Issue No.8
End of Term 2025

John Scurr Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The song says ' Its the most wonderful time of the year!' But I think that song is a bit misleading.. because this time of year we get a bit sick, the days are very short and the weather is very cold! Perhaps its more about the opportunities that this time of the year gives us to be together and enjoy each others company- even if we don't all celebrate Christmas! In recent weeks we have seen you all for Parents Meetings (1:1) , and the Winter Jamboree - we see you every week for our 'Stay and Play' and 'Stay and Learn' sessions . As I write this I can hear the practicing for the 'Music and Mince pie' concerts and all the singing and rehearsals for the performances in the school to mark the end of term.

'The most wonderful time of the year' - might be a bit of a stretch but it is a great time to just reflect on how your child has progressed from their starting point in September to where they are now- perhaps you have noticed something about their learning that has impressed you or inspired you to find out more. We remain proud of all our children and hope that you too can see them being' the best that they can be!'

Thanks to you all for taking part on our Survey - the responses of the questions are on page 17-20

Overall things are very positive but we do accept that there is always room for improvement and next term we will run some Wednesday Workshops on some of the issues that you would like more information about - Spelling , Homework , Our anti bullying curriculum and your child's progress in school. Look out for these.

As it is the end of the term - we will be saying goodbye to some staff .

Fabienne and Deepa will be leaving us . Deepa has been a TA for 2 years in Year the school and before that worked as a Phonic Support assistant. Fabienne has been the teacher in Year 2 and before that across Key Stage 2 for the past 7 years . We will miss them both and wish them well for their next venture. Ines will join Hibiscus Class as their teacher .

Shakina and Lauren - have both left to start their Maternity Leave - we wish them well in the greatest adventure ever- Motherhood!

Alessia will be moving to 3 days a week so that she can finish her Educational Psychology qualification and so we welcome Samad as the part time teacher in Waterlily class.

Recruiting excellent staff for our school is made so much easier by the fact that I can confidently say ' we have a very respectful and supportive relationship with parents' - this ensures that future grooming our pupils with the very best teachers in London is much easier than in schools where relationships between the community and the school are not as positive as it is here at John Scurr.

And so this brings me to a final thanks to you as parents for working so hard with your children to help instil the 5Rs and to ensure that their attendance is the best and that if you have a concern or worry - you share this directly with us so that we can work together to help find a way forward.

I hope your winter holiday is restorative and restful and both Keeley and I look forward to seeing you all on the 6th January for the start of the Spring Term!

Happy Holidays...

Maria Lewington

Maria Lewington (Executive Headteacher)

Our New Reading Garden Library is Open

We are thrilled to announce that our brand-new Reading Garden Library is now open to all children at John Scurr. This beautiful space marks an exciting step forward in our commitment to reading for pleasure. Designed to spark curiosity and imagination, the library will play a key role in our Reading Pledge, giving every child regular opportunities to enjoy books, build stamina and discover new authors.

Reception and Year 1 will visit each week for a dedicated story time. Pupils in Years 2 to 6 will visit weekly on a rotating cycle: one week to borrow and return books, and the following week for a shared story session. This ensures all children experience both independent book choice and rich communal reading.

We also thank our families for encouraging their children to stay committed to the school Reading Pledge. Please continue to support your child by helping them to read regularly and return their library books in good condition.

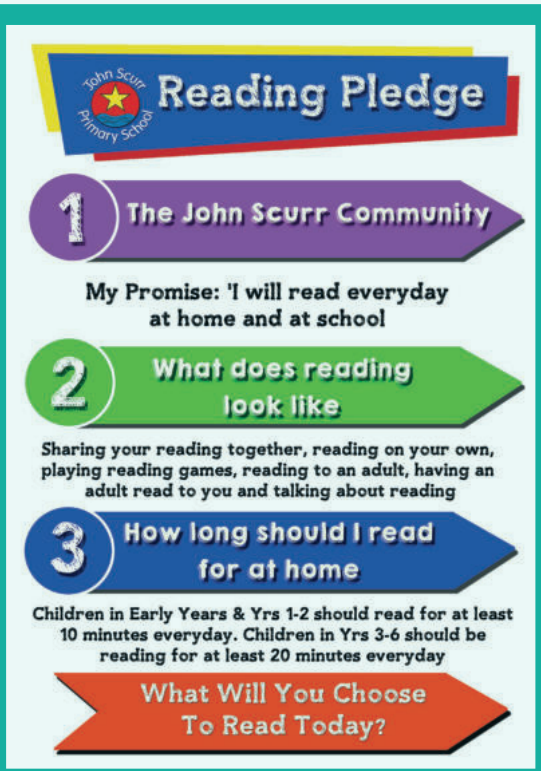
Finally, we celebrate Yaseen in Year 2 Hibiscus Class, our first librarian. Yaseen helped to prepare and shelve new books with great pride. Thank you, Yaseen!

