Issue No. 4

John Scurr Newsletter



Dear Parents,

It's been a really busy term here at John Scurr – from the very cold and wet days of January to the brighter longer days of April.

It's always the term where the children make the most progress in their academic year. If the attendance has been on track so far – this is the term where teachers say 'Wow – what a difference!' You will have noticed with your own child the small steps they have gone through or some amazing facts that they have surprised you with.

This term we have been able to get out and about with visits to our local parks and to museums and places of worship. We have also had lots of visitors here too – from our local schools (as part of our Debate Mate competition), to senior leaders from England to find out about our curriculum, to our Gardener and also musicians from all over London. It is always good to be outward facing – to enable the children to visit places and also to welcome everyone into school to share the impact of all the hard work and meet your wonderful children.

Finally – we are very excited about the Easter Bonnet Parade and other end of term activities to celebrate Eid and the attendance of our 100% families. I'm also looking forward to sharing our summer term with you.

Wishing you a peaceful Easter holiday and I will see Year 6 in the second week for their Easter School transition and revision programme.

Maria Lewington
Executive Headteacher

Extended After School Offer Outcomes

Last week we sent home the outcome of our Extended Offer survey. It was great to receive so many responses for all that we have on offer here at John Scurr – I have carried out a little research amongst the schools in the area and I wanted to put together a small comparison table to show you how we currently compare with 2 other local schools.

School	Break-fast club-free	Walk-ing bus – free	Break-fast boost-er	Ambas-sador pro-	After school clubs in total	Finish time	Cost per club	Extend-ed day availa-ble	Readiness tuition
John Scurr	yes	yes	yes	yes	12	4 00pm	£5 per term	yes	yes
School in E1	no	no	no	no	6	4 20pm	varies	yes	Home-work club only
Local school	yes	no	no	no	6	4 20pm	varies	yes	Home-work club only

I have learnt that we provide a varied offer at John Scurr that fits in with the working hours of the team and also means we can meet the needs of the pupils that need support and provide further enrichment through the ambassador programme and the after school club timetable.

I do fully appreciate that our After School time finishes a bit earlier than other schools but we offer breadth, rather than length. All schools are having to reduce their after school provision to support their reduced budgets and I am proud of the range we offer at John Scurr and thankful to the team who provide the enrichment and support.

I will follow up with the request to look into some additional clubs by outside providers and also to look at extending some more popular clubs as we go into the summer term – thank you for giving us the feedback on this.

Maria Lewington

Transition Tips for Starting Nursery - Becky Marsden

Transitioning to nursery can be a big step, and it's normal to feel a mix of excitement and anxiety. Here are some tips to make the transition smoother for you and your child.

Arrange a meeting to visit the nursery with your child and their new teacher together so we can find out more about how best to support them before they start.

Create a morning routine. Try to stick to the same routine each morning to help them feel secure.
Be reassuring. Toddlers can pick up on your emotions. If you're anxious or upset, they might feel the same way. Keep your tone positive and calm.

Express enthusiasm. Talk positively about nursery and how much fun it will be. Share stories of other children who enjoy going to nursery.

Avoid lengthy goodbyes at the door. Even if your child looks upset they will usually brighten up after a few minutes. We will always call you if they do not.

Create consistent routines. Saying goodbye the same way every day helps your child know what to expect.
Stay in touch with the nursery staff to get updates on your child's progress, behavior, and any challenges. Make sure you have connected to the Tapestry app to get photo updates.

Uniform
From the age of 3 your child must have the correct John Scurr blue uniform.
Blue jumper
White shirt
Grey joggers / skirt
Black trainers

Stay and Play
Every Friday we offer a stay and play session in either the AM or PM session. These are a great way to see what we are learning about and bond with your child.

Book Bags
Children will be given a book bag in their first week at John Scurr. Every Friday they can choose a new book to take home during stay and play time.





Preparing for Reception Class - Chloe Alecock

Preparing for Reception is an exciting time for both children and parents, and being school-ready can make all the difference in ensuring a smooth settling-in period. There are several key skills that can greatly aid your child as they embark on this new adventure.

Some things that are really helpful-

- **Being able to use the toilet independently**
  Encouraging this at home will help them feel confident and capable at school.

- **Your child being able to feed themselves**
  Regular practice with utensils and encouraging self-feeding during meal times can foster their independence and make lunchtime much more enjoyable for them.

- **Being able to take clothes on and off**
  Teaching your child to take off and put on their clothes, such as their coat and shoes, will further enhance their confidence. Simple tasks, like practising these skills at home, will empower them to manage these routines on their own at school.
- **Being able to recognise and write their name**
  You can support this by pointing out their name in everyday contexts—on their belongings, for instance—and involving them in simple writing exercises at home. Perhaps have fun with this by using different materials, like crayons, chalk, or even finger paints!
- **Making sure all uniform and equipment is named**
  We always do our best to make sure that we keep things safe. If things do become lost it is much easier to find it if it is named.

As always, if you have any questions or need further advice on how to support your child's transition to school, please do not hesitate to reach out. Let's work together to ensure that the children feel confident and excited as they step into their first year of full time schooling.





Attendance Update

We would like to start by saying thank you to all the families who are bringing their children to school every day and for making sure they are here to start the school day on time so that they are not missing any of their learning time.

We celebrated with 126 children who had achieved 100% attendance this term and their reward was a workshop with a very talented freestyle footballer. The rest of the children in school were able to see his skills in a whole school assembly but then he was able to spend time teaching the 100% winners some tricks to try themselves.

