Issue No. 5

# John Scurr Newsletter



Dear John Scurr Community,

As we approach the half-term break, I am delighted to share with you a special edition of our newsletter, dedicated entirely to the vibrant and nurturing lunchtime experience at John Scurr Primary School. Our commitment to 'being the best that you can be' extends beyond the classroom, permeating every aspect of our children's school day, including their dining and playtime activities.

At the heart of our lunchtime philosophy is our family-style dining approach. This method fosters a sense of community, encourages social interaction, and promotes the development of essential life skills. Children learn to serve one another, engage in meaningful conversations, and practice table manners in a supportive environment.

We are particularly proud of our innovative approach to introducing new foods as an integral part of the curriculum. By seamlessly blending culinary experiences with educational objectives, we expand our children's palates while simultaneously enriching their cultural and nutritional knowledge. This interdisciplinary approach exemplifies our dedication to holistic education.

Our Reception children benefit from a specially tailored cooking offer, providing them with hands-on experiences in food preparation. This early exposure to culinary skills not only enhances their fine motor development but also instils a lifelong appreciation for healthy eating habits.

We understand that parents may have questions regarding our lunchtime practises. Rest assured, we have compiled a comprehensive set of responses to address your concerns and provide clarity on our procedures. Your child's wellbeing is our utmost priority, and we strive to maintain open lines of communication with all members of our school community.

Physical activity is a crucial component of a balanced school day. Our playtime activities are carefully designed to keep children active, engaged, and socially connected. Through a variety of structured and free-play options, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to expend energy, develop motor skills, and forge friendships in a safe and supervised environment.

In addition to our lunchtime focus, I would like to draw your attention to two important notices. Firstly, we will be implementing changes to our school uniform for the 2025/2026 academic year. Detailed information regarding these modifications will be provided separately. Secondly, our Governors have prepared an update on recent developments and initiatives, which you will find enclosed in this newsletter.

As we conclude this term, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming our children back on the 2nd of June, refreshed and ready to embrace the learning opportunities that await them.

Maria Lewington
Executive Headteacher



# Top 10 Playground games

1. **Hopscotch**
   Fun playground game. It involves a series of numbered squares drawn in a grid on the floor. Children must throw an object into one of the squares and retrieve it using a sequence of hops, without touching the lines.

2. **King Ball**
   Players take turns bouncing the ball in each other's squares, aiming to eliminate opponents by making them miss or hit the ball out of bounds. The last player remaining is the King.

3. **Tag**
   This is a classic game in which one player is 'it' and tries to tag others. Keep moving to stay safe.

4. **Skipping Rope Games**
   Grab a skipping rope and try Double Dutch, long rope skipping, or solo skipping challenges.

5. **Mud kitchen**
   Outdoor play area where children can use mud, water, and leaves to make anything they like. Whether it's mud pies or a nature soup, it's a place for creativity and fun with friends.

6. **What's the Time, Mr Wolf?**
   One player (the Wolf) stands with their back turned, while others call out, "What's the time, Mr Wolf?" The Wolf gives a time, and players take that many steps forward. At any point, the Wolf can shout "Dinner time!" and chase the players.

7. **Football Skills**
   Using a small area for dribbling, passing, and shooting challenges. Sessions will be run by a TA and managed either in the MUGA or another area of the playground.

8. **Splat**
   Children stand in a circle facing each other, and one child is in the middle. The person in the middle shouts SPLAT to someone in the circle, and that child has to duck. The children on either side must quickly turn to face each other and say "Splat". The slowest player is out.

9. **Stuck in the mud**
   Another version of the game of tag. One player is "it" and tries to tag the other players. If tagged, the players must freeze in place. They can only be freed if another player either crawls under their legs or, more simply, taps them. The game continues until all players are frozen or time runs out.

10. **Piggy in the middle**
    This game can be played as a football exercise or a simple throwing and catching game. Several players form a circle and pass the ball to each other while one player stands in the middle as the "Piggy". The players on the outside must pass the ball quickly and accurately, trying to keep it away from the "Piggy", whose aim is to intercept the ball. When the "Piggy" wins the ball, the player who lost possession swaps places with them.