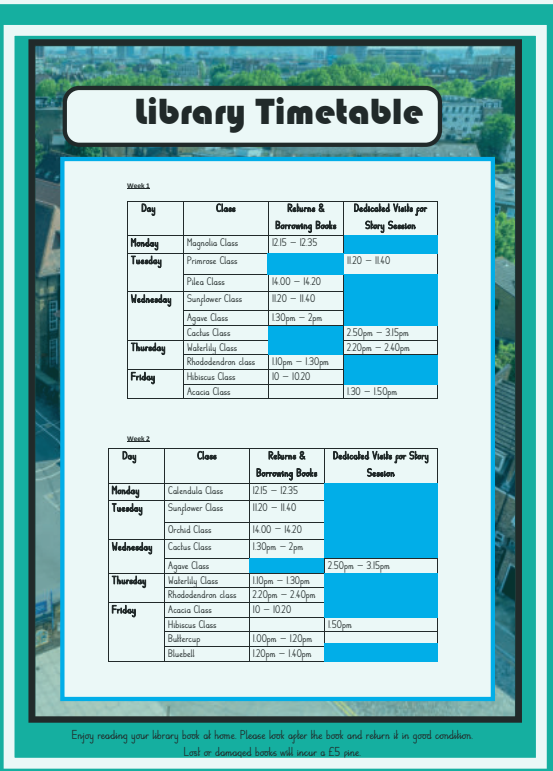






Joanne Power - AHT





The Most Wonderful Time of The Year

What a joyful way to end the term! Our Winter Jamboree was a real celebration of our school community. We were lucky with the weather, and it was wonderful to see so many children and families excited to join us for the afternoon. There were bubbles to pop as you arrived and our very own Howard Rose busking under the canopy to welcome everyone in. A surprise band of brave children even took to the mic to sing a Christmas favourite!

Across all three floors used for the first time this year families enjoyed a little more space to browse books, toys, food and gifts, play games and dance at the free disco on the bottom floor. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped to create such a warm, festive atmosphere.

Our weekly parent calendar gives a taste of the rich experiences John Scurr Primary offers beyond the national curriculum: trips to museums, temples and parks; Coaching Circles; Debate Mate; Breakfast Boosters; Stay and Learn sessions; ESOL classes and Positive Parenting workshops; visitors, theatre groups, music events and so much more. These are planned to support children's learning and to welcome families into school life.

We are especially grateful for the way parents work in partnership with us during 1:1 meetings. These quieter, confidential conversations help staff to understand each child's needs so that we can best support and nurture them while they are in our care. Thank you for everything you do alongside us.

Keeley Alborough
Head of School

Rose Class - Learning & Laughter

It has been a wonderful Autumn term in Rose Class. The children have settled in so well into their new classroom environment and have been ready and raring to learn. The children are very keen to learn their core words through engaging interactions, symbols and songs. They have also reveled in the opportunity to take part in Sensory Circuit everyday where they improve their gross motor skills and regulation.

As well as this, the children have really enjoyed learning new nursery rhymes where they learn the words and actions and sing along. We have had lots of fun and smiles dancing away together. We have also enjoyed having Nancy from Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Service (THAMES) joining the class weekly to promote singing and playing musical instruments. We really look forward to our end of term celebration with parents to showcase the fantastic progress they have made.





Vicky Beedle

Everyday Adventure - Waterlily Class

In Waterlily Class, every day is an adventure filled with learning, laughter, and creativity. One of our favourite activities has been creating our own class newspaper.

Students had a wonderful time becoming reporters, photographers, and editors, sharing stories about school events, fun moments with friends, and the exciting things we discover together.

Science has been especially exciting this term. We explored the unique properties of water and were amazed to learn that it can exist as a solid, liquid, and gas.

Through hands-on experiments, we watched ice melt into water, water heat into steam, and steam cool back into liquid again. These simple investigations helped us understand how matter changes and why water is so important in our world.

Just like the waterlily that floats gracefully on a pond, our class continues to grow, learn, and shine. With curiosity, collaboration, and plenty of laughter, Waterlily Class turns every lesson into a chance to discover something new.

Alessia Ciacci - Class Teacher

School Vision statement ' We believe everyone should feel proud of the school community'

On Wednesday 3rd December we welcomed visitors from across the country to look at our curriculum- here are some the comments the visiting teachers and leaders said about the John Scurr pupils.

Pupils are really keen to share their knowledge. They work so well together and build, agree and disagree with one another in a respectful way.
Very impressive answers during pupil study. Especially impressive were the links to prior learning in history
It was lovely to see how much you thought about your learning and used your hand signs to show what you wanted to share with your teachers.
Wonderful attention in class, children seemed very focused on what they were learning.
Thank you so much for having us come into your lessons. Your vocabulary knowledge is brilliant and you all have such a positive attitude to your learning.
Absolutely incredible! On task, polite and independent.
The pupils are very engaged and interested in their learning and outcomes. I was very impressed with their understanding and knowledge of the curriculum.
-really engaged
- focused and relevant pupil talk/discussion
- care with presentations
I am very impressed by the way you respect each other in your classrooms. You listen to ideas and you are not scared to challenge, agree and change your opinions. This is mature and a very good way to approach learning and everyday life. I like the way you speak to your partners and engage with your learning. I was very impressed with what you know about your learning and I learnt some new art techniques listening to your learning.
It was a pleasure to see your enthusiasm and love for learning. You spoke confidently about your learning, listened to each other and built on each others' ideas. I love the way you disagreed with each other respectfully.
Beautiful behaviour and confident children engaged with their learning.
Children were extremely engaged, focus and routines were established. They independently referred back to their knowledge note
Pupils are calm and ready to learn. They are active learners and enjoy their lessons. They are eloquent and articulate.
Amazing knowledge and oracy. Their recall of previous year's knowledge was phenomenal.

Engaging well behaved
The pupils were very well behaved in every classroom. They were engaged and on task. The children who took part in the pupil book study were very knowledgeable and were articulate when speaking about their learning.
So engaged and interested in their learning. The books studies showed their enthusiasm and fabulous knowledge of what they had learnt. In all age ranges, children were focussed and ready to learn.
Your children are amazing. Engaged, respectful and hard working.
The pupils are a credit to the school. The knowledge they have of each subject and behaviour is fantastic.