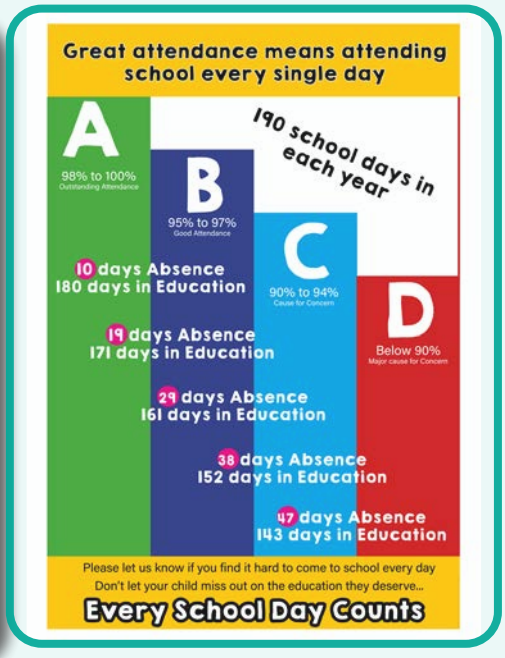
We also celebrate Rashford class who have the best attendance overall this half term. They will be going on their Bowling trip as a reward when we come back after the Easter Holidays.

As we head into the Summer Term, we hope that with the warmer weather there will be fewer children feeling unwell.

Just a reminder that if your child does have an appointment, please can you try and make the time for after school so that there is minimal disruption to your child's learning and if the appointment in during the school day, then to please make sure that you email the appointment details to school.

Helen Davies





Family Style Dining - A Shared Success

We're delighted to share how brilliantly Family Style Dining is going at John Scurr Primary School — and what a joy it's been to see our dining hall transformed into a place not just for eating, but for connecting, sharing, and learning new skills.

This new way of eating together has brought a real sense of community to lunchtimes. Children are sitting in mixed-year groups, sharing food at the table, and taking turns to serve one another. We've seen older children confidently helping younger ones with serving and tidying, and younger children proudly developing the independence to serve themselves — and sometimes even others!

One of the most heart-warming things to see has been the friendships forming across year groups. Children are chatting with peers they might not usually see in the classroom, checking in to make sure everyone's getting a fair share, and even encouraging one another to try new foods (yes, we've had some surprising taste testers!).

Our dining room is full of happy, chatty children, enjoying their lunch as a shared experience — and it's made such a positive difference to the school day.

This has been a truly collaborative success, and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who's made it happen: our amazing Kitchen Team, Midday Supervisors (MDMS), Teaching Assistants, Teachers, and Senior Leadership Team — you've all helped make this work so smoothly.

But the biggest thank you goes to our wonderful children — you've made us so proud with your kindness, responsibility, and enthusiasm.

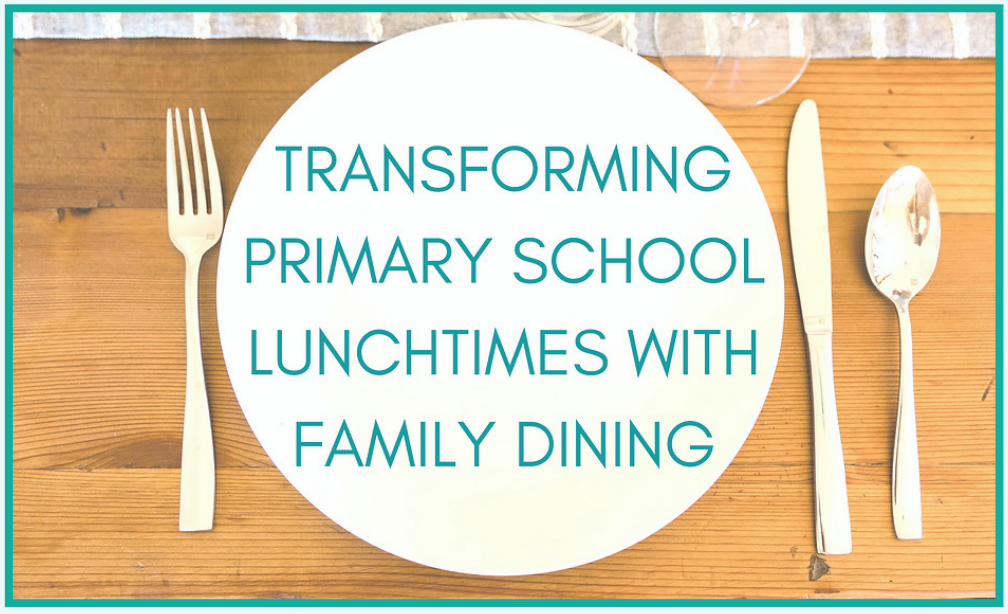
We're excited to say that we'll soon be rolling Family Style Dining out to all of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, so every child gets to experience the benefits of eating together in this way.

We hope you've noticed a difference at home too — perhaps your child is more willing to help lay the table or serve dinner? If not, now might be the perfect time to encourage them to be part of family-style dining at home — they're already experts!

And finally, a little tip from us: if you hear, "Would you like the potatoes passed your way?" at your dinner table tonight, don't be surprised — it's just another day of lunchtime magic making its way home.

Bon appétit and pass the peas!

Helen Davies



Sports News - Jermaine

Year 5 & 6 Football Tournament

The highly anticipated Year 5 and 6 Football Tournament took place last week, bringing together young footballers from over 25 schools. The event featured separate tournaments for boys and girls, creating an electrifying atmosphere filled with skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Over 25 Schools Compete in Exciting Football Tournament!

Girls' Tournament Highlights
The girls' tournament was very exciting, with teams demonstrating incredible teamwork and determination. The competition was fierce, with several close games leading to the final showdown in the group stages. In a display of outstanding sportsmanship our girls showed great resilience as this was something of a new experience for most of our girls.

Over 30 Schools Compete in Exciting Football Tournament!

Boys' Tournament Highlights
The boys' competition saw thrilling matches, with teams showcasing impressive passes, tackles, and goals. After intense group-stage battles, the top teams progressed to the knockout rounds but our boys just missed out by 2 points but they also showed great resilience.

Outstanding Performances

- **Best Player (Boys): Anas – Holmes Class**
- **Best Player (Girls): Khadijah - Raducanu**
- **Top Goal Scorer (Boys): Luqman – Khan Class**
- **Top Goal Scorer (Girls): Rifa – Holmes Class**

A Day to Remember
The tournament was not just about winning but also about learning valuable lessons in teamwork, resilience, and respect. A big thank you to all children that who played a part to make the best out of a successful event.