## Lunchtimes at the Heart of Learning: Supporting Social Skills and Restorative Conversations

At John Scurr Primary, lunchtime is about much more than just eating. It is a key part of the day where children practise vital life skills: sharing, taking turns, building friendships, and navigating the ups and downs of play. Through our family-style dining and rich lunchtime play offer, we provide an environment where children feel safe, supported, and engaged.

Our staff are actively involved during lunch and playtimes—not just to supervise, but to engage and connect with children. You'll often find teaching assistants playing Kingball, starting skipping games, or leading a collaborative game with the parachute. This active presence helps us build strong, trusting relationships. We get to know the children well—understanding their individual needs, recognising possible triggers, and stepping in early with gentle redirection or distraction to help avoid issues before they escalate.

Of course, children are still learning. Disagreements and misunderstandings are part of growing up. It's normal, and it's okay. Especially in light of recent research, including the BBC Panorama episode highlighting the lasting impact of the pandemic on children's social development, we are mindful that some pupils missed key early experiences in negotiating play and resolving conflict. There are still a some children who are still learning how to share, how to manage big feelings, and how to understand someone else's point of view.

That's where our restorative approach comes in. When things do go wrong, we take the time to help children talk things through using a simple, structured script. An adult facilitator helps guide the conversation, using prompts for example:

- "Can you tell [Child B] what happened and how you felt?"
- "Use 'I' statements like 'I didn't like it when…' and explain how it made you feel."
- "I wonder if there has been a misunderstanding. How can we make sure this doesn't happen again?"

These conversations are powerful. They help children feel heard and understood, and they offer a chance to rebuild relationships and learn from their experiences. Rather than placing blame, we encourage empathy, reflection, and positive action.

Restorative conversations are becoming part of our school culture—calm, respectful, and focused on growth. And when done consistently, they work. Children leave these interactions not just with a resolution, but with the tools to handle future challenges more independently.

We're incredibly proud of the way our children are growing in confidence and kindness through this approach. Lunchtimes really are a golden opportunity for learning—about relationships, responsibility, and respect.
Thank you for your continued support.

*Keeley Alborough*

## Celebrating Family Style Dining

**Celebrating family style dining at John Scurr has provided a range of benefits for our pupils, Here are the top 5 reasons why we are celebrating this approach:**

**1. Fosters Positive Social Interactions**

- Older children support younger peers: When the older pupils help serve food and guide younger children, it has built leadership skills and nurtured a sense of community.
- Encourages conversation: Sitting together and sharing food has naturally prompted the children to talk and connect, improving social skills and building relationships.

**2. Promotes Independence and Choice**

- Children choose what goes on their plate: This has empowered children to make decisions about what and how much they eat, supporting autonomy and self-regulation.
- Encourages trying new foods: When children see their peers enjoying different foods, they have been more likely to try something new that they might have been hesitant to ask for.

**3. Supports Healthy Eating Habits**

- Start with a little, add more if needed: Children are learning not to waste food and to listen to their own hunger cues, which helps develop lifelong healthy eating habits.
- Reduces food anxiety: The relaxed, supportive environment is making mealtimes more enjoyable and less stressful for picky or anxious eaters.

**4. Improves Lunchtime Experience**

- No more long queues: Family style serving has eliminated the need for children to wait in long lines, giving them more time to eat and socialise.
- Smooth flow: The process is often calmer and more efficient, reducing lunchtime disruptions and maximising learning time.

**5. Creates a Warm, Inclusive Atmosphere**

- Feels like a family meal: As one pupil said, “It feels like we are eating with our family.” This sense of belonging helps children feel safe, valued, and connected to the school community.

FAQs

**1. Does my child have enough time to eat their food?**

Each service in the hall lasts for half an hour which is plenty of time for most of the children. The food is all on the table as they enter and so they are able to start eating straight away rather than waiting in a line. If a child is a slower eater or wants to eat more, they are able to stay in the hall until they have finished and are ready to go out to play.
The children are not rushed.

