Issue No.9
Half Term 2026

John Scurr Newsletter

Our Vision

We will develop the confidence to think for ourselves, explore and take risks

We believe that everyone should feel proud of the school community

We will see the good in others and others will see the good in me

We believe everyone should learn new skills and grasp all of life's exciting opportunities

We believe we must grow healthy and strong and that we will know how to look after ourselves

Issue No.9
Half Term 2026

John Scurr Newsletter

Section 1: Celebrating Our Achievements

We are proud to be celebrating the National Year of Reading 2026, a national campaign that encourages children and families across the country to enjoy reading every day and to discover the joy, confidence and opportunities that reading brings.

At John Scurr Primary School, reading is at the heart of school life. This newsletter shares photographs and snapshots showing how reading is enjoyed and celebrated across our classrooms.

Thank you for supporting reading at home and helping us inspire a lifelong love of books.









Year 4 Library embassadors reading to our Year 1 pupils

Parent Workshops This Half Term - See Page 18

Thank you to the many families who attended our workshops this half term. Your time, commitment and enthusiasm make a real difference, and we greatly value working in partnership to help every child be the best they can be.

We welcomed families to our Phonics Screening Check update sessions for Year 1 and for Year 2 parents whose children are retaking the check. These workshops shared how phonics is taught in school and how reading and blending can be supported confidently at home. Year 4 parents attended a Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) and number facts workshop led by Ellis, focusing on expectations and practical strategies to build fluency and confidence. This was followed by classroom workshops led by Year 4 teachers, giving parents the opportunity to see these approaches in practice.

Reception parents also joined our Maths Stay and Learn sessions, exploring how maths supports everyday life and early number development.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children achieve and enjoy learning. Please look out for more exciting workshops next half term to further support your child's learning.

Joanne Power - Assistant Head Teacher





Calendula Class Reading Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians,
It has been an incredible term for our young readers! I am thrilled to share that the children have shown an outstanding commitment to the Accelerated Reader program. We have seen a significant shift in the classroom; reading is no longer just a task, but a daily highlight. The girls in Calendula class have been really enjoying the Judy Moody series and often surpass their daily targets.
The dedication shown toward meeting daily targets has been inspiring. The children are taking true accountability for their progress, eagerly tracking their points and celebrating quiz successes. This independence has transformed their reading for pleasure, as they now take genuine pride in exploring new stories.
Our shared reading adventures have been particularly vibrant. This year, we have delved into:

Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark (finding bravery)
by Katie and Kevin Tsang

Leon and the Place Between (exploring magic)
by Angela McAlister
Greta and the Giants (discussing activism) by Zoe Tucker

The Pebble in My Pocket (understanding history) by Meredith Hooper

Thank you for fostering a love of books within our school community!

Stephanie Burke - Class Teacher



Reception Class Reading Updates

Reading in Reception:

Bluebell and Buttercup class enjoy reading in their calm, quiet reading nooks! Their favourite books have been Traditional Tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and The Gingerbread Man. They have enjoyed re-telling the stories in play and singing nursery rhymes from Each Peach Pear Plum by Allan and Janet Ahlberg. Reception have discovered a wide range of books through Structured Storytime already this year, such as:

- I'm Almost Always Kind by Anna Milbourne
- Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper
- Mr Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley
- The Dark by Lemony Snicket
- The Squirrels Who Squabbled by Rachel Bright

Reception have celebrated their reading journey with their favourite book so far, Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. They enjoyed a 'campfire' with marshmallows and hot chocolate, with a reading of the story!

Many thanks,
Chloe & Caitlin - Class Teachers







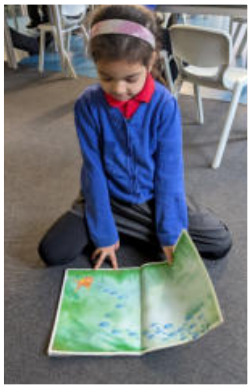
Reading takes an important focus in Year 1

Reading takes an important focus in Year 1, from our daily guided reading sessions, to our regular story times, to Library visits for special story time, to reading lessons, to reading and book exploration time during any lesson. All aspects of reading shine through in the Year 1 classrooms.