Sports Day With A Difference

This year Year 1 to Year 6 will be taking part in a Sports Week rather than a traditional Sports Day.
During the week starting **19th May** the children will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting events to compete in teams against other classes, year groups and houses.

As this will happen during the school day over the week, we are not inviting parents to watch these events but please ask your children what they have done each day that week.

EYFS will have a traditional Sports Day in the MUGA like other years and we ask you to look at your Pings for dates and times to be sent after the Easter Holidays

Helen Davies



Building Health & Safety Update - Spring 2025

Hello parents and carers,

The main news this time is the replacement of part of our front wall which has stood firm for the last 300 years and has protected the front of our school for nearly 100 years!

But all good things come to an end and when it was found to be not as strong as it used to be, the Local Authority reacted quickly and a builder was appointed to demolish the old wall and build us a new one!

Many of the old bricks, which are still in a good condition, are being re-used in the rebuild so the wall should look almost the same when completed – but with far stronger foundations underground.

All our children and staff are being kept safe during the project and the noise is being kept to a minimum.

A reminder of what the wall used to look like…and a taste of what is to come!

We all look forward to seeing our new wall completed in the next few weeks.

We would like to thank you for coping so well with all the temporary changes to the front of the school – including the new entry/exit gate for pedestrians.

Things will soon be back to normal!

Wishing you all an exciting and healthy late spring and summer ahead.

Ray Royer – Premises Lead
Steve Blyth – Compliance Consultant





Our new scheme for Parent Trip Buddies - Joe

Trips are a huge part of what we do at John Scurr and help to make your child's learning even more special. But we need your help to ensure that we can continue to offer our wide range of outings and visits.

That's why we are introducing a new scheme in which we ask for your support: Parent Trip Buddies. Starting later in Summer Term, the Trip Buddy scheme is a great way to support the school's work in helping our children be the best they can be.

Successful applicants will be trained in how to work effectively on trips, and then will be added to a list of volunteers that the school can call on to accompany us on one of our many outings.

Whether it's visiting a place of worship, a local park, one of London's amazing museums or a place further away like Gorsefield, we are committed to supporting the children to make memories by experiencing the wider world.

So, please join our scheme: it's a guaranteed way to have a big impact.

Watch out for more details soon!



Year 6 Gorsefield Residential - Week beginning 14th July

Year 6 Gorsefield Residential - This year in July!

This year's Year 6 residential to Gorsefield will take place week beginning 14th July.

This will make it a very different experience to previous years when we have tended to go during the winter months.

We are looking forward to long summer evenings of playing in the fields, sweltering walks in the sunshine and learning more about rural life with the weather on our side.

As always, the trip offers an important opportunity for children to develop their independence and resilience before they head onto Year Seven.

We hope that all children will take up this amazing opportunity and join us in the Essex countryside for an unbeatable experience.

Joe Bentley



Making Good Choices & Keeping Happy and Safe in Our Playground

At John Scurr Primary School, we are always working to make our playground a fun, safe, and positive place for everyone. This term, have been delighted to have all our teaching assistants outside during every morning break. It has been wonderful to see them leading games, supporting children, and building even stronger relationships with pupils — not just in their own classes, but right across the school.

We have also seen some great progress in the way children are making good choices during playtime. Being kind, including others, taking turns, and looking after our equipment are just a few of the ways children help make break time enjoyable for all. These small, thoughtful actions help everyone feel valued and included.

Sometimes, things go wrong — and that's okay. Very often, it's just a misunderstanding. What's important is how we respond. Our school uses restorative practice, which helps children learn to speak up, listen, and repair relationships when something hasn't gone well. Staff support children in saying things like:

"I didn't like it when…"
"It made me feel…"

By using this approach, children learn that their feelings matter and that their words can make a difference. All staff have seen the positive impact: children feel heard, relationships are repaired, and everyone learns how actions can affect others.

It has been a powerful tool in helping children become more empathetic, confident, and thoughtful.

How Parents Can Help

You can support positive playtimes helping us to focus on the positive- ask you child to tell you something fun they did at playtime today (notice how your question then focuses on the positive).

On the occasion when it does go a little wrong- remember they are all children and all learning from any mistakes along the way- Remind them that being a good friend means listening as well as speaking.

Together — staff, children, and families — we are working to create a playground where everyone can feel safe, happy, and included.

Keeley Alborough



World Book Day at John Scurr - Joanne Power



This year, we celebrated World Book Day with the exciting theme **'Read Your Way'**, encouraging children to explore the magic of reading through outdoor play and nature. Our day was packed with engaging activities that brought stories to life in creative and interactive ways!

Book-Themed Scavenger Hunt

Inspired by the wonderful stories of Julia Donaldson, children took part in a scavenger hunt searching for characters, quotes, and objects from books such as The Gruffalo, Superworm, The Snail and the Whale, The Smartest Giant in Town, and Tiddler. Some classes enjoyed the hunt outdoors, while others explored within their classrooms.

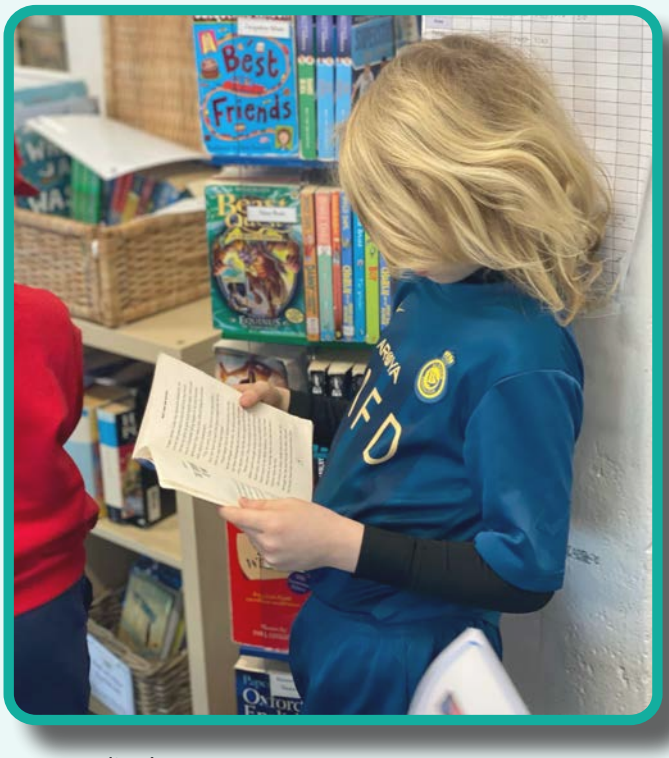
Older Children Reading to Younger Children
It was heart-warming to see older pupils share their love of books with younger ones. In small groups, they read Julia Donaldson stories together, helping to build confidence and enthusiasm for reading.

