

# John Scurr Newsletter

BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE



Happy New Year – the year to make a difference!

Dear Parents,

Happy 2024!

I hope the winter break has been restful- it's such a shame that we had so much rain. I hope that you have managed to avoid the winter coughs and colds.

On behalf of the staff – thank you so much for all your kind cards, gifts and wishes at the end of term. We are always grateful of your support and when we are at our most tired you always seem to lift us to show your appreciation.

In return – we do also appreciate all the time and effort you put into ensuring your child makes excellent progress at school. Each term moves so quickly and as Year 6 will know very well- the end of a child's time in primary school comes all too quickly.

So instead of New Year Resolutions ( that I find very hard to keep!)- This year we want all of our school community to be 'Difference Makers'- to make a positive difference to our community in lots of individual and collective ways. I will write to you again about 'Difference Makers ' as the term goes on but the aim is that this initiative supports our 5 Rs, our House points or children's opportunities and our community cohesions as we move through 2024.

So the very first way you and your family can make a difference is to read our After School Offer and sign up for an activity for the term and the second is to ensure that everyone is here and on time every day.

Let's make a difference – one act at a time!

I hope you enjoy reading about all the ways we made a difference at the end of last term.

In Partnership

*Manni Lennig*

## Million Word Reader

In the last week of the Autumn term Maria was delighted to take a group of children from Year 5 and 6 to visit the Brick Lane Bookshop as a reward for reading over a million words.

The children had a wonderful time browsing the book shelves and finally choosing a book to enjoy and keep forever.

Uthman: Holmes Class stated:

*"There were so many amazing books. It was hard to choose just one! In the end I settled for a book called Rebel Skies and I can't wait to read it!"*

Maryam, Raisa, Sara and Karima from Arday class said:

*"It was a great experience visiting the bookshop. There were so many books to choose from and we were grateful that Polly gave us some riveting recommendations. We can't wait to get home to start reading our books!"*



## Winter Wellbeing and Craft Fayre- A great community event!

What a lovely time we all had in Early December to come together and enjoy good food, lovely crafts, winter fun and even a haircut! We raised a thousand pounds which we will put towards the events for pupils – such as the cinema trips. Thank you to everyone who took part and made this event really special and look out for similar ones soon.

Good luck to Satnam on the launch of his book [Goldilocks Returns](#) ( available from Amazon) and also to all our community organisations who took part.



## Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas at John Scurr was filled with vibrant colour and lights as the children came to school wearing their Christmas Jumpers.

The classroom, corridors and and halls had the full feeling of festive cheer as they enjoyed their Christmas dinner. Amongst some of the year Three's I found these children with their cosy knitted, sparkly jumpers, their faces all lit up as they posed for the new year newsletter. The Christmas jumper day not only reminds us of being kind, eating and keeping warm but also helping the children who do not have as much as our own children have at John Scurr.

The £1 that your children bought in will go to a very worthwhile charity called 'Save the Children'. Thank you to all who donated to this worthwhile cause.

Satnam Sokhal

Achievement Advocate

Deputy Safeguarding Lead



£109.20



### 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 Bounce Party

This half term Individual 100% attendance Bounce party was a success, as children had a choice of two Bouncy Castles to jump in! It ended well with a treat of biscuits and juice.

Children are very excited to know what we have planned for the next Individual 100% attendance party. So with the support of our parents and guardians making sure children attend every day, we can celebrate another term of success.



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 January

*Syrihah & Helen - Attendance Team*

## Attendance Trip to the Cinema

At the start of the term Maria set the children a challenge. If the attendance for the school could be at least 95% at the end of the term then they could go to the cinema as a reward.

On 15th December the children had achieved 95.71% and so were able to take an exciting trip to Genesis. Year 4 – 6 watched 'Wonka' in the morning and Yr 1 – 3 watched 'Wish' in the afternoon. The children had a wonderful time and spoke about it a lot when they came back to school.

Reception and Nursery also enjoyed the fun. They came to school in their pyjamas and watched a film with popcorn and cosy blankets.

The children have been amazing this term and thank you to all the parents and carers who have been working hard and supporting their children to come to school every day.



## Magic Lunch

Dear Parents/Carers

Hope you had a wonderful break and looking forward to new beginnings in the new year 2024!

Last term we had Magic Lunch with parents and pupils across the year groups, parents aswell as pupils were excited and enjoyed spending special time together and having conversations about school.

This was a great opportunity to experience school lunch as well as experience what our lunch times looks like. Pupils have said they enjoyed having their parents.

Hope in the near future you have the opportunity to do the same if you've missed out.

*Rofina Begum*

## Packham Winter Singalong

Thank you to all the families who joined the Packham Winter Singalong. The children enjoyed performing their favourite songs to their families and worked well together as a group.

Even more enjoyable were the delicious biscuits that the children decorated and tasted with their families! It was wonderful to see so many parents taking part in this celebration, supporting their own child as well as all the other children in the class.