**2. I am worried that my child does not eat enough?**

Children, just like adults, have some days when they feel hungrier than others and there will always be some foods that they do like and some foods that they do not like. With a variety of food on the tables each day there is always something that every child does like and they are able to choose more of these foods to have on their plate. The older children will always offer new foods to the children and the adults in the hall will always check that every child has had enough to eat and will encourage children to try a little of something new.

The children are never forced to eat their food, only encouraged. If they are not hungry and on occasions do not eat anything at lunchtime the class TA will know during lunchtime and will inform the class teacher when lessons start again. There is the opportunity for children to have fruit or bread if they feel hungry during the day. Parents will always be informed if your child has not eaten at school.

**3. My child has food allergies, how do the adults know and ensure they do not eat anything that may cause a reaction?**
All children who have a food allergy wear a lanyard to the lunch hall which has a photo of the child and a list of the foods that they are allergic to. The lanyard will be yellow if it is an allergy that does not require an Epi-Pen. The lanyard will be red if the child does require an Epi-Pen as they have a severe allergy.

There is a poster of all the children and their allergies in the kitchen for the staff to see. The kitchen staff write the ingredients for each dish for the adults in the hall to refer to before so during lunch time the child's TA and the Midday Meals Staff will check each child's lanyard and will show them which foods they can or cannot have each day.

If a child has allergies that are in most of the foods each day we may suggest that they bring a packed lunch to school instead so they can have enough food that meet their dietary needs.



## Behind the scene from our School Kitchen wtih Stella and her Team



Our wonderful school kitchen is run by Head of Kitchen Stella Ogbeide and her team of 7 who prepare all lunchime meals, and packed lunches for trips while making sure all our children and staff have a well balanced meal. They also lovely prepare many of our cakes for our school events.

Head of Kitchen Stella is a well experience school cook and has been working in school kitchens for over 26 years, she has been Head of Kichen since 2015 with the majority of her career spent within the borough of Tower Hamlets. We asked Stella about her day and what made her become a school cook.

**Stella:** The kitchen is not just about preparing meals, but also about the Health & Safety within the kitchen when preparing food. When I arrive in the morning it's all about hygiene and making sure I'm prepared and the kitchen is ready for the rest of the team.

Firstly, I prepare myself by washing my hands and changing into my working uniform for the day. Fridge temperature and it's content need to be checked on a daily basis along with the weekly delivery. This is very important when accepting frozen good because this always needs to be at a certain temparature or we cannot accept it. Ovens need to be turned on as they take at least 30 mins to warm up. I then look through any paperwork I might have and answer any emails.

I have been cooking for a very long time and i get real enjoyment cooking for children. I love seeing our children here at John Scurr enjoying the meals I prepare with the team, while watching them as they grow and move up the school.

Over the years what are the meals that the pupils here really enjoy?

**Stella:** There are several meals which are their favourite from roast chicken, pasta bake, quiche to curry and rice.

When your not cooking in school what is your favourite meal to cook at home?

**Stella:** My favourite meal to cook at home it Jolef rice and spicy chicken. Maybe one day I will get the opportunity to cook it for everyone here.

Thanks Stella for your time, we'll let you and your team get on with preparing today's lunch.