Shadow Puppets and Stick Man Performance
Using Stick Man as inspiration, children created their own shadow puppets and set designs, before putting on performances filled with creativity and imagination.

Book-Themed Badges
During our World Book Day assembly, we launched our "Tell Me What You're Reading..." badges. Each week, a child from every class will be chosen to wear a badge, encouraging conversations about books and inspiring others to discover new stories.

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration of reading, and we hope it has inspired our children to keep exploring books in new and exciting ways! The children looked wonderful in their amazing costumes, and we loved seeing their creativity shine.

We also hope your child enjoyed choosing a new book using their World Book Day token. Thank you for your support in making the day such a success.





Happy reading!
Joanne

Creative Dance in Education: Exploring Science and History Through Movement

This term, our students have had the exciting opportunity to participate in Dance the Curriculum sessions, led by our Creative Dance in Education Specialist. These dynamic sessions have allowed students to integrate their learning from science and history into dance, bringing subjects like the Anglo-Saxons, Forces, the Digestive System, and Simple Machines to life in an engaging and creative way. This approach supports our school's commitment to achieving the Primary Science Quality Mark, reflecting our dedication to teaching science and other curriculum subjects in innovative ways.

Every Tuesday, students use various topics as a stimulus for their dances. They develop academic vocabulary, explore movement actions, apply choreographic devices, and experiment with different speeds and dynamics. The final dance piece, presented at the end of the term, reinforces their creativity and the academic concepts they've learned, which are then reflected back in the classroom through creative writing and a deeper understanding, as students have physically embodied the concepts.

Creative dance bridges subjects like history and science, helping students connect abstract concepts with physical movement. By embodying historical events or scientific processes, students engage in active learning, which enhances their comprehension and fosters creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Collaboration is key in creative dance, as students develop essential social skills like communication, respect, and shared responsibility. It promotes an inclusive environment where all learning styles—kinaesthetic, visual, or auditory—are supported. Creative dance makes learning enjoyable and meaningful, encouraging active engagement and a lifelong love for physical activity and the arts. Through dance, students gain a deeper understanding of their studies and the power of creative expression.

Let's Keep Dancing Our Way to Knowledge!

As we continue exploring the power of movement in education, we look forward to seeing how creative dance enhances our students' learning journey, promoting an active, healthy lifestyle while nurturing their love for the arts.

Leire Guezala De Mier
Dance Teacher

Dance The Curriculum Video



Ambassadors Programme Chess - Satnam Sokhal

Our Ambassador programme happens weekly to allow children who may wish to develop their skills in a specific area to pursue something they enjoy and to take part in local competitions. Chess has been Integral at John Scurr for Many years.
A real focus on strategy, concentration and thinking ahead are just a few of the skill the children are growing in.
Our picture shows our local MP Rushanara Ali coming to watch our/your amazing children compete in our monthly, league tournament.

In true style and focus, John Scurr scored an amazing 45 points securing yet another win toward the trophy we held two years ago. We aim to win this back!

A big congratulations go out to all players who attend the club as well as the tournament players who won medals on the day.

Well Done John Scurr Chess Team.





Another Successful Year of Debate Mate: Tom Cottom

It has been another successful year of Debate Mate at John Scurr. The children in Year 6 who took part last year have improved and refined their debating skills, while the children new to debating in Year 5 have grown in confidence with every session. We participated in two rounds of tthe Urban Debate League, winning many debates.

We finished 13th in London in the primary schools division, narrowly missing out on progressing to the national finals. We have one more competition on 2nd April called the Debate Mate Cup, this year being held at SOAS University.

Last year we had a team reach the national finals of the Debate Mate Cup, so fingers crossed for more success this year.

Regardless of results in competitions though, it has been a privilege to see the children represent John Scurr in debating this year and showcase their amazing oracy and teamwork skills.

Tom Cottom
Debate Mate lead



Art Exhibition - Laurie Hirschowitz

This term has been instrumental in developing our children as artists, as the whole school community participated in our very own John Scurr Art Gallery Experience. Every child from, our 2-year-old provision up to Year 6, had the opportunity to explore a variety of techniques whilst developing a sense of 'Belonging Through Art.'
Our 2-year-old had a great time tracing their hands and decorating their prints to look like underwater sea creatures. While our reception children, using their guided reading story Elmer the Patchwork Elephant, explored what their own patchwork creations would look like.

In Year 1, the children attended the smack of jellyfish online workshop to create their own hanging jellyfish using a range of materials. In year 2, children created 'Wave to Me' pieces, using watercolour paints and mesh to consider the power of waves as a reflection of the powerful sense of belonging that art can generate. Meanwhile, Packham used the story Rainbow Fish as a stimulus and considered what scale they could create to represent their own hobbies and interests.

In Key Stage 2, the children's artistic development continued. Year 3 created Sea Star Galaxies, using wax crayons as a means of resisting watercolour paint, to understand how different artistic mediums interacted with one another. Year 4 explored Underwater Jungles through collaging, while Year 5 surprised us all with their deep dive portraits, exploring how their features might change whilst submerged underwater, with hair defying gravity all tangled up snorkels. Finally, Year 6 shocked us all with their 3D ticking tentacles, using complex techniques to weave an octopus's tentacle through their own underwater landscapes.

