Attendances		Total No. of Students who were absent on one or more session		% Unauth. Absentees
			Authorised		Unauthorised		No.	%	Auth.	Unauth.	
			No.	%	No.	%					
Class Adepitan	28	3108	180	5.79	108	3.47	2820	90.73	24	6	21.43
Class Arday	20	2401	49	2.04	3	0.12	2349	97.83	13	2	10.00
Class Attenborough	26	3171	103	3.25	32	1.01	3036	95.74	17	7	26.92
Class Holmes	19	2299	26	1.13	48	2.09	2225	96.78	7	4	21.05
Class Hussain	26	3070	109	3.55	43	1.40	2918	95.05	15	9	34.62
Class Kanneh-Mason	29	3438	110	3.20	29	0.84	3299	95.96	22	8	27.59
Class Khan	20	2395	54	2.25	36	1.50	2305	96.24	10	5	25.00
Class Malala	23	2678	112	4.18	9	0.34	2557	95.48	17	4	17.39
Class Packham	14	1621	217	13.39	15	0.93	1389	85.69	14	5	35.71
Class Raducanu	25	3025	68	2.25	17	0.56	2940	97.19	13	5	20.00
Class Rashford	28	3322	77	2.32	54	1.63	3191	96.06	17	5	17.86
Class Rosen	27	3002	156	5.20	46	1.53	2800	93.27	19	8	29.63
Class Simmonds	29	3511	86	2.45	27	0.77	3398	96.78	10	4	13.79
Class Thompson AM	33	1705	196	11.50	73	4.28	1436	84.22	29	17	51.52
Class Thompson FT	3	315	9	2.86	0	0.00	306	97.14	1	0	0.00
Class Thompson PM	24	1239	135	10.90	73	5.89	1031	83.21	23	13	54.17
Class Thunberg	26	3098	75	2.42	27	0.87	2996	96.71	13	6	23.08
Class Wiltshire	29	3528	79	2.24	64	1.81	3385	95.95	15	5	17.24
Class Yellow AM	9	360	43	11.94	49	13.61	268	74.44	7	5	55.56
Class Yellow PM	10	499	81	16.23	47	9.42	371	74.35	9	6	60.00
Class Zephaniah	27	3269	113	3.46	35	1.07	3121	95.47	16	7	25.93
Totals	475	51054	2078	4.07	835	1.64	48141	94.29	311	131	27.58

For this half term you can see that our school attendance is 94.29% overall. We aim as a school for attendance to be 96% or more.

Congratulation to Thomson FT, year 5 Radacanu and year 6 Holmes class whose attendance is all above target. If your child is feeling a little unwell, please try to send them to school and we will call you if they need to go home later hat day.

If your child is too unwell to attend school please remember to call the school absence line before 8.30am

Syriah Khatun

Why Starting School At 2yrs Old Is A Good Idea

Starting school at the age of 2 years old helps children develop a number of essential skills such as communication and language, personal and social skills as well as many more beneficial factors.

At John Scurr our 2-year-old provision offers a wide range of activities and resources for children to access whilst learning through play in a safe and secure environment. The children learn to regulate their emotions from the age of 2 and therefore strive in their personal and social development which can help with making friends, following routine and structure.

All staff are dedicated in working in partnership with the parents to help with toilet training which has been very successful. The children are able to learn about being independent and managing self-care which helps prepare them when transitioning into nursery at the age of 3.

If you have a child who is turning 2 and want to know if you are eligible please speak to our office team who will kindly advise you.

Rojina Begum Ullah
Early Years Educator



Music At John Scurr

We have had another wonderful, musical term at John Scurr. Our Year 6s have been learning to play the keyboards and our Year 4s have taken part in the Big Sing, a project led by Spitafield's Music.

They performed 4 songs at the Bishopsgate Institute alongside children from other local primary schools. If you missed that amazing show, then luckily we have some more musical events coming up in December for you to enjoy...

8th December – KS1 Winter Songs to Keep us Warm

12th December – Early Years Nativity

19th December – Mince Pies and Music Concert (Invitation only)

20th December – Nursery songs and Packham Class songs

We are also excited to announce that Kirsty, from THAMES Music, has joined our team and will be leading Singing Assemblies for Years 1 – 6 every Tuesday.

Fabienne King - Class Teacher



Reception Stay and Play

It has been wonderful to see so many grownups attend Stay and Play every Friday. The children have enjoyed showing their grownups around the learning environment and are excited to invite their grownups to engage in activities such as building, painting, drawing, reading, climbing the A frames, kicking a ball and many more.

It is a good opportunity to see what the children have learned each week and time for the grownups to meet and get to know each other in a relaxed environment. It has been lovely to see the smiles and joy it brings to everyone there.

The Early Years Team would like to thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to many more successful Stay and Play sessions.