. Your pupils were an absolute credit to the school. Their attentiveness and courtesy was extremely apparent. They way in which they engaged with each other, during paired talk, with enthusiasm and respect was excellent. I was very pleased to be greeted with hellos by the key stage 2 children returning from break. Finally and most importantly, they displayed strong levels of knowledge and a real pride in their learning.

School Vision statement **' We will see the good in others and others will see the good in me'**
Our visitors also reviewed the teachers and staff delivery of our CUSP curriculum this is what they had to say

It is so clear that you all have wonderful relationships with your children, your subject knowledge is so strong. The children are very lucky to have such a talented teaching team!
Clear approach to learning - sequence of lessons. Well trained. The clear whole school behaviour management approach which children understand and teachers all follow:

Thank you for sharing your practise with us. Teachers were consistent with their use of language and expectations of their children.
Teachers had great understanding of what they are teaching and covering. Their slides have relevant information on, knowing what the expectations of the children's work is to look like and prompts. It's very useful and helpful. Thank you for having us come and watch.
Everyone was calm and positive when addressing children and staff
Everyone was well equipped and knew exactly what they were doing
The pupil book looks were really interesting and showed us a variety across the school
Calm, friendly and interested in everything the children had to say.
Seeing the slides for History that had been amended was interesting and has given me inspiration to try this back at my school.
Consistency between classes is tight and that is impressive.
Opportunities for oral rehearsal and children's opinions and ideas are valued highly.
The adaptation of the slides supports learning I love the use of widgets and sentence starters.
Smiley and thorough with their subject knowledge and pupil relationship
Teachers subject knowledge shone through, there was a big focus on oracy and all staff had high expectations and challenging pupils.
Scaffolding is a real strength. Each teacher has high expectations of all children. Behaviour for learning is strong, which ensures classrooms are calm environments
Teacher's subject knowledge was excellent - they didn't rely on the slides to deliver the lessons. The slides were very minimal and well thought out. Adaptations were made to support all learners in the classroom so they can independently complete their work.
It was wonderful to see all the children throughout the school consistent in their application and behaviour. All the children knew how to respond and interact with others. They knew a lot and were very impressive during the book studies.

1. Staff are so supportive of the students in class and give such positive framing to their learning.
2. Staff are knowledgeable and clear in the direction of the children's learning and how it builds throughout school.
3. Learning is clearly aspirational and all children are challenged to show that.
Excellent subject knowledge. CUSP way of teaching consistent throughout the school. Expectations are high and again consistent throughout the school.
Each class room the teacher had a calming approach, and engaged all the students. The same approach was used across the board and technics from reception to yr 6.

A really impressive team of teachers. Each one demonstrated excellent preparedness and subject knowledge and you could tell the positive and caring relationships that exists between staff and children. The consistency of teaching expertise, from ECTs to senior teachers was also a standout. Learning Assistants are key part of the team, their interactions with children are positive and impactful and similar to teachers, they demonstrate excellent, knowledge, preparedness and relationships with the children.

Debate Mate Attend an Event in Westminster

Debate Mate is up and running at John Scurr for another year. We attended the launch event in Westminster at the start of November, where we watched a live debate from some expert adult debaters. We have a group of Year 5s who are new to Debate Mate this year. They are learning debating skills through games and other fun activities. Then we have our group of Year 6s, most of whom did Debate Mate last year.

They have experience of debating against other schools, so their mentors are focused on improving their skills in preparation for this year's competitions. Debate Mate runs every Friday from 3:15 - 4:15. Our first competition is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd February 2026. More details to follow nearer the time.

Tom Cottom
Debate Mate lead



Year 1's Busy Term - Primrose and Sunflower Class

The transition from Reception to Year 1 is one of the most important and difficult- that children will make in their entire school career. This year has been no exception but the children have done a fantastic job of adjusting to lots of new ways of learning.
One of the biggest new challenges has been starting coaching circles. Our intrepid Year 1s have shown resilience and bravery and are now independently walking to their circles where they are greatly impressing their older peers and their teachers.
Meanwhile, Y1 have also been busy in their classrooms, where they are building the foundations which will set them up for future success. Their knowledge and understanding are coming on in leaps and bounds and they are already so much more grown up than before.
We have been doing lots of singing in Singing Assembly and also in class. We can't wait to share all of the music we have learnt at our Winter Songs event in the last week of term.
And although Y1 don't attend Whole School Assemblies, we did join older children this term in a special Anti-Bullying Assembly. We had lots of fun and learnt lots about how to be kind to each other.

We can't wait to find out what next term brings!



Joe Bentley

Year 3 - Magnolia & Calendula Class

Moving from year two to three is a big transition as children move from Key Stage 1 to Lower Key Stage 2. This change brings new expectations, routines and increased levels of independence and responsibility. In year 3, the children have worked significantly hard within this term.

In writing, we are building our writing stamina with longer more structured writing. We focus on grammar lessons i.e., using paragraphs, inverted commas, expanded noun phrases. There are greater vocabulary expectations and more of a focus on independent writing and editing.

In math's, the children are learning numbers to 1,000, becoming proficient in column addition and subtraction, learning new times tables and delving in deeper to reasoning and problem-solving tasks. Year 3 work has been more abstract thinking in contrast to year 2.

In reading, we have read a diverse range of engaging texts while building the children's key skills to allow them to become expert readers as they get older.

As you already know, we have been fortunate in year 3 to embark on many educational visits based on the curriculum. Year 3 seemed to enjoy the Horniman Museum the most as it was an action-packed day. Other's included shandy park visit, the national history, the Soanes science center and SKS Swaminarayan Temple.