Once each class had completed their pieces, it was time to explore the John Scurr Gallery.
Each classroom became its own gallery exhibition, with Pupil Voice Committee experts on hand to present their class's artwork to each year group in turn. As classes rotated throughout the school, entering into new artistic worlds, every child was able to celebrate the successes of their peers. Each children develop their own sense of belonging through art, knowing that they themselves are artists with their own pieces on display for others to enjoy.

The climax of this special experience was the Community Gallery Experience. Adults were welcomed into school to celebrate the success of all our children and gain their own sense of belonging, just as the children had done. Celebrating the artistic talents of every child at John Scurr is special, and to do so in our own Gallery Experience was a truly treasured moment.






Year 6 Easter School - Preparing for SATs and Secondary Transition

Year 6 pupils are invited to attend **Easter School on April 15th, 16th, and 17th** to support their SATs preparation and transition to secondary school.

Sessions run from 8:45 am to 12:45 pm, with tuition led by Year 6 teachers Joe Bentley and Ellis Hewitt, focusing on Maths, Reading, Grammar, and Spelling. Pupils will also take part in secondary readiness, team-building, sports, and wellbeing activities, led by Jermaine and Satnam.

Key Information:
Open to all Year 6 pupils (free of charge).

Sessions provide valuable preparation for SATs, which take place **May 12th–15th.**

Pupils should wear their own clothes and trainers for active sessions.

Children observing Ramadan are welcome and can leave independently with permission.

This is a focused programme for Year 6 only.

Parents should confirm attendance via the digital form by Monday, March 24th. Paper copies are available upon request.

Ellis Hewitt



Helping Your Child Prepare for SATs

With SATs approaching in May, here are some ways to support your child's preparation and wellbeing:

1. Encourage a Positive Mindset
   SATs are a chance to show what they've learned.

2. Support Revision at Home
   Help them practise key skills in Maths, Reading, and Grammar by using the revision guides provided.
   Read for at least 30 minutes a day to build stamina for longer tests.
   Discuss what they've learned and ask them to explain concepts to you—teaching someone else is a great way to reinforce understanding.

3. Maintain Healthy Routines
   Ensure they get enough sleep—tired minds struggle to focus.
   Provide balanced meals to support energy levels and concentration.
   Encourage regular breaks and outdoor activity.

4. Practise Test Techniques
   Encourage them to read questions carefully and underline key information before answering.
   Remind them that if they get stuck, they can move on and come back later.
   Help them practise working at a steady pace with timed activities.

Year 6- Preparing for Secondary School

Congratulations! You will now have your secondary school place confirmed. With this new milestone ahead, here are some practical tips on how to support your child with this transition so that the experience is smoother and more enjoyable.

1. Familiarise Them with the School

Talk about the school to them, do they have any family friends who already go who can tell them about it. Discuss where it is? Walk past it, take a look inside. Look at the uniform and buy this early in the summer so they can try it on and feel what it's like on their skin.

2. Discuss the New Routine

Talk to your child about the new route, how they will get there, how long it will take, who they will travel with, what to do if something goes wrong. Practice this route with them a few times over the summer both there and on the way back so they feel confident to navigate it.

3. Encourage Independence

Secondary school requires a higher level of independence. Encourage your child to take responsibility for their belongings, manage their homework, and organise their school supplies while still in Year 6 in preparation for Year 7. Gradually give them more responsibility over the summer to build their confidence.

4. Talk About Social Skills

Transitioning to secondary school often means forming new friendships and navigating social dynamics. Discuss the importance of being kind, inclusive, and respectful. Role-playing different social scenarios can help your child feel more prepared.

5. Organise School Supplies

Over the summer, involve your child in shopping for school supplies. Let them choose their backpack, notebooks, and other essentials. This not only gets them excited about the new school year but also helps them feel more prepared and organised.

6. Develop Good Study Habits

Help your child establish good study habits over now in preparation for Year 7. Create a dedicated study space, set regular study times, and encourage the use of planners to keep track of work they are completing and any deadlines they need to meet.

7. Promote a Positive Mindset

A positive mindset can make a big difference in how your child approaches secondary school. Encourage them to view challenges as opportunities for growth. Share positive stories about your own school experiences and remind them that it's okay to ask for help when needed.

8. Discuss the Importance of Balance

Secondary school can be demanding, so it's important for your child to learn how to balance academics, extracurricular activities, and downtime. Encourage them to pursue hobbies and interests outside of school to maintain a healthy balance.

9. Stay Informed and Involved

Stay informed about the your new secondary school's policies, schedules, and events. Attend parent-teacher meetings and get involved in school activities. Being an active participant in your child's education helps you stay connected and provides additional support for your child.

10. Encourage Healthy Lifestyle Habits

Ensure your child gets enough sleep, eats a balanced diet, and stays physically active. Good health is crucial for maintaining energy levels and concentration. Establish a routine that includes regular bedtimes and healthy meals.

11. Talk About Safety

Discuss personal safety. Talk about topics like cyber safety, what to do if someone is unkind, and how to seek help from teachers. Empower your child with the knowledge to make safe choices.

15. Encourage Open Communication

Maintain open lines of communication with your child. Let them know they can come to you with any concerns or questions about their new school. Being a supportive and understanding listener can make all the difference in easing their transition.

At John Scurr we will also be preparing the children with lessons on how to reading weekly/daily school timetables, familiarising them with this will give them more confidence to know when there lessons are, for how long, where they will be. We will also be reading school maps to understand where to go for different lessons. They will also have practice how to read the time, how to prepare for the day, week ahead and organise themselves.

Guildhall Music Project - Alessia Ciacci

Packham Class experience with the Guildhall Music Project

The Guildhall Music Project provided a unique and invaluable opportunity for children with special needs to engage with music in a meaningful and therapeutic way. The project was designed to harness the power of music as a tool for fostering engagement, enhancing attention, and promoting self-expression. Through carefully crafted sessions, children were given the chance to explore and connect with music, which serves as an effective outlet for their emotions.