Our music teacher, Jo-Jo, has really helped the children develop their speech and language through songs and performances. She will continue to work with the children in the Spring term, and will bring with her students from the Guildhall school to enhance this offer.

We look forward to the next performance.

*Evelyn MacSweeney*

## Nursery Songs

Nursery children enjoyed practicing their singing last term. Each day different groups of children stood on stage and came together in their celebration crowns to sing a range of different Nursery Rhymes in preparation for the Nursery Singalong.

Thank you to all the families that joined us on the last day of term to singalong together. It was fantastic getting to hear all your beautiful singing voices!





## Year 2 Trip to the Christmas Pine

Just before the holidays, year 2 were lucky enough to embark on an exciting adventure across London. In English, we had been reading the poem 'The Christmas Pine' by Julia Donaldson, which tells the story of the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square and its journey to London.

Inspired by this poem, we took a trip to Trafalgar Square to see all of the different Landmarks mentioned in the poem.

We saw towering Nelson's Column, the strong lion statues, the beautiful fountains, and of course the Christmas pine itself. While we were there, we also went into the National gallery to see some of the beautiful paintings we had heard about in our lessons, such as Van Gogh's 'sunflowers'.

We even had a go at drawing some of the paintings ourselves! Overall, we had an amazing time in Trafalgar square. Next year, you should take a trip to see the Christmas pine too!





## Key Stage One Winter Songs

Years one and Two put on a lovely performance of Winter Songs.

They sang confidently and used actions to enhance their performance. All the children brought a real cheer to the hall, singing songs about Christmas trees, snowflakes and getting your Winter on.

KS1 worked hard to learn the song When the Cold Wind Blows during their music assemblies.

There were lots of challenging words but this did not hold the children back. It was a wonderful display of songs that was enjoyed by all!

*Chloe Alecock*

## Reception's Nativity



Did you see the Reception children perform the Nativity this year? They were fantastic!

The children worked incredibly hard learning each song and learning how to project their voices.

They felt very proud performing in front of their families and later to the whole school! The soloists developed their confidence and one shared with the class that they felt nervous but very proud afterwards – a brilliant example of resilience.