Stephanie Burke

Year 2 - Hibiscus and Acacia Class

Acacia and Hibiscus Class have settled well into Year 2, and it has already been an exciting and eventful autumn term. The children enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Young V&A, where they took part in a Technology workshop on AI. During the session, they explored Open Bionics' Hero Arm prosthetic and analysed their own fingerprints before creating artwork inspired by their unique patterns.

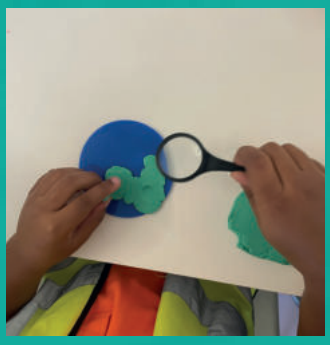
We also visited Bethnal Green Gardens, where the children observed signs of autumn and took part in drawings, labelling and bark rubbings. Another highlight was the Bigfoot Theatre Company's performance about the origins of Notting Hill Carnival and the Windrush Generation, which captivated the children with its storytelling, music and history. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are incredibly proud of them.

Dorothea Starck









Our Chess Club

Our Chess Club had an exciting and successful month, highlighted by our trip to the London Chess Classic. Fifteen members of the team had the incredible opportunity to play against a Grandmaster, learn from top-level chess tutors, and compete in a major tournament featuring more than 12 schools and over 100 participants.

We are proud to share that we placed 4th overall and brought home two individual gold medals and two bronze medals. The team also performed brilliantly in the second round of the Tower Hamlets Tournament, finishing 3rd overall with two additional individual gold medals and one bronze medal.

Well done to all our players for their dedication and outstanding achievements! We can't wait for next terms to continue having fun playing chess and developing our game.







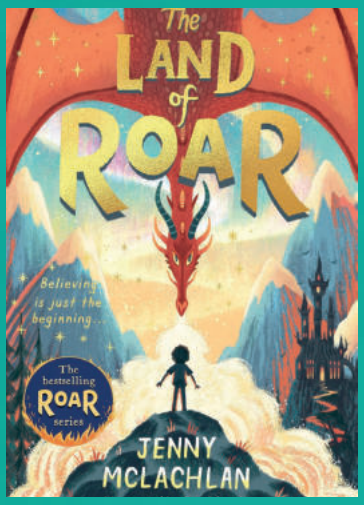
Thomas Costello

Year 4 - Orchid and Pilea Class

Year 4 have had a busy and exciting term! We proudly took part in the Big Sing, learning a wonderful set of songs before performing in a grand finale at the Town Hall in front of families from our school and others our pupils shone on stage and did exceptionally well. We also enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Olympic Park, where we explored how autumn affects our environment and made time for some outdoor play.

In the classroom, we finished reading The Land of Roar, which the children absolutely loved many are eager to dive into the rest of the series! This term, Year 4 have also become experts in column addition and subtraction, and have developed a strong understanding of states of matter in science. Well done, Year 4, for all your hard work!

Thomas Costello



ParaSport

Event 1: 6 children where taken, they played 2 games table tennis and a target game.

Event 2: 6 children where taken to Mowlem, they played 2 games Boccia and sitting Volley ball, staff where pull involved with the session which helped the children to enjoy the experience more and take some of the pressure from the coaches that deliverd the program.

The children where able to build confidence which promotes social intergration with other children with SEND

Jermaine Pemberton-Smith

Attendance Next Steps

This term we had 133 children who had 100% attendance and they celebrated with a visit from a theatre company on Thursday 18th December. The children had a wonderful time and would love the theatre company to visit again.

Attendance overall has been positive this term and we thank you for bringing your children to school everyday and trusting us to look after them even if they feel a little unwell.

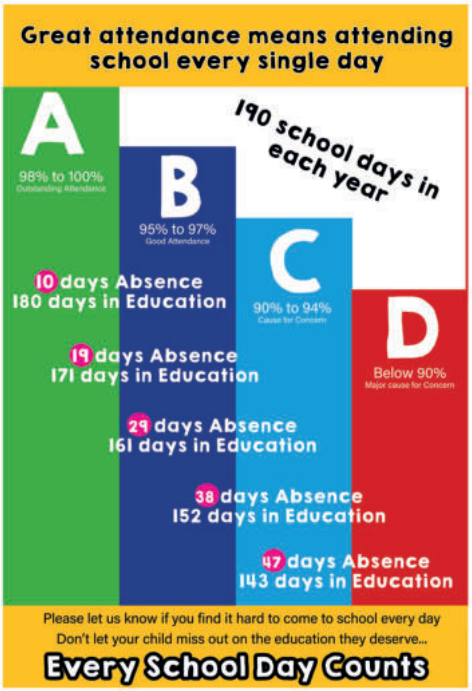
Some children have been absent from school for a number of days this term and as a result their attendance percentage has put them in the Persistently Absent band (Below 95%) or Severely Absent band (Below 90%). We understand that many of these absences have been due to authorised illnesses or unauthorised extended leave. If your child has an attendance percentage of below 95%, they will bring home a report so that you can see when they had absences and what they were for. This report is to keep you informed and share information with you.

In January we are going to be holding another incentive, called 'Target Tuesday'. Each Tuesday, any class that has 100% will receive a flower to stick to their door. At the end of the half term, the class with the most flowers will have 'Toy Tuesday' where they will play with toys and games on the last Tuesday of the half term.