In our reading lessons we have explored a variety of texts, including:
Where the Wild Things Are
Beegu
The Storm Whale
The Owl and the Pussycat
The Boy Who Cried Wolf

These varied stories each focus on developing the children as readers, whilst connecting to their own personal experiences and areas of enrichment for young minds. All providing an excellent stimulus when both reading for instruction and reading for pleasure whilst prompting interesting conversation

While all children are showing a passion for reading that we are keen to nurture, we would like to recognise a few children who shine through reading. Well done to Amelia and Arham in Sunflower Class, who are both making excellent progress with their reading, and done also to Humaira and Prince in Primrose Class, who have each made fantastic progress in their Reading journeys this year.
Keep working hard to show how regular practice, coupled with a developing joy for reading, can help all readers to flourish.

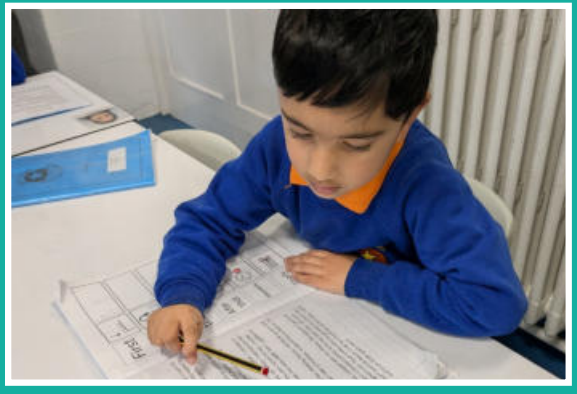






Laurie and Joe - Class Teachers





Reading in Rhododendron Class

Rhododendron Class have been working hard to be independent readers, who also take ownership of their progress on Accelerated Reader. We try to exceed the Reading Pledge of reading for 20 minutes each evening at home, so that we can tackle longer, more complex novels. We regularly read and quiz our books in class. As a whole class, we have read an amazing 9,733,285 words, so far this year.

The children in our class enjoy choosing books from the school corridor displays and the school library and our local libraries. This helps us learn that a main purpose of reading is to read for pleasure. We enjoy reading comic books, fantasies and graphic novels. We also read non-fiction to find out more information about subjects that fascinate us.
We are extremely proud of our Reading Millionaires: Izza (who has read 1,319,980 words) and Alamin (who has read 1,251,395 words). We hope to have many more Reading Millionaires before the year has finished.

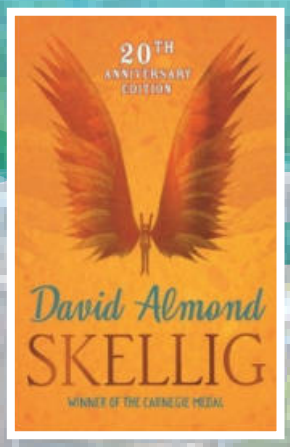
We have really enjoyed reading our core Year 6 texts, as part of our Reading lessons, this year. These books have helped us develop summarising, inference and retrieval skills.
Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell
Pig Heat Boy by Malorie Blackman
All Aboard the Empire Windrush by Jillian Powell
Skellig by David Almond