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

# LUNCH MENU

## Nov 2024 - Apr 2025

| Week 1 | Monday 'Planet Earth Day' | Tuesday 'Street Food Day' | FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day' | Thursday Lebanon | Friday 'Favourites ' |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dates | 04 Nov 2024 • 18 Nov • 02 Dec • 16 Dec • 30 Dec • 13 Jan 2025 • 27 Jan • 10 Feb • 24 Feb • 10 Mar • 24 Mar • 07 Apr | | | | |
| Option 1 | Baked Ricotta & Spinach Cannelloni with Tomato Sauce | Beef, Pepper & Onion Pizza with Spicy Diced Potatoes | Chicken Sausage with Mash Potatoes & Onion Gravy | Chicken Shawarma with Lebanese Rice or Lebanese Flatbread | Cod Fish Fingers with Chips |
| Option 2 | Vegetable Strips Stir Fried with Noodles | BBQ Pulled Jackfruit Burger with Spicy Diced Potatoes | Vegetable Hotpot | Falafel in Sumaq & Za'atar Sauce with Lebanese Rice | Lentil & Vegetable Dahl with Rice |
| On the side | Sliced Carrots and Peas | Sweetcorn & Green Beans | Roasted Cauliflower and Carrots | Green Vegetable Medley | Garden Peas and Baked Beans |
| Salads | Mixed Green Salad | Crunchy Red Coleslaw | Chef's House Salad | Fattoush Salad | Macedoine of Vegetable Salad |
| Dessert | Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings | Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick | Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad | Banana & Date Yoghurt | Apple & Sultana Yoghurt with Rice Krispies |

DAILY OPTIONS: DAILY SALAD & SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT PLATTER FRESH BREAD & YOGHURTS

| Week 2 | Monday 'Planet Earth Day' | Tuesday 'Street Food Day' | FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day' | Thursday Ireland | Friday 'Favourites' |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dates | 11 Nov 2024 • 25 Nov • 09 Dec • 23 Dec • 06 Jan 2025 • 20 Jan • 03 Feb • 17 Feb • 3 Mar • 17 Mar • 31 Mar • 14 Apr | | | | |
| Option 1 | Macaroni Cheese | Italian Beef Meatballs Marinara Subroll with Cajun Diced Potatoes | Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy | Irish Beef Stew with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes | Battered Pollock Fillet or Bubble Salmon Fillet with Chips |
| Option 2 | Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Balti with Rice | Vegetable Nuggets with Katsu Curry Sauce and Rice | Butterbean, Butternut & Vegetable Patty with Roast Potatoes & Gravy | Vegemince Shepherd's Pie | Quorn Frankfurter Hotdog with Chips and Homemade Tomato Sauce |
| On the side | Green Vegetable Medley | Broccoli & Sweetcorn | Green Beans & Cauliflower | Green Cabbage & Carrots | Garden Peas and Baked Beans |
| Salads | Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons | Tomato & Pasta Salad | Chef's House Salad | Potato Salad | Crunchy Coleslaw |
| Dessert | Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings | Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick | Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad | Raspberry & Mango Fruit Fool | Apple & Banana Yoghurt Crunch |

DAILY OPTIONS: DAILY SALAD & SEASONAL FRESH FRUIT PLATTER FRESH BREAD & YOGHURTS

Please Note that some dishes maybe subject to local changes to suit individual school needs

NEW AWARD

BRONZE proveg SCHOOL PLATES AWARD

Pro Veg recognises that OUR healthy menus are environmentally friendly for humans, animals and the Planet.



All our Vegan & Vegetarian recipes are packed full of nutrition including PROTEIN & FIBRE to keep children healthy & happy.

VEGAN VEGETARIAN

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**
Every effort is made to minimise risk of cross-contamination. However, it should be noted that our food is prepared in a kitchen where known allergens may be present and therefore the risk of cross-contamination remains a risk. Please ask staff for further details regarding specific dietary requirements and/or allergens.

Congratulations!



Contract Services CPU team were WINNERS at the Staff Awards Ceremony for "Excellent Support Services"

Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS

TH - BASE MENU

## DT and Food Festival

Healthy eating is at the heart of our DT curriculum. From the very beginning, learning about the benefits of fruit and vegetables in our diet and how to prepare them safely, to baking bread and understanding the processes involved in taking disparate ingredients and combining them to make something both delicious and nutritious. The children are not only immersed in the world of healthy eating, learning how to discuss the benefits of fresh rather than processed foods, but also the exciting possibilities of cultural exchange that takes place over diverse and nutritious cuisines.