Helen Davies

Attendance November - December 2025

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks (%)
Bluebell	91.43%
Buttercup	89.07%
Primrose	92.66%
Sunflower	94.68%
Acacia	89.5%
Hibiscus	95.64%
Waterlily	91.78%
Calendula	97.54%
Magnolia	95.36%
Orchid	94.11%
Pilea	94.84%
Agave	96.16%
Cactus	92.94%
Hellebores	95.13%
Rhododendron	91.19%



Syrihah Khahn - Attendance Administrator

John Scurr Primary School Centenary

In 2027, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of John Scurr Primary School. Our school building was named in honour of John Scurr, the Labour MP for Mile End between1923-1931. John Scurr and his wife Julia Scurr (a notable Suffragette) championed education for East End families in the 1930s. Here are 5 amazing facts about our school:





1. The exact founding date of John Scurr Primary School is not recorded in official government data. John Scurr School was likely established or renamed in the late 1930's- 1950's.

2. John Scurr Primary School used to be called Cephas St School in the 1920's. It is said that at one point, two separate schools used the same 3 storey building.

3. In 1942, a World War 2 bomb flew in through the window of the middle hall and blasted a hole into the floor. You can see photos of the bombing of Cephas St School on the London Picture Archives website.

4. In some parts of the school, you can still see the original tiles and metal bannisters on the stairs, that were built in the early part of the 20th century.

5. Today, we have an inclusive, award-winning curriculum with a proud list of awards including: Inclusion Quality Mark, PQSM Silver Award, the 5 Star Royal Horticultural Society Gardening School, Platinum Sing Up Award status and P4C Sapere Silver Award for Philosophical enquiry.
Why not start researching our school's history in the Christmas holidays? Visit your local history library and ask for help to find information.

Our Nursery and Reception Places for 2026

All parents are entitled to 15 hours per week of free nursery education for 38 weeks each year from the start of the school term after their child's third birthday until the child reaches compulsory school age i.e. the term after their fifth birthday.

Children will usually start nursery school or a nursery class attached to a primary school in the September following their third birthday.
If you are interested in applying for a nursery place please CLICK HERE

Tania Bashir

Year 5's Focus – Being the Best You Can Be

This term, Year 5 have worked hard across all areas of learning, with a strong focus on "being the best you can be." Pupils have consistently shown determination and taking pride in their achievements.

In writing, they have been developing ambitious vocabulary, improving their editing skills, and becoming more confident in expressing ideas clearly. They have also enjoyed writing adventurous myths and crafting balanced arguments.

In maths, children have been strengthening their fluency and reasoning skills, learning to explain their thinking, and approach problems with resilience. This positive mindset is helping them tackle more complex tasks with growing independence.
Reading has also been a key focus, with pupils engaging enthusiastically in oracy and demonstrating strong comprehension. Their curiosity and willingness to explore new texts are helping them grow as independent readers.

Behavior across Year 5 has been a real focus. Pupils show respect, responsibility, and kindness, and now need to maintain these behaviors as a cohort, continuing to work together as a supportive and collaborative team to be fully prepared for the next term.

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Iqra Aziz - Class Teacher

Our Year 6's - Final Year of Primary School

As Year 6 embarks on its final year at primary school, pupils are working hard to prepare for their upcoming SATs. In addition to their learning in school, children are encouraged to complete homework carefully and read their Accelerated Reader books for at least 30 minutes each day. This regular reading helps develop the stamina and focus needed to achieve their very best.

Punctuality and attendance remain key priorities. Arriving on time, ready to start learning at 8:45, ensures that every pupil makes the most of the school day. Missing even a single day can mean missing important learning, so consistent attendance is vital for success.

Beyond SATs, there is much to look forward to. Pupils will begin rehearsals for their end-of-year performance and take part in activities designed to prepare them for the exciting transition to secondary school. Year 6 is determined to make this final year one to remember.

Ellis Hewitt - Class Teacher



Breakfast Club & Walking Bus

Acacia Class and Hibiscus Class had a wonderful time learning how bread is made from wheat in the field to a warm loaf on the table. The children explored each stage of the process, discovering how farmers harvest, thresh and winnow the wheat to collect the grains before they are ground into flour at the mill.

The children enjoyed following a recipe to mix, knead and shape their dough. They were fascinated to see how the yeast made the dough rise during the proving stage and watched carefully as their bread turned golden and crusty in the oven.

Along the way, they learnt lots of new vocabulary, including threshing, winnowing, dough, yeast, knead, prove and bake. The activity linked beautifully to their learning in Science and History, helping them understand how natural materials are changed to make food.

By the end of the day, the school corridors were filled with the smell of freshly baked bread and lots of very proud young bakers! We hope that you enjoyed sharing the bread with your children.

Evelyn MacSweeney - AHT



Early Years Round Up

We are delighted to share that our children have settled in wonderfully to their new environments in the 2-Year-Olds, Nursery, and Reception classes. They have embraced the opportunity to learn in their new spaces and have built strong relationships with both their peers and staff in EYFS.

Throughout Autumn Term, the children have been busy learning new skills while also building on the foundations they have developed previously. They have enjoyed exploring and engaging with a variety of activities and learning areas such as cooking, construction and role-play.

Thank you for supporting your child in the Early Years and we look forward to continuing their learning journey in Spring Term!

Chloe Knight - Class Teacher

Ready Steady Elves!

This December, Bluebell and Buttercup classes had the joy of putting on a fantastic winter show. Santa and Mrs Claus were helped by the elves, snowmen, reindeer, and polar bears to get christmas ready in a hurry only to realise it was still November! Reception worked very hard to put on their show, learning so many different songs, actions, and speaking parts. Their teamwork really shone through in our practices, helping each other to remember their lines and how to use their props. We are incredibly proud of them all for their hard work, and how far they have come in such a short space of time already. They deserve a nice, restful holiday - just like the elves in our show!









Caitlin Schofield - Class Teacher

A big round of applause for our outgoing Pupil Voice Committee – you've been amazing!