The Guildhall Music Project is not just about playing instruments or singing, it was about creating a space where children can safely express themselves, explore their feelings, and communicate in ways they may find challenging through words alone. By using music, the project encouraged emotional exploration, helping children identify, process, and regulate their emotions in a healthy and supportive environment.

The sessions also aimed to enhance focus and concentration, as music naturally captivates attention and helps children become more aware of their surroundings and feelings. In addition, the project fosters a sense of community, where children can connect with one another and build relationships through shared musical experiences. T

he Guildhall Music Project ultimately offers children the opportunity to not only explore their creative potential but also develop crucial emotional and social skills, boosting their confidence and sense of self-worth while providing an enriching and inclusive experience. Packham class is incredibly proud of being part of the project, children enjoyed the sessions!

Spring Chicks - Chloe Knight

Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 have been waiting for the past three weeks for our chicks to hatch. The eggs have been tucked away in an incubator, to keep them warm enough to grow.

Adepitan, Malala and Hussain classes have been preparing for the chicks to arrive by learning about the life cycle of a chicken and how to look after them inside the incubator and when they hatch.

Reception Adepitan class said ‘The eggs are going to hatch and we will look after them. We will feed them and give them water and cuddles!’

Year 1 Hussain class said ‘We’re excited for the eggs to hatch. You have to wait 1 or 2 days. When they’re fluffy then you can put them in the box.’

Year 3 Simmonds class said ‘We’re so excited for the chicks to hatch, we give them water in their water tray and when they hatch, we have to make sure they have lots of light or they’ll tweet!’

Last week we had four eggs hatch! The children have enjoyed looking after them and are looking forward to watching them grow until the school holidays, when they will be returned to Stepney City Farm.
You can stop by the farm over the holidays and say hello to our John Scurr chicks!





Dear Future Pupils....

Dear Future Year 1,

I hope this letter finds you all well and buzzing with excitement for the year ahead! As you prepare to embark on this wonderful journey of learning and discovery, we wanted to share some of the fantastic experiences that await you in Year 1.

Firstly, get ready for lots of new learning and some truly fun facts! You will dive into a variety of subjects, each one filled with interesting knowledge that will spark your curiosity. Along the way, you will have the opportunity to go on exciting trips that will bring your learning to life. These outings will be memorable adventures, so keep your eyes peeled for announcements about where we will be going!

In addition to our educational explorations, we'll have a blast with singing and dancing lessons. You'll be amazed at how music can brighten your day and help you express yourselves. And let's not forget your own special writing books! Each topic will have its very own colourful writing book, making your work even more enjoyable and allowing you to showcase your creativity.

PE will be more dynamic than ever with our sessions led by Jermaine! Get ready to run, jump, and play as you develop your skills while having the time of your life. There will also be plenty of opportunities to learn computing, where you'll discover the digital world and how to navigate it safely and confidently.

Your creative sides will shine through in our fun art and design technology lessons. I can't wait to see what wonderful projects we will create together! Of course, the playground will be another favourite spot — with a big slide and climbing frame that will surely become your go-to place for fun and excitement during break times.

As you prepare to step into Year 1, remember that learning is an adventure filled with new experiences and joyful moments. Embrace every opportunity that comes your way, and get ready for a year of growth, laughter, and lasting memories.

We are all looking forward to an amazing year with you!

Best wishes,

Lotus & Caitlin



Dear Future Pupils....

Dear Year 1 Friends...

Hello from Y2! We can't wait for you to join us next year. You have so many fun things and lots of learning to look forward to. We wanted to share some of the exciting things we've enjoyed so far!

In Y2, you'll learn lots of new things, like how to write your own cultural stories and formal invitations. In math, we became math wizards with our addition and subtraction skills! You'll also do some super cool science investigations and explore the world of animals. One really fun thing we did was visit Pizza Express and make our own yummy pizzas. We hope you get to do that too! We also visited a fun farm for biology and even made our own bread. Next year, you might get to do something like that too! You'll make lots of new friends and enjoy exciting activities. We hope you're as excited as we were! Year 2 is going to be amazing, and we can't wait to see you here.

Your Y2 friends in Attenborough and Kanneh-Mason class, Tabasum Dali





Dear Year 3 Children...

Well, you have certainly got a lot to look forward to in year 4! We wish you had the time and space to tell you everything, but Maria told us to keep this brief, so we've selected the top 3 important things you should know.

First of all, in Year 4, you will be going swimming every week for half of the year! It's great fun and you learn some really important skills that might save your life one day. To get yourselves ready for this, buy yourself a swimming costume and a swimming hat and ask your parents to take you to the local pool for a dip one weekend. Happy splashing!

Next, in the summer of Year 4, you will have a Times Tables Test. To pass, you have to get 25/25! It sounds scary, but if you start practising now, it'll be a breeze, plus you'll find maths so much easier if you know these facts! Get on TTRS and see if you can make your heatmap as green as possible before you start year 4.

Finally, but maybe most importantly, we strongly advise you to read, read and then read some more! You will read some fantastic books in Y4, such as The Girl Who Stole the Elephant, and you want to be really ready to understand and enjoy these books, so the more practice you can get now, the better.

There's so much more we could tell you and we're really jealous of you all, as we'd love to start year 4 all over again and relive our experiences. We hope this letter has been useful and let us know if you have any more questions.

Yours sincerely,

Year 4

Dear Future Pupils....

Dear future Year 5...

Welcome to an exciting and adventurous year ahead! We are thrilled to share with you all the incredible topics and activities that await you in the coming months. Get ready for an unforgettable year full of discovery, creativity, and fun.

First, we will take a deep dive into the ancient worlds as historians of the Mayans and the Ancient Greeks. You will learn about their fascinating cultures, mighty gods, impressive achievements, and even some of their mysterious secrets. Imagine walking through the ruins of an ancient civilization and uncovering the hidden stories that shaped our world!