This varied approach the food education at John Scurr develops our children's food preparation skills. From slicing, grating and peeling, to ribboning kneading and caramelising, every stage of food preparation is introduced and built upon and honed. Children at John Scurr understand why a healthy diet is important for our bodies, and how to prepare a meal that nourishes both the body and the mind.

By visiting our Julia Scurr edible garden both in their gardening lessons and as part of their DT and science learning, each child is able to build on this high-quality food education. Through planting, harvesting and using the wide variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs in our edible garden, our children learn the importance of including locally sourced ingredients in their cooking. It is so wonderful to see the children experience such joy when growing and nurturing their very own produce.

All this excellent learning will culminate in our DT Food Festival in June, where children from Early Years, right up to Year 6, will take part in our Mexican Food Festival. From making guacamole and burrito bowls in early years and reception, to preparing sophisticated vegetarian tacos in year 6. All our children across the school will have the opportunity to celebrate their DT learning and share their skills, experience and passion for a healthy and varied diet with our wonderful John Scurr community.









## Produce from our Julia Scurr Garden Enterprise






## A Year of Delicious Discoveries in Reception

What an incredible year it has been for our Reception class! This year, we've had a fantastic time sampling a myriad of delicious foods, and it's been heartening to watch our little ones engage so enthusiastically with healthy eating.
Our healthy snack times have been a delightful experience, where the children have taken on the role of chefs, preparing their own snacks. From toasting bread to creating bowls of cereal and porridge, and not to mention a delightful selection of fresh fruit and vegetables, the skills they've developed have been impressive.
We've been encouraging food preparation and tasting throughout the year, which has introduced the children to a world of flavours.

One of the highlights was undoubtedly when the children sampled dumplings from China. The joy on their faces as they tasted these was priceless! Following that, they savoured a lovely Mediterranean spread of pita, tzatziki, and hummus, which was a big hit. The creativity didn't stop there; our budding chefs also prepped and enjoyed their very own rainbow wraps packed with a variety of fresh vegetables. As a special treat, we even fried and tasted plantain, a staple from the Caribbean, which prompted a lot of excited chatter!

Not only have these activities been about enjoying good food, but they've also fostered the development of essential cooking skills like chopping, cutting, mixing, and spreading. These activities have significantly enhanced their fine motor skills as well.

What's truly remarkable is how involving the children in this culinary journey has positively affected their eating habits. They're now more willing to try new foods, and it's evident that their taste buds have matured. Here's to many more delicious adventures ahead!





## Year 4 - Park Life

Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful 'Park Life' visit to the Stratford Olympic Park in April. Before our visit, the classes spent some time to understand the legacy of the 2012 London Olympics, focusing on how this major sporting event regenerated a part of our local area.

We toured some of this large park and appreciated how some of the stadiums and nature reserves have been created for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Year 4 children had a wonderful time reconnecting with each other, through playtimes, in the extensive public playgrounds. They also enjoyed observing the signs of spring, despite the rainy weather. We hope to return to the park this year, to observe the changes from spring to summer and to enjoy better weather on our second visit.





*Ajanta Kibir*

## YEAR 6 SATs - Well Done to all our Y6 pupils

**Well Done Year 6**

Congratulations to Year 6 pupils, who have just completed their Year 6 SATs assessments. The tests, which ran over four days last week, were a chance for pupils to demonstrate their incredible hard work and achievements. Children have been putting in maximum effort since September, but of course this work merely builds on all of their effort and learning in previous years.

Many children have done extra learning this year, attending lessons before and after the school day, so that they can maximise their knowledge and get themselves ready for the end of Year 6 and the start of secondary school. We realise that this attendance also requires the help of families – so a massive thanks to those who have supported their children by ensuring that they can attend extra sessions.

The SATs tests themselves went smoothly, with many adults in school – from Support Staff to SLT – joining the Year 6 teaching team to support children on test days. We felt that the questions were fair and in line with our expectations. So now we are waiting excitedly for the results to be published in early July. We are hopeful that they will be further cause for celebration.