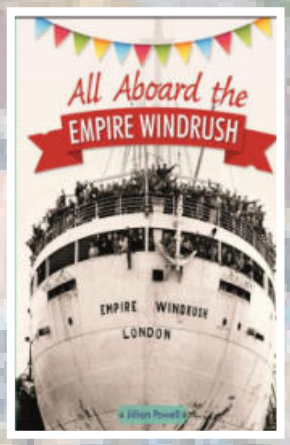
Ajanta Kabir - Class Teacher

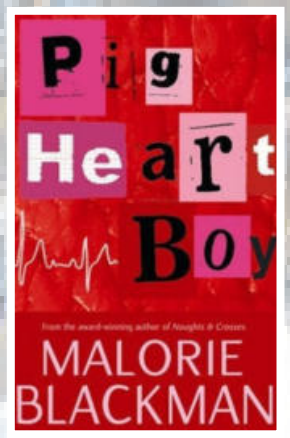


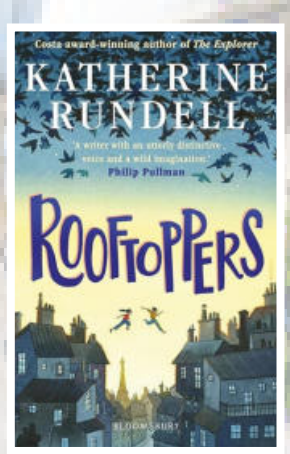












Section 2 Spotlight on Enrichment and Personal Development

At John Scurr, enrichment is not an add-on to learning; it is an essential part of how we help children grow into confident, curious and well-rounded young people. Alongside the academic curriculum, enrichment opportunities give pupils the chance to discover new interests, develop talents, and build the personal qualities that matter for life beyond the classroom.

Through trips, clubs, arts, sport, leadership roles and special events, our children learn to collaborate, communicate, persevere and take pride in themselves and their community. These experiences help them to build confidence, broaden their horizons and develop a strong sense of belonging. In this section, we are pleased to share a snapshot of the rich range of enrichment and personal development opportunities currently taking place across the school, and the positive impact they are having on our pupils.
Temple.

Keeley Alborough

After School Clubs - Spring Term

This Spring term we have the brand new clubs on offer! And still only £5 for the whole term! With clubs for all year groups spanning football to ballet to cooking to competitive chess! John Scurr pupils are spoilt for choice with what is on offer! This term we are delighted to share that we are working with the Royal School for Ballet in delivering ballet sessions for beginners. Additionally, we are working with award winning comedy show, Taskmaster, to deliver a club for all things silly, playful and fun. We believe clubs boost confidence, teamwork and belonging for our pupils and this can be seen by over a third of school pupils attending a club! Many pupils experience further exciting opportunities through clubs as pupils attend Chess tournaments, Football tournaments and Music performances both in Tower Hamlets and nationally. Take a look at the list of Spring clubs:

Club	Yeargroups	No. of places
Calm and Sensory Art club	Reception and Year 1	20
Cooking	Reception and Year 1	SOLD OUT
Ballet	2- 4	20
Chess	2- 6	SOLD OUT
Art	2- 6	SOLD OUT
Sewing and Embroidery	3- 6	20
Football	4- 6	SOLD OUT
Yoga	4- 6	20
Creative Writing club	4- 6	10
Taskmaster club	3- 6	20
Monday Gardening club	all ages	10







Rebecca O'Brien

CUSP Art Festival







It's been another exciting term in the world of Art at John Scurr as we celebrated this year's CUSP Art Festival. From the 26th to the 30th of January,
John Scurr became a true hub of artistry and expression. Focusing on 'Art, Technology and the World Around Us', every child from our youngest in 2-year-olds, to our oldest children in Year 6, had the opportunity to engage in the concept of belonging, and through the use of technology, each and every child was able to explore the world around us.

Taking a multi-media approach to art, using both iPads, laptops and creative resources, each child was given time to explore the school environment and take their own photos considering a variety of aspects including texture, composition and perspective. However, this was just step 1 of the process. Once the photos had been taken, the children used various techniques; from cropping, to using editing software and photoshop, all to edit their pieces and generate the greatest impact. All this aimed to achieve the ultimate challenge, 'How can I make someone go wow?'

Once the art had been created and edited, it was time for the gallery experience. Transitioning from artistic creators to appreciators, once again John Scurr Primary School became The John Scurr Gallery. Moving from classroom to classroom, with music played throughout, the wonderful pieces were given the space to shine.

With calmness and a genuine appreciation for both the artworks created and the efforts needed to create them, the gallery experience showcased each child's artistic flare whilst connecting each them to 'the world around us.' Needless to say, this year's Art Festival was another roaring success.