They organised a brilliant disco for Children in Need, ran a super funny joke competition for Red Nose Day, and even helped choose the new class names. We'll really miss their energy, ideas, and smiles around school.

We're also excited to welcome our new PVC members! They gave fantastic speeches and answered questions from the old team with confidence and creativity.

You could really tell how much they care about making our school an even better place. Already, they have some brilliant ideas bubbling away, and we can't wait to see them in action.

Watch this space for fun events, exciting projects, and plenty of old and new for helping make our school such a happy and busy place!



Sophie Lewis

Rose Class Parents Join in with Play

Rose class invited parents to join them this morning to play, create and sing. A lot of fun was had!















End of Term House Points



4,131 **4,665** **5,055** **4,646** **5,103** **4,635**



Well Done 'Purple House' you are our Winner

Music & Mince Pies

Pupils from year 2 up to year 6 warmed a cold evening with their wonderful wintery tunes at the 3rd annual Music and Mince pies at John Scurr! Year 2s made their performance debut with impressive West African rhythms on the Djembes, their drumming tutor, Mawuli was very proud of them! Year 3s took their first tinkle into glockenspiels with heart warming nursery rhymes and Year 4 got us into the festive spirit with the winter classics 'Feliz Navidad' and 'What a wonderful world'.

The Music Ambassadors showed off their hard work and dedication to their musical craft with a rendition of 'Frosty the Snowman'. Following tradition, we had lots of song from the Year 4's Big Sing workshops with an Arabic tune 'Kun Anta' and 'Power in me'.

The fantastic and well attended evening was closed by our resident singing tutor, Howard, who accompanied everyone on his guitar with 'You've got a friend' by Carole King.

Another brilliant musical evening celebrating how music brings shared joy, teamwork and self expression to our pupils and our community!



Rebecca O'Brien

It takes a village to raise a child – African Proverb!

One of the key points that came up in the comments of our recent survey was the negative behaviour of a very small amount of parents waiting outside the school gate before drop off and end of day collection.

As a school we are really proud of the whole school community and how we get along even on a cold, dark and damp Monday morning! As a school we will monitor this in the coming term ahead but we ask for the whole community to embrace the impact we make when we all make friendly, kind and calm decisions and also to think about the impact of the negative behaviour (like pushing in and being angry) on our children and on one another.

It takes a village to raise a child lets be that village when we are outside of the school waiting to come in.

The senior team are able to have individual conversations about the impact of any parental negative behaviour on you should you wish to raise this so that we can maintain a peaceful start and end of day for our pupils.

We aim to work in partnership for the very best experience for our pupils.

Best wishes,

Maria Lemington



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

John Scurr Primary School Parent Self-Assessment Survey – PARENT RESPONSES

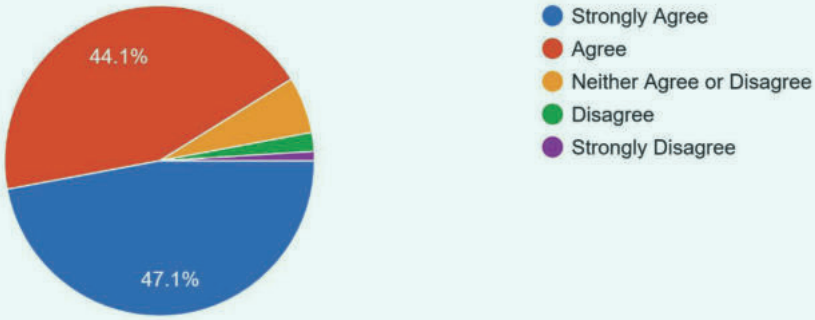
Child's Year

101 responses



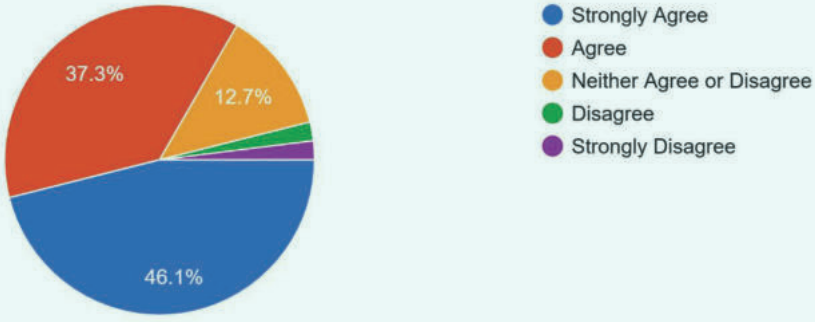
1. I am happy with the quality of education my child/ren receives at John Scurr Primary School.

102 responses



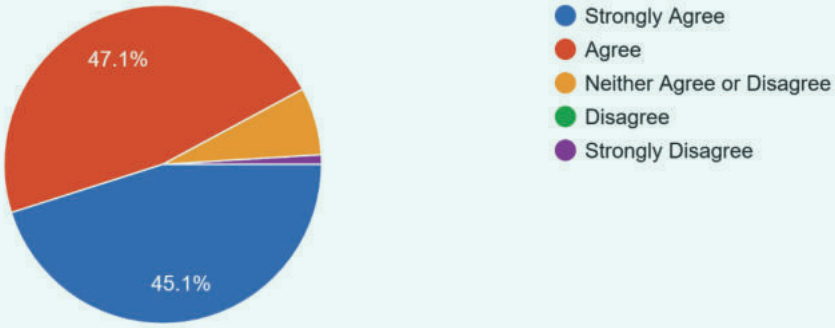
2. The school communicates clearly and regularly about my child's progress and school events.