Lotus Suffell
Reception Teacher

Reception Outdoor Offer

Reception children love to learn outdoors! This term they have made Pumpkin soup in the Mud Kitchen, learned how to hit a ball with a hockey stick, designed and built a farm for the animals, created a path for water to travel to fill up different buckets, drawn a chalk path to balance on, navigated themselves along an obstacle course and much more!

The change in season has also taken the children from collecting autumn leaves for singing, printing and painting, to asking why water changes to ice overnight and, "How can we melt it?" The children have also been working hard to become a 'Zip Expert' by independently putting on and zipping up their coat.

Lily Pettitt
Reception Teacher



Rural & Outdoor Education Offer Limehouse Basin

This year, Year 4 pupils had the opportunity to visit and explore the Limehouse Basin. The Limehouse Basin is a gateway between the River Thames and over 2,000 miles of navigable canals and rivers.

It connects to the rest of our network along the Limehouse Cut- the oldest canal in London and one you may recognise from a certain Mission Impossible film sequence. Today, Limehouse is a marina, home to narrowboats, and yachts.

However, children learned that when it was built in the early 1800's, that throughout its working life the basin was better known as the Regent's Canal Dock, and was used to transship goods between the old Port of London and the English canal system.

Ellis Hewitt - Class Teacher



Lessons In Loaf

This term, year 2 were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to make bread from scratch, with the help of the wonderful chefs, gardeners, and bakers from 'Lessons in Loaf'. We all started with some wheat which we had grown right here in the school garden.

Then, we learned how to turn this into flour, using threshing, winnowing, and grinding. These processes separate the parts of the wheat which are edible from the parts that are inedible, and turn the edible parts into flour. This means we were all able to have our own home made flour in our bread! Next, we learned about all of the ingredients in our recipe and what they do.

Our recipe only uses flour, yeast, salt, and water, so each ingredient has a very important job. Then, we mixed all of our ingredients together to make some dough. After that, we worked hard to knead the dough. It was really sticky at first so this was tricky but with a little bit of hard work we all soon had a good ball of dough.

After leaving the dough to prove for a while, we shaped our dough, then they were cooked in the oven. Finally, we got to take them home and eat them! Thank you so much to all of the amazing people that helped teach us all about how to make bread. It was delicious, and I hope we will all get a chance to do this again!



Caitlin Schofield

Places of Worship Visits

We were thrilled to start our new year of Religious Education by providing our children with the opportunity to visit various places of worship.

The aim of this was to allow children to have real life experiences of different religions, and to find out more about what it is like to be a part of different religions. We are proud of how our children approached these visits with tolerance, respect and curiosity.

They asked insightful questions and came away with a lot of knowledge and awareness of different traditions and rituals which occur in different religions. This was also a great opportunity for pupils to notice links and connections between different religions and non-religions, including their own and those of others in their communities. See below for the different places of worship that were visited by each year group:

Y1/Y2: A local Rabbi came to our school to talk to our Y1 and Y2 children

Y3: Sri Mahalakshmi Hindu Temple

Y4: The Good Shepherd Church

Y5: Regents Park Mosque

Y6: St Paul's Cathedral

Later on in the year, our nursery children will visit a mosque, and our reception children will visit a traditional church.

Sophie Lewis - RE Lead



Imperial War Museum (IWM)

In History, Year 6 have been learning about World War II and its impact on the local area. The children have been exceptional at retaining facts about how the war grew and which countries were involved.

They have been continuing to develop their knowledge and understanding of some Key Historical Concepts such as Power, Democracy and community

Earlier this term, we experienced what life was like in World War II, when we visited the Imperial War Museum, London.

Everything in the museum was a real artefact from the time. The children were very interested to see the vehicles, planes, uniforms and shelters on display.

We are all extremely proud of Year 6 for being so sensible and thoughtful throughout the learning of this topic.

Vicky Beedle - Class Teacher



Parent Governor Update

We would like to thank Foyej Uddin for his year of service on the Governing Body and due to him stepping down we have one available place on the Governing Body. Currently, we are fortunate to have 2 Parent Representatives on our Governing Body at John Scurr:

Kamal Uddin: who sits on our Curriculum and Standards Committee and an elected Governor

Nazrul Islam: who is an associate Governor. Both give widely to the school and are the link Governors for the wider curriculum – attending the school and evening meetings and giving the voice of parents.

Parent Governor positions are an elected position and the commitment is for 4 years. Should we not have any candidates for this position, Nazrul could become an elected member.

We will open the selection after the Christmas Holiday. If you are interested in standing as an elected Parent Governor – the position is for 4 years with a commitment to 12 meetings a year.

Papers are given in advance and are read before meetings and full induction by Tower Hamlets is recommended in the first 6 months in office. You can read about the role of a Parent Governor [here](#)

And you can read about what makes a good governor [here](#)

School Calendar



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 21st 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)

Applying for a Nursery or Reception Place at John Scurr

[Apply for Reception 2024](#) by 15 January 2024

Do you need a place for your child in our Reception Class next year or in our 3 Year old Nursery?