Until then – well done again to all of our Year 6 pupils for your accomplishments so far this year.

*Joe and Ellis*

## Big Ticket End of Year Event




Dear Parents

The end of the term is coming – you will see our Summer Term Roadmap begin to appear across the school to help us plan for the last 8 weeks of school.

We will hold one new event at the end of term to celebrate attendance and excellent progress, effort and behaviour of selected pupils.

This will be a **family celebration that we will hold on Tuesday 22nd July from 8 45am.**
We are arranging for the bottom hall to be decorated and will supply a breakfast banquet of food for any child selected by their teacher over the next 8 weeks.

Each child can bring along their parents too. Those **children with 100% Attendance for the full year** will automatically be selected and then in addition to that teachers can choose up to 3 children from every class to win the BIG TICKET for the term.

BIG TICKET winners will be announced in assembly and include a letter to you – if your child wins the ticket- Please keep it safely!

*Maria Lewington*

## VE ( Victory in Europe) Day Trip to the Tower of London

Simmonds Class, Rashford Class and Zephaniah Class had a fantastic day out to the Tower of London this half term to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

The classes had a great day in the sunshine, exploring the tower and getting a glimpse of the poppies which are on display for VE day. They also had the opportunity to see the remains of the Roman Wall and to walk across the historic Tower Bridge, waving at the passing boats!

It was a really lovely opportunity for the children to learn about and reflect on the significance of VE day and the end of the war 80 years ago. The children gave a lot of thought and thanks to the people who lost their lives and spent time considering the impact of the successes of that day in 1945.

*Sophie Lewis & Thomas Cottom*





**We discussed the symbolism of poppies and decorated paper poppies while sat on the steps outside the tower. We also went up onto Tower Bridge and looked across the view of London, all the while thinking about how lucky we are to live in this city thanks to the sacrifice of those who fought for freedom 80 years ago.**



# Governors' Awareness Day 2025



**Kevin Hinde - Chair of Govs**
Chair of Curriculum and Standards, Safeguarding and Health and Safety Lead. I became a governor at John Scurr Primary School in 2008 and I have been Chair of Governors since 2018



**Xina Li - Chair of Finance**
Finance Committee I became a governor at John Scurr Primary School in 2019 and I have been Chair of the Finance Committee since 2021.



**Julie De Young- Co-opted**
Finance Committee & Inclusion.
My professional life has included a significant amount of time working in the voluntary sector providing support to vulnerable people of all ages.



**Cllr Sirajul Islam- Local Authority**
I have been a governor of John Scurr School in excess of 20 years. All my children as well as nephews and nieces attended this school. I have seen the evolution of the school over the past 20 years to the present one under Maria Lewington's leadership.



**Emily Purdy- Cop-opted**
Safeguarding Vice Lead- Curriculumn Committee & Early Years. I studied French and German at Durham University followed by a year in China teaching English as a foreign language before training to become a solicitor. I now work as a lawyer for a small business lender.



**Kamal Uddin - Parent Gov**
Curriculumn Committee. I have lived in Tower Hamlets for the past 35 years and work in a local GP practice for the past 15 years, where some of my time is spent on clinical work as well as being the IT lead.



**Kamal Uddin - Co-opted Parent Gov**
Curriculumn Committee. I am currently working for a charity and based in one of HM Prisons, supporting offenders on their road to rehabilitation and re-joining society. As a part of my professional development, I run peer led groups and coach prison mentors, as well as oversee rehabilitation programs we run in our unit.



**Hasan Miah - Parent Gov**

**On the 8th of May members of the John Scurr Primary governing body visited the school for their annual Awareness Day. This is an opportunity for governors to visit and gather first-hand experience of how the school operates during the daytime.**

A theme for the day was handwriting- we observed how the children are being taught the physical skills they need for handwriting, starting with the very youngest children in nursery. These skills and exercises, which build core strength, are repeated in more depth through each year group until the children are confident holding a pen and writing with it.