As scientists, you will explore the properties of materials-everything from everyday objects to complex structures. You will discover why certain materials are perfect for specific jobs, and who knows, you might even invent your own! You will also study animals and humans- how we grow, how we're similar, and what makes us all so unique.

As geographers, we will learn about biomes and environmental regions. We will use our map skills to explore different countries, capitals and continents as well as human and physical features of different places.

As mathematicians, we will be studying place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, negative numbers, money, area and spacing.

As writers, we will be writing balanced arguments, third person stories set in another culture, Poems that use word play, formal letters of application, dialogue in narrative (first person myths and legends).

As artists, we will explore printmaking, a creative technique that will allow you to make beautiful, one-of-a-kind prints. Get ready to unleash your inner artist!

And of course, we will also be studying French, where you'll learn the basics of the language, and explore the culture.

In terms of extracurricular activities, you will have the chance to learn how to type like a pro in keyboard lessons, preparing you for the digital world ahead. In addition to this, you will get to express yourself through dance classes. Whether you're a natural dancer or a beginner, you will have lots of fun moving to the beat and learning new steps!

A main part of the year 5 curriculum is academic trips which complement what we are learning throughout the year in year 5. In the 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. We have been to Victoria Park recently in order to make observations and understand how seasons change in our local area. In the Spring term, we will take a trip to the science museum.

The next year will be packed full of excitement, new skills and opportunities and amazing discoveries. We are looking forward to seeing all of you grow and shine as you experience these incredible subjects and activities. Therefore, be prepared to work hard and most importantly, have a fantastic time!

Warm regards,

Stephanie and Rebecca

Dear Future Pupils....

Dear Future Y6 Students,

I am writing to make sure you know what to expect in Year 6 at John Scurr. One of the things you'll hear teachers say, is that expectations are higher than before. One of the things you should definitely prepare for is that you'll get homework every week. Year 6 is also preparing you for secondary schooling, meaning teachers expect you to work at home and be more independent than in the years before. All this makes Year 6 sound hard, but there are also things to definitely look forward to.

At some point in the year, you will go on a three day residential trip to Gorsefield. Gorsefield isn't really similar to being in school. It's like being on holiday – that's how fun it will be. You will never be bored because there'll be activities that you like (as well as some that maybe you won't).

But that's not all – there's more to look forward to. At the end you'll be doing an end of year performance about… no one's sure yet! You'll find out about when you're getting closer to rehearsal time.

Talking of which, you should know that the performance is so important that you'll be practising it very often towards the end of the year, which means that there'll be a little less time for regular lessons!

I hope that helps you get ready for this challenging but enjoyable year.

Good luck
Eesa
Y6 Holmes



Dear Future Year 3s,

In September you will be making the jump from Key Stage 1 up to Key Stage 2. While your new classroom will simply be along the middle-floor corridor, Year 2 up to Year 3 is a big change. As Key Stage 2 pupils, you are expected to be a lot more independent and we want you to push yourself to be the best that you can be, both in school and at home.

In Year 3 we work hard, but we also play hard. You have many exciting trips to look forward to, including the Horniman Museum, the Soanes Centre, Shandy Park and more.

We can't wait to help you grow as learners next year and teach you new and exciting things in all your subjects. From Stone Age Britain or Romans in history, to rocks or forces and magnets in science, there is so much to learn in Year 3 and we look forward to teaching it all to you.

Good luck for the rest of Year 2.

Kind regards

Tom and Laurie
Year 3 teachers





Apprentice Club

We are excited to share an update from our Ambassador Programme at John Scurr Primary School! As part of the programme, our students have been actively involved in the Apprentice Club, where they've taken on the roles of young entrepreneurs, learning valuable skills in teamwork, research, and business.

In Spring 1, the children embarked on a fantastic journey to research, create, and sell a product that would help raise money for the school. After brainstorming ideas and using the internet to explore options, the students made the brilliant decision to create and sell homemade yoghurt bars.

They took charge of researching the ingredients, designing promotional posters, and planning the sale. Their hard work paid off, as the yoghurt bars were a hit with both students and staff, making the sale a great success! The profits from this venture have already been reinvested into their next exciting project.

We are incredibly proud of their creativity, teamwork, and entrepreneurial spirit, and we can't wait to see what they come up with next. The Apprentice Club has been an inspiring opportunity for our young learners to develop essential skills while contributing to the school community.

Following the success of their yoghurt bar venture, our young entrepreneurs in the Apprentice Club have been busy putting their profits to work for their next exciting project.

In Spring Term 2, the children decided to create and sell keychains. Building on the skills they had learned previously; they researched a range of existing products on the market and compared materials and prices to ensure they could create the best possible keychains at an affordable cost. Some of the children even used Google Slides to design an online advert to share with their peers, showcasing their creativity and communication skills.

We are excited to announce that the sale of the keychains will take place on **Wednesday, 2nd April,** at home time in the playground. We hope you'll join us to support their latest venture and take home a special, handmade keychain!

It's wonderful to see the children developing such entrepreneurial spirit, and we look forward to seeing what they will create next. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Ambassador Programme.

Lauren Brooks



Music Ambassadors

The John Scurr music ambassadors is to provide free musical tuition for pupils that take a keen interest in playing music instruments and a show a talent for it! This term, the team of 12 players have taken on new pieces across two different instruments; the djembe and glockenspiel.

Music ambassadors experience enrichment of a wider range of music and have been studying and playing soul and jazz this term. They are currently practicing a 1960s popular jazz song, Soul Bossa Nova by Quincy Jones.

This song includes influences from Brazilian Samba and cool jazz of the 1960s. Next term, music ambassadors will be studying a new genre and era of music across different instruments. Keep up the good work musicians!

Rebecca O'Brien





House Points - Satnam Sokhal

Children across the school have been collecting Housepoints for their amazing contribution to the school and standing out in their class with the following behaviours;

Making others say "Wow!"

Behaving like a champion!