Laurie Hirschowitz

Debate Mate

On Tuesday 3rd February we hosted the first round of the Urban Debate League 2026. In total we had 160 students and teachers from around East London, which was the largest UDL that Debate Mate have ever run! Four teams from John Scurr competed, all children from Years 5 and 6. They took part in two debates: 'This house would ban junk food for children under 11' and 'This house believes everyone should read one book per month.' Our children represented John Scurr brilliantly. They were confident, professional and displayed outstanding oracy skills. Not only that, they won six out of the eight debates that they took part in!

Safer Internet Day 2026:

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet Day 2026. The theme this year is 'Smart tech, safe choices: exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' Artificial Intelligence is becoming a larger and larger part of everyday life, so it is vital that we teach our children how to use it safely. Children will take part in special activities during the week and we will send out a quiz for parents of KS2 children to do at home with their child. We encourage you to have conversations with your children about new technologies such as AI and you are always welcome to speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns regarding internet usage.

Tom Cottom



Year 5 -Annual Musical to the West End

On Monday 19th January Year 5 went on their annual West End Musical Theatre trip, and this year it was HERCULES THE MUSICAL!

A brand new west end musical that wowed the pupils! Pupils connect their learning of the Ancient Greeks in History with writing Greek Myths in Writing and wrapping it all up with experiencing professional performance. The musical helpfully supports pupils towards their Year 6 musical performance. All pupils had a fantastic evening! I would like to say thank you to all the staff that volunteered and attended an evening trip.

I would also like to thank our parents/carers who supported the trip with a later pick up of their children. And finally, thank you to Disney for awarding our school the tickets at a heavily discounted price that without, we would not have been able to attend.

Rebecca O'Brien





Harry Potter Night

Harry Potter Book Night was a truly magical experience for our whole cohort. From the moment the children arrived, there was a buzz of excitement as we celebrated our love of the Harry Potter stories together. Everyone took part in a range of fun, magical activities, including making their own wands and testing their skills in a lively game of Quidditch.

The children loved getting creative, working together, and fully immersing themselves in the wizarding world. To top off a brilliant evening, we all enjoyed pizza together, which made the night even more special.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for making sure all the children were dressed in their amazing costumes. They really helped bring the magic to life and made the evening even more memorable. A big thank you to all the staff involved for their time, effort, and enthusiasm in making the event such a success.

A special thank you to the Year 6 prefects for all the hard work they put in on the night their support and enthusiasm made a huge difference. We had an amazing time and can't wait to host next year's event!











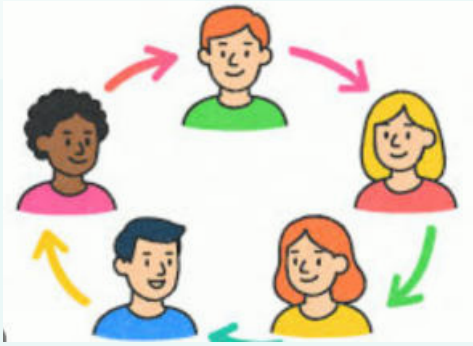
Sports & PE Round Up

Over the past 6 weeks in PE, students have taken part in an exciting and active Tennis lessons. This unit focused on developing fundermental skills, improving coordination and encouraging teamwork, confidence and sportsmanship. Working on hand eye coordination, balance, agility,grip stenght, racket control, volleying and rallying. The children showed great improvement and confidence.

The last two weeks of PE the children practiced Kingball, a fast pace game to help improve the quality of the game played at playtime. played in the playground.

Jermaine Pemberton-Smith

Coaching Circles



This term, the whole school community have worked hard across all areas of learning, with a strong focus on "being the best you can be." Pupils have consistently shown 'A coaching culture is where everyone is committed to each other's success'

In September this year we built upon our successful House system and Family style dining to create Coaching Circles across the school. These circles add to the inclusive offer of the school and ensure all the children feel like they belong.