We also had a look at maths teaching, and how the maths curriculum promotes the development of key skills like "number bonds" and times tables, from early years until they are second nature.

Governors joined in the new family-style dining at lunchtime and were impressed by how the new layout made a more friendly and social atmosphere at lunch, with older children encouraging the younger ones to eat healthily and try a range of new foods. After lunch we joined in the fun in the playground.

In the afternoon, the Pupil Voice Committee spoke confidently about the process of choosing a new naming scheme for the classes.

When the school day ended we met representatives of the Women's Inclusive Team who spoke to us about the experience of Black and Ethnic Minority families and how best to support them.

The long day finished with our usual governing body meeting, where we reviewed the vision, strategy and finances of the school, and heard about plans for the future.

On behalf of the governing body I would like to thank all of the staff and pupils for taking the time to welcome us, and showing us what they are most proud of in this excellent school.

--
Kevin Hinde
Chair of Governors

## Chris McCullum - New School Governor

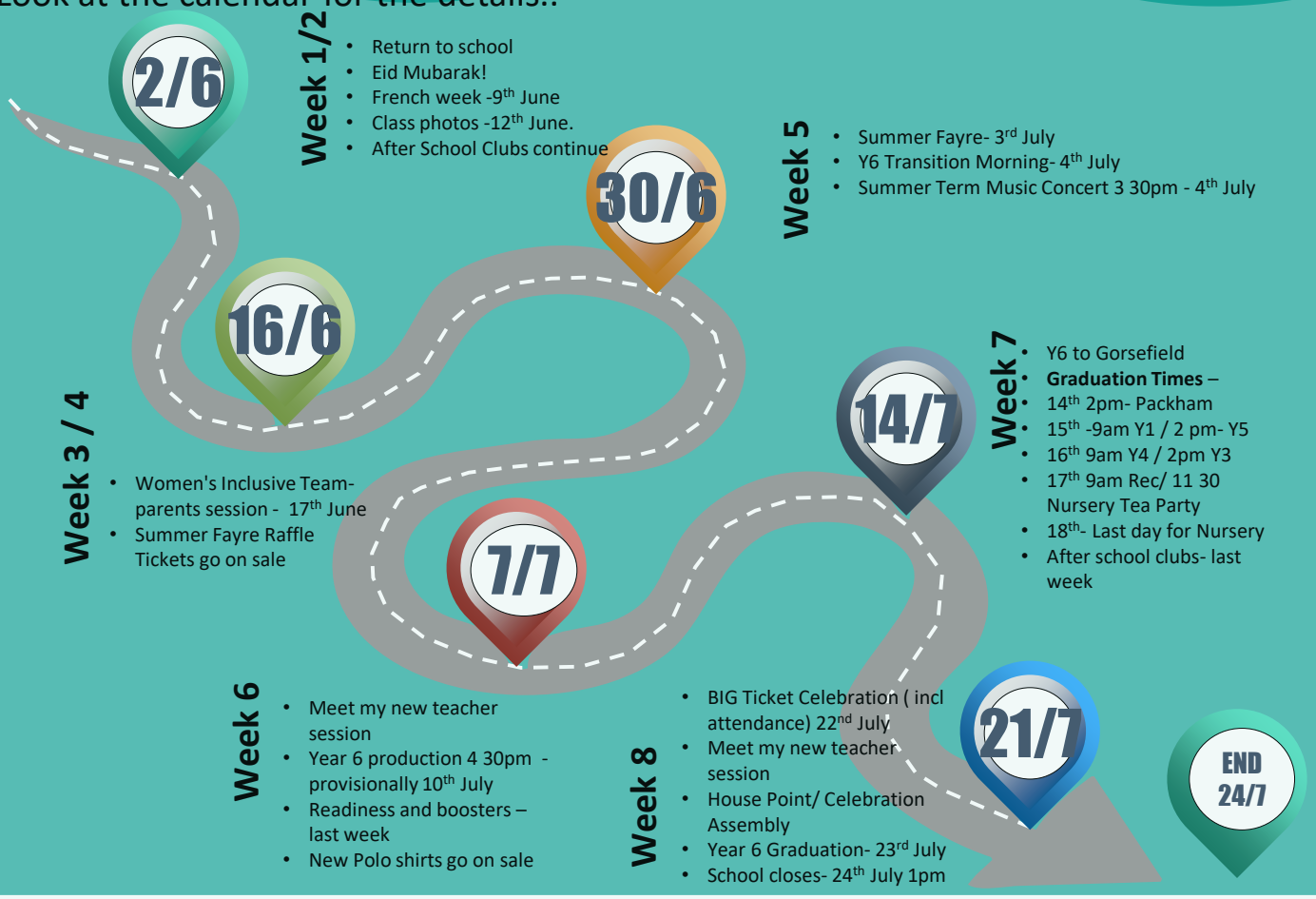


I joined John Scurr as a Governor in Spring 2025, having started working in Tower Hamlets just over a year prior to that, as the School Business Manager at Morpeth School. I have been a school leader for 6 years now, and alongside my work with John Scurr, I am a governor at two other primary schools in my home Borough of Bexley. I am also treasurer of my children's primary school PTA.

*Chris McCullum*

# Summer Term 2025 Road Map

Look at the calendar for the details..




**Week 1/2**

- Return to school
- Eid Mubarak!
- French week -9th June
- Class photos -12th June.
- After School Clubs continue

**Week 3 / 4**

- Women's Inclusive Team- parents session - 17th June
- Summer Fayre Raffle Tickets go on sale

**Week 5**

- Summer Fayre- 3rd July
- Y6 Transition Morning- 4th July
- Summer Term Music Concert 3 30pm - 4th July

**Week 6**

- Meet my new teacher session
- Year 6 production 4 30pm - provisionally 10th July
- Readiness and boosters – last week
- New Polo shirts go on sale

**Week 7**

- Y6 to Gorsefield
- **Graduation Times** –
- 14th 2pm- Packham
- 15th -9am Y1 / 2 pm- Y5