Tower Hamlets are holding virtual information sessions for parents with the Transition Support Service on Reception and Nursery admissions as it is now time to apply. Please advise parents of the following which can also be found on the Tower Hamlets website:

Nursery Admissions sessions Date & Time:

Wednesday 6th December 2023 1pm

Tuesday 9th January 2024 10am

[Session link:](#)



Reception Admissions sessions Date & Time:

Tuesday 12th December 2023 1pm

Wednesday 10th January 2024 10am

[Session link:](#)

We are holding tours every Monday at 9am – please book via email
admin@johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Alomgir can also advise.

School applications are now open

Don't miss the deadlines for admission to secondary, primary and nursery schools.

Secondary admissions For children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013	31 October 2023
Primary admissions For children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020	15 January 2024
Nursery admissions For children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021	16 February 2024

Complete your application online at www.eadmissions.org.uk

For information about how to apply, scan the QR code or visit towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions

schooladmissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk
0207 364 5006



SCAN ME



What if I am not a Tower Hamlets resident but would like a place at a Tower Hamlets school?
You can submit an online application via the E-admissions website: www.eadmissions.org.uk naming Tower Hamlets schools.


What if my child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP)?
The application process is different for children with an EHCP and you do not apply online. Speak to The Admissions Service or your child's SENCO for more information.

What if I apply late?
It's really important that you make your application before the closing date otherwise your application will not be considered until all on time applicants have received their outcomes and the school may then be full.

Is my child guaranteed a place at one of our preferred schools?
Most families will be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, but this cannot be guaranteed. When a school receives more applications than the number of places available, not all children can be admitted. Therefore, please fully consider the likelihood of your child getting a place at a preferred school before you make your application. **Only naming one school does not increase your chances of being offered the school.**

If my child is already in the school's nursery class, is there an automatic right to a place in the school's reception class?
When parents/carers apply for their children to start reception, no priority is given to children that attend the nursery of the school. The decision on whether a place can be offered will be made in accordance with the school's admission policy.

How will I be notified about the outcome of my application?
You will receive an email and a letter on National Offer Day.



SCAN ME

John Scurr's first Technology Challenge

Tuesday 5th December saw the first ever John Scurr Technology Challenge. The challenge was to design and build a robot that could help you in school.

It was great to see so many parents and children at the event, so thank you to everyone who entered the competition and took the time to build a robot at home.



EYFS/KS1 winners

Bronze: Uwais (Reception)

Silver: Sayfullah (Year 1)

Gold: Amelia (Year 2)

KS2 winners

Bronze: Loveyah (Year 6)

Silver: Zaydan (Year 4)

Gold: Faizaan (Year 6)

Lastly, this was only the first technology challenge of the year! Next up is the spring term technology challenge. Details will be announced in the new year.

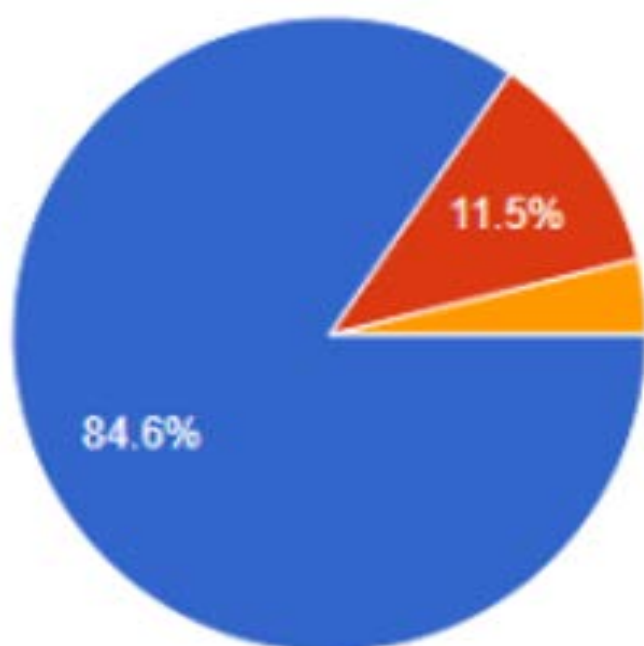
Tom Cottom - Technology Lead



Parent Voice - Outcome of the Consultation For A 2 Week Half Term

Thank you for the 103 responses to our questionnaire for a 2 Week half term in the Autumn Term – the results from Parents are below.

- I am mostly in favour of the 2 week half term
- I am not in favour of the 2 week half term
- I would like the opportunity to discuss and meet with you further



Thank you for the 103 responses to our questionnaire for a 2 Week half term in the Autumn Term – the results from Parents are below.



With this in mind Governors have voted to trial a 2 week half term in the Autumn Term 2024 and I will be able to confirm those new Term Dates with you as soon as possible. Anyone wishing to arrange a conversation with me about this – I will set up a Headteacher surgery in January.

Governors wish to thank you for all your comments and considerations.