102 responses



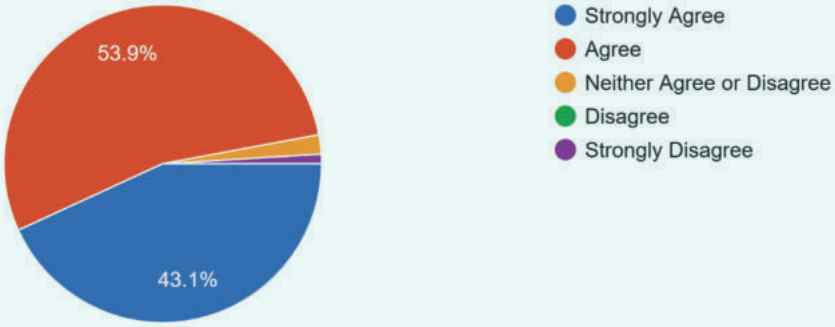
3. The school provides a safe and nurturing environment where my child/ren feel supported and cared for.

102 responses



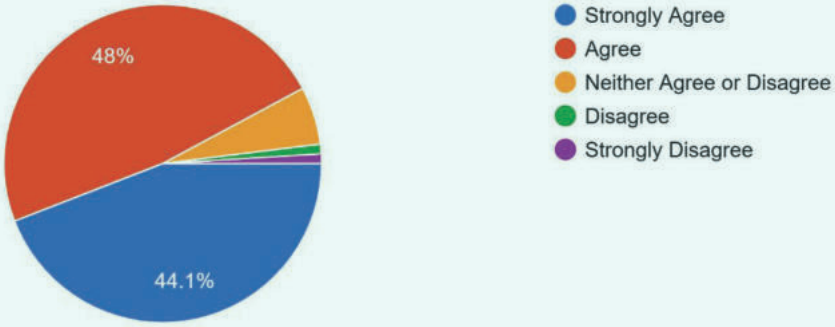
4. John Scurr Primary School promotes resilience, resourcefulness, and respect effectively through its values.

102 responses



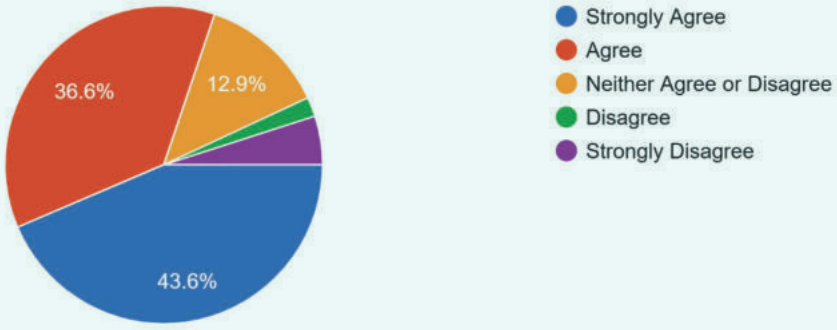
5. The curriculum at John Scurr helps my child/ren develop communication and thinking skills.

102 responses



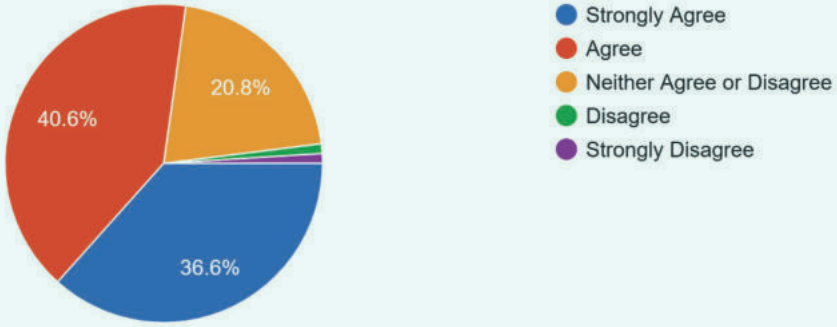
6. The two-week autumn half term has positively impacted my family's wellbeing and my child's attendance.

101 responses



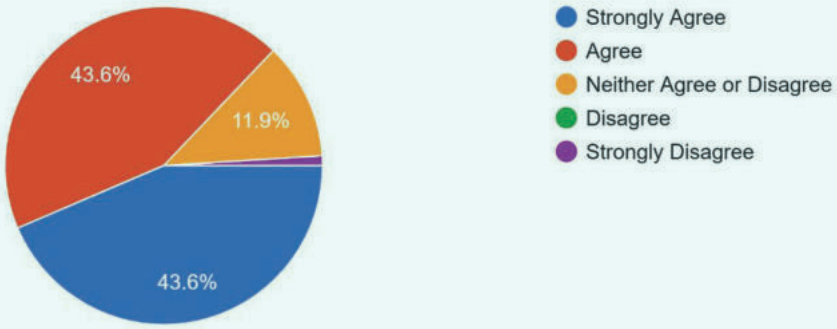
7. The school effectively supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

101 responses



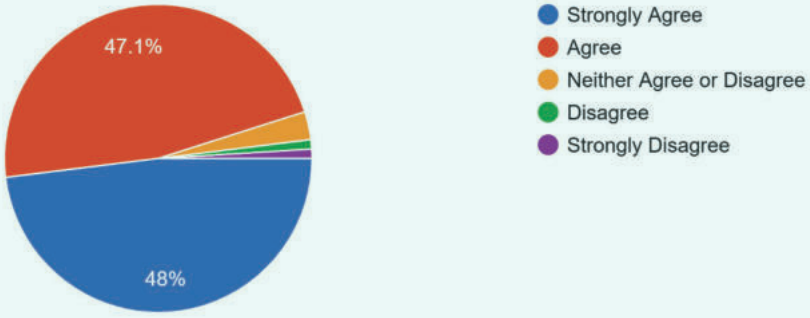
8. Breakfast Boosters and Tuition supports children's progress and school readiness