- 16th 9am Y4 / 2pm Y3
- 17th 9am Rec/ 11 30 Nursery Tea Party
- 18th- Last day for Nursery
- After school clubs- last week

**Week 8**

- BIG Ticket Celebration ( incl attendance) 22nd July
- Meet my new teacher session
- House Point/ Celebration Assembly
- Year 6 Graduation- 23rd July
- School closes- 24th July 1pm

# School Uniform Change

Governors agreed on the 8th May to include a small change into our Uniform from September. All children will wear the colour of the 'House' they belong to as a polo shirt under their John Scurr sweatshirt – which remains the same. All other aspects of the uniform will stay the same.

**In order to support this improvement:**

- We have tried to ensure that family members are in the same house – this will help with passing on of uniform. (Please let us know if this isn't the case for your family)
- We will provide the polo shirts as part of a Pop Up uniform school from the end of term – watch this space.
- Governors have asked for the shirts to be affordable and easily accessible and we will aim to deliver that.

**Why the change?**
This year all pupils have been in a house and collect house points for excellent progress, effort and behaviour. These points add to a shared celebration at the end of term.

Pupils are sometimes unsure of their House and we would like them to develop school pride and a sense of belonging for their House.

Each house is names after one of our 5 Rs (we have also added Responsibility) and also a colour – the polo shirts will help to reinforce the house they belong to and also the value they stand for.
Children will also take part in Coaching circles in their houses next year and this will help pupils find their circle efficiently.

Look out for more information in the coming weeks. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you about the summer uniform-

Blue gingham dresses
Grey skirts
Grey trousers or grey school style shorts
White or grey leggings (if required)
White or blue polo shirt(currently) or school shirt.
Short pull on hijabs in 'John Scurr Blue' or White
Water bottles and sun hats
Stud earrings – no other jewelry.
Black shoes – suitable for running (not strappy sandals)



On most days' sweatshirts, cardigans and coats are not needed during the summer school day and should be left at home.





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