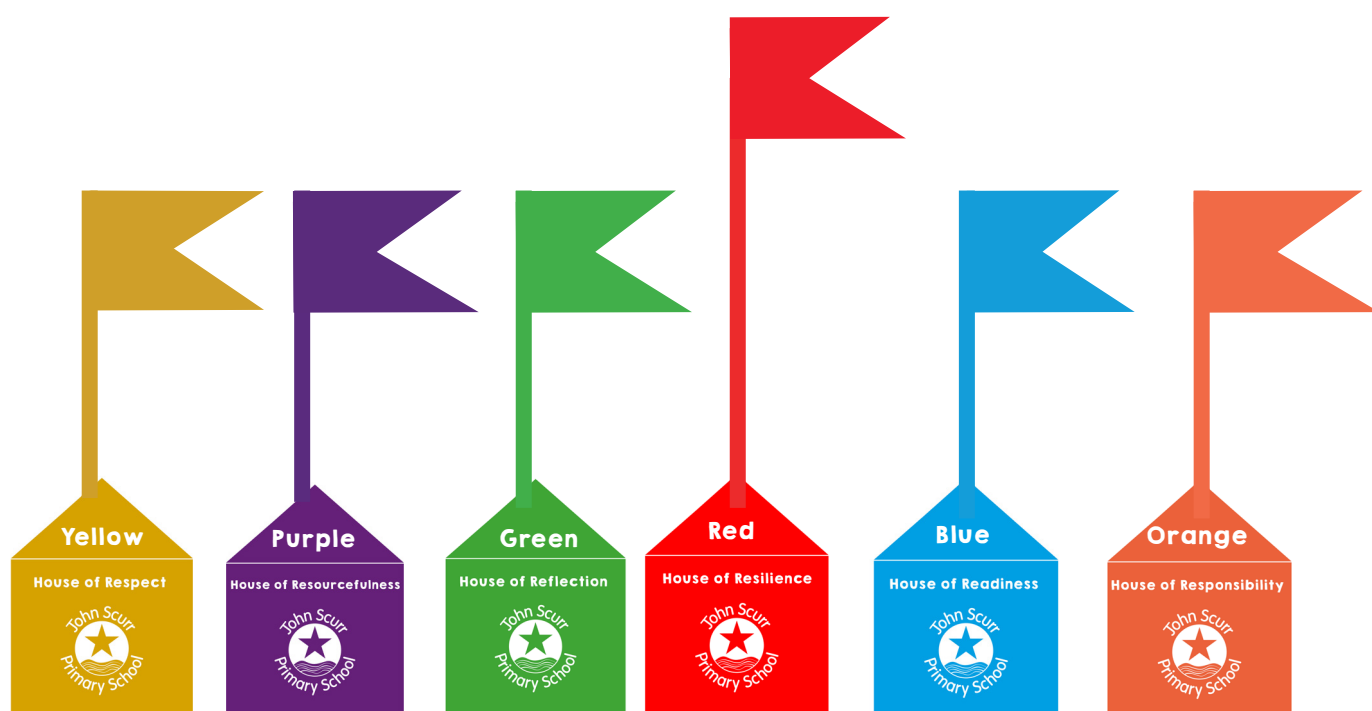
## Music and Mince Pies

What a fantastic performance! Thank you everyone who came to celebrate our talented students in our first ever Music and Mince Pies event. We had various performances from John Scurr students, showcasing some of our talented musicians, singers and composers. We saw a Djembe performance from our Year 2s, Glockenspiels from our Year 3s, and singing from our Year 4s. Some of Year 6 children also showed off their amazing keyboard skills, performing their own compositions alongside famous pieces such as Beethoven's Ode to Joy. We look forward to more musical events in the future.



## 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.



## VACANCY - Midday Parent Volunteer

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school term. The term starts with a new vacancy for a Parent Volunteer for our Midday supervisor team. The working hours will be 11am-12.30 ,Monday to Friday. If you have an interest in being part of the MMS team and can commit to the hours, we look forward to hearing from you. Please note that this post is an unpaid position.

To be considered for the role, please complete our school application form and submit your application to: [hr@johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk](mailto:hr@johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk) by 3pm Friday 12th January 2024 and we will interview shortly after.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Tania Bashir



# 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](mailto: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.**

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

Complete your application online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)

For information about how to apply, scan the QR code or visit [towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

[schooladmissions@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

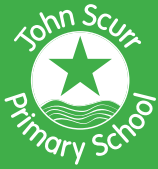
**Is my child guaranteed a place at one of our preferred schools?**  
Most families will be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, but this cannot be guaranteed. When a school receives more applications than the number of places available, not all children can be admitted. Therefore, please 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



# Step Into Spring

## Whole School Events at John Scurr For January and February

9

Hot Chocolate Challenge Day

9

ESOL Classes start again in the Learning Lodge

10

Year 6 - Action Tutoring starts - invited pupils 7.50am

11

Year 5 - Action Tutoring starts - invited pupils 7.50am

12

Kanneh Mason class to Pizza Express

12

Closing dates for online Reception places for 24/25

15

After School Clubs, Readiness Tuition and Breakfast Boosters start

15

Idea Store inductions with parents - invitation to follow

15

Viking Workshops for Year 4

19

'Martha Maps It Out' - Author visit for Reception

24

Governors in school. Hot Chocolate Challenge Day

24

Y6 to Gorsefield - if your Y6 child is not going they must attend school as normal

29

Debate Mate - Urban League Round 1 competition

2

Chess Club - Stepney Challenge Competition

6

Attenborough Class to Pizza Express

9

Online Safety - 'Learn with me' Parents invited into school

9

End of Spring Term 1

19

February- Spring Term 2 starts



# John Scurr Primary Dates 2024-25

Pupils are expected to attend for 190 days

Autumn Term 2024	Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
From: Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September To: Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	From: Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January To: Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	From: Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April To: Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November (10 days)</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February (5 days)</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday:</b> <b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May (5 days)</b>
<b>Christmas Holiday:</b> <b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	<b>Easter Holiday:</b> <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April (school resumes Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April)</b>	<b>Summer Holiday begins Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July</b>
<b>INSET- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>INSET- 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>
69 days	59 days	62 days

## School Closure Days 2024-25

**INSET Day** (school closed to students)

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Bank Holidays**

- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Monday
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Arrangements for Eid –exceptional leave is given for pupils and staff who celebrate, if this falls on a school day.

**Eid Al-Fitr** 30<sup>th</sup> March (this is potentially a Saturday or Sunday- no leave necessary.

**Eid Al-Adha** 7<sup>th</sup> June (this is potentially a Friday or Saturday – school will close on the 6<sup>th</sup> June as an INSET day.)

## INSET and Twilight for all staff 2024-25

**INSET Day** (school closed to students)

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Additional 12 hours INSET made up over Tuesday or Thursday CPD sessions throughout the year from 4 – 5. 45pm – dates to be confirmed in the summer term.

Part Time staff will have a pro rata arrangement with *some* separate arrangements for staff who work in the mornings only.

# Physical activity and organised sport in primary school children and their parents

## Call for participants



Loughborough  
University

This study has  
gained ethical  
approval from  
Loughborough  
University

## Am I eligible?

- A resident of the United Kingdom
- Over the age of 18
- The parent, grandparent or official carer for a child who is of primary school age



## What does the study involve?

Completing a 5 -10 minute anonymous online survey answering questions about yours and your child's physical activity and organised sport participation.



Scan QR code for the survey

For more information contact:  
**[h.m.griffin-20@student.lboro.ac.uk](mailto:h.m.griffin-20@student.lboro.ac.uk)**