Excellence

Future focused

The excitement of achieving Housepoints ripples through the school as they are added to the class DOJO and wall charts. Every term we have a House Winner. Last term the cup winners were PURPLE HOUSE OF RESOURCEFULNESS. Currently the points count for this week is:

Purple House: Resourcefulness - 1075
Green House: Reflection - 990
Orange House: Responsibility - 983
Red House: Resilience - 966
Yellow House: Respect - 952
Blue House: 774

Purple house are leading at the moment, but we do have a week left to see if the House of Resourcefulness will get toppled over. Who will win the House Cup and get a chance to celebrate. Make sure you ask your children who the winner is and get involved in the excitement!
Good luck to all Houses!



Staffing Update

This term we have welcome Sameeha to our office team. Sameeha is local and keen to develop her business administration skills here at John Scurr. She joins the team with Shorif, Alomgir, Anne Marie and Tania.

We have said good bye to Shanaz, who was training to be a teacher in Year 5 with Rebecca- Shanaz has gone back to William Davis School and will complete her training there.

We welcome back Thomas Costello- who has been training in Newham and is very glad to be back here at John Scurr. In our Nursery we will welcome Shaniya.

John Scurr continues to be fully staffed with Renee stepping into the Classroom Support role in Year with Elizabeth's departure at half term.

We also say congratulations to Chloe Alecock who is expecting her first baby in the summer.

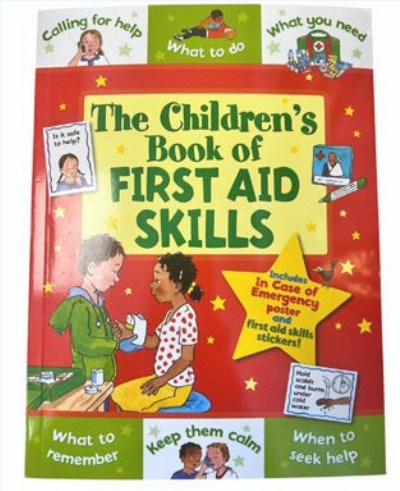
Class photos: Dates to be confirmed

Dear Parents/Carers,
Class photo day will be on **TBC** Please can you make sure your child/ren come to school in full school uniform. A reminder of our offical uniform is in the photo below.



Books for Sale: Learn about First Aid £5

Dear Parents/ Carers,
We have some lovely books in the office on need to know First Aid skills or for those who would like to remind themselves about their first aid training. Books are for sale in the office at **£5 each**.



John Scurr Garden - Gardening Enterprise Project

We have been lucky enough to have a group of volunteers from L&Q to help us to tidy and sort the gardens at John Scurr. They moved two tonnes of woodchip into the woodland area, cut back lots of shrubs and moved new fertile compost into the planters. We are now ready for the spring growing season which is perfect for year 3 starting their Gardening Enterprise Project. They sow seeds, learning about germination then how to grow food to sell ending with a pop up sale on May 19th.

Nature news we have newts!





Cassie Liversidge



John Scurr Primary Dates 2025-26

Pupils are expected to attend for 190 days

Autumn Term 2025	Spring Term 2026	Summer Term 2026
From: Monday 1st September To: Friday 19th December **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 20th October to Friday 31st October (10 days)** **Christmas Holiday:** **Monday 22nd December to Friday 2nd January, 2026** **INSET- Monday 1st September**	From: Monday 5th January To: Friday 27th March **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February (5 days)** **Easter Holiday:** **Monday 30th March to Monday 10th April** (school resumes Monday 13th April)	From: Monday 13th April To: Wednesday 22nd July **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May (5 days)** **Summer Holiday begins** **Wednesday 22nd July**
69 days	54 days	67 days

School Closure Days 2025-26

INSET Day (school closed to students)

- Monday 1st September 2025

Bank Holidays

- Friday 3rd April – Good Friday
- Monday 6th April – Easter Monday
- Monday 4th May – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 25th May - Spring Bank Holiday
- Monday 31st August – Summer Bank Holiday
- **Ramadan Starts** 18/19 February, 2026 TBC

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

Eid Al-Fitr 20/21 March, 2026 TBC
Eid Al-Adha 27/28 May, 2026 TBC (half term)

INSET and Twilight for all staff 2025- 2026

INSET Day- Monday 1st September

4 days divided into 8 twilights – mostly within the first and the first and third term

How to Apply for Free School Meals

The government gives additional funding to schools for those children entitled to free school meals.

We use this money to ensure the pupils receive a well-balanced lunch and it helps the school to improve the quality of education.

The way parents are able to check if they are entitled is by clicking here

Tania Bashir

PHOENIX
PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL

Phoenix School Enterprise Stall -24th April

Phoenix School Pupils are selling items for our **Nursery Parents on Thursday 24th April.**

Please come along with any loose change to help support their Enterprise initiative.

Plants, cakes, drinks and refreshments available when dropping off an picking up on this day.

FamiliesMatter

TOWER HAMLETS

Parenting Programme

April -July 2025



* Please click on the link below to find the current version of the Parenting Support Referral Form
* Though this is a PDF, if you save this you will find that it can be edited and you can type into the fields
* Please complete and return this form by email, being careful to complete it fully and not miss any of the fields or tick boxes:

Parenting Referral Form link

GAMING AND GAMBLING AWARENESS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS

Ygam

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Ygam are working with the Metropolitan Police to offer an online information session to help develop your understanding of gaming and gambling harms, enabling you to have open conversations with your children.

Workshop overview:

- Gambling: exploring the influences on children and young people
- Gaming: discussing the benefits and concerns
- The blurred lines between gaming and gambling
- How to spot the signs of harm
- Useful tips to create a healthy gaming balance
- Where to get help and support

WHAT MIGHT INFLUENCE A YOUNG PERSON TO GAMBLE?

WHAT IS A LOOT BOX?

WHY ARE IN-GAME ITEMS SO IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

We also have a dedicated Parent Hub which aims to provide information and guidance to help you safeguard your children against the potential harms of gaming and gambling. Find out more here: parents.ygam.org

Book your FREE place now!

DATE: Tuesday 13th May 2025
TIME: 19:00 - 20:15
VENUE: Online via Microsoft Teams

To register, please scan the QR Code or click HERE