101 responses



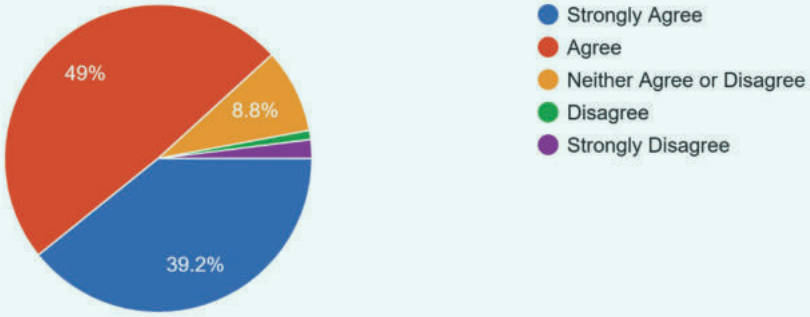
9. The school encourages and supports my child to embrace and respect diversity within the school community.

102 responses



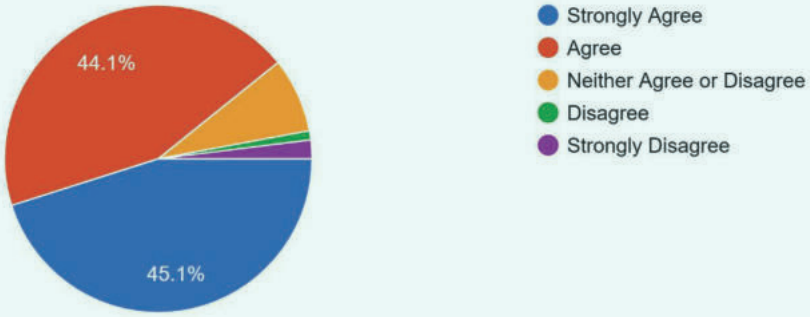
10. John Scurr provides a good range of extracurricular activities and visits that enrich my child's learning experience.

102 responses



11. I would recommend John Scurr Primary School to other parents/carers.

102 responses



Thank you for taking the time to share your views. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to continue improving John Scurr Primary School for all our children and families.

Parent Sessions for children attending Rose & Waterlily Classes



Speech and Language Therapy Workshops (Specialist Classroom)

Session Name	Date	Time	Room
Zones of Regulation and Emotions	Thursday 15th January 2026	10am-11:30am	Training Suite 2
Using Symbols to Communicate	Tuesday 3td February 2026	9:30am-3pm	Training Suite 1
Using a Core Board to Communicate	Wednesday 25th February 2026	10am-12:30pm	Training Suite 1
Eating and Drinking Workshop	Wednesday 22nd April 2026	10am-12:30pm	Training Suite 1

To book, email your name and child's school to: training@phoenix.towerhamlets.sch.uk

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CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2025 - Apr 2026



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Hungary	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	03 Nov 2025 • 17 Nov • 01 Dec • 15 Dec • 29 Dec • 12 Jan 2026 • 26 Jan • 09 Feb • 23 Feb • 09 Mar • 23 Mar • 06 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato, Basil & Mozzarella Potato Gnocchi	BBQ Veggie Chicken Tenders with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Veggie Bangers & Potato Wedges	Layered Cheesy Vegetables & Potatoes (Rakott Krumpli)	Vegetable Nuggets with Sweet and Sour Sauce & Rice
Option 2	Thai Red Vegetable Meatballs Curry with Noodles	Keralan Style Chicken Curry with Savoury Rice	Minced Beef Cottage Pie	Hungarian Beef Goulash (Pörkölt) with Potato Wedges	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
On the side	Sweetcorn and Green Beans	Broccoli & Carrots	Baked Beans & Peas	Raw Carrots & Sweetcorn	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Bean Salad	Crunchy Red Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Hungarian Cucumber Salad	Asian Noodle Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Apple & Cinnamon Greek Style Yoghurt	Dates & Banana Yoghurt

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 Brazilian	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	10 Nov 2025 • 24 Nov • 08 Dec • 22 Dec • 05 Jan 2026 • 19 Jan • 02 Feb • 16 Feb • 2 Mar • 16 Mar • 30 Mar				
Option 1	Macaroni Cheese & Sweetcorn	Margherita Pizza with Cajun Potato Wedges	Vegetable Hotpot	Black Bean & Vegetable Stew with Rice	Mediterranean Puff Pastry Tart with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Chicken Shawarma with Rice	Lemon & Herb Roast Chicken Thigh with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Feijoada with Rice	Battered Pollock Fillet with Chips or Jacket Potato with Tuna, Salmon & Sweetcorn Mayonnaise
On the side	Carrots and Broccoli	Raw Carrots & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Broccoli	Baby Corn & Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Beetroot & Spring Onion Salad	Carrot & Sultana Salad	Chef's House Salad	Brazilian Slaw (Salpicao Salad)	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Homemade Biscuit with Fruits	Mandarin 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

LOOK OUT FOR OUR POPULAR THEME DAYS.

DECEMBER Christmas Lunch

JANUARY National Pie Day

FEBRUARY Chinese New Year

MARCH Eid Celebration

MARCH World Book Day

FEBRUARY Pancake Day

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.

NEW AWARD BRONZE proveg SCHOOL PLATES AWARD

All our meat is halal حلال HALAL CERTIFIED

Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS

John Scurr