Each pupil from Year 1 to Year 6 (Reception will join in the summer term) is allocated a coach (an adult in the school) and group of friends across the school to meet with 3 x a week. Currently this is Monday morning and Friday afternoon but we will be extending to Wednesday afternoons from mid-march.

In a coaching circle the children get to play games, talk about a something that has happened in the week, celebrate our successes and focus on all aspects of our school values. It builds upon our drive to ensure Oracy (Talk for Learning/ Presenting) is experienced in a meaningful way.

Each coaching circle starts with a 'Check in question':

- 'Would you rather be able to fly or swim under water?'
- 'What's your favourite item of clothing?'
- 'Would you rather eat a plate of spaghetti or a bowl of cereal?'
- 'What would your superhero power be?'

'Check in Questions' change every time we meet and are meant to be 'light' and enjoyable to answer and through this every child can be involved and all voices are heard.

Before implementing the circles, a group of teachers went to see them in action in schools across the country and in Morpeth too.
Here are some of the voices of the children talking about Coaching Circles:

- 'When I walk around the school now, children say hello to me and know my name - that's all because of coaching circles'
- 'I like meeting with my coach, he's also my sister's teacher so we now have something else in common.'
- 'My coaching circle is on the top floor- I have to walk up lots of stairs!'
- 'I like the games and my coach knows my attendance too - she is proud of me'

Next steps:
We would like you to meet with each coach and will organise an end of day collection on a Wednesday so that you can do this. Once this is set up - every Wednesday will be a coaching circle collection day. Look out for when this starts.
We would like to make 'John Scurr' TV to share with the children in Coaching Circles.

At home- why don't you try using some of the Coaching Circle questions

Maria Lewington

Maria Lewington

Dance Development

Movement Meets Learning: Creative Dance in Action

This term in Creative Dance, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils are turning learning into movement, exploring science, literature, and the natural world through solo, duet, and group choreography!

Year 4: The Digestive System in Motion

Year 4 are exploring The Digestive System in a creative and physical way. Pupils are interpreting how food travels, how nutrients are absorbed, and how the body responds, translating complex science into dynamic dance. Through collaboration and imagination, they are bringing the human body to life on the studio floor.

Year 5: Shackleton's Journey & Biomes

In Year 5, one class is exploring Shackleton's Journey, expressing the explorers' courage, endurance, and teamwork as they pace icy seas and treacherous conditions. The other class is discovering Biomes, using movement to depict forests, deserts, oceans, and more. Both classes are combining individual creativity and ensemble work, connecting storytelling, science, and geography through dance.
Learning in Motion

These projects show how CUSP curriculum principles and the National Curriculum come alive in the dance studio. Pupils are developing confidence, collaboration, and expressive skills, while exploring knowledge in a hands-on, memorable way. Dance becomes a bridge between imagination and learning, making science, stories, and landscapes tangible through movement.

We can't wait to see their choreographies come to life and to share the excitement, curiosity, and creativity of our students with the whole school community!

Leire Guezala De Mier - Dance Coach







What's Happening in the Julia Scurr Garden

This year, the Julia Scurr garden has been a place for exploration, learning, and trying new things.

In the early years, nursery and reception have had time to do some garden exploration, tasting different herbs and vegetables and discovering how things grow. Moving up to Key stage one, year one have been out hunting for bugs, while year two have baked their own bread from fresh ingredients grown at John Scurr!

Continuing up the school, year three have been putting their learning about rocks and soils to work, while year four explored different kinds of pollination. Finally, the oldest year groups put all their knowledge together, with year 5 growing their own flax and spinning it into yarn, and year six exploring different invertebrates and their habitats.

On top of all of this, gardening club has begun, with children from all age groups planting, watering, and growing their own seeds. The fun isn't over yet though! Every year group has more garden visits to come I hope you're excited!

Caitlin Schofield- Class Teacher







Pupil Voice Committee - Screen Time Survey

The Pupil Voice Committee have been working hard getting a project on Screen Time ready to launch across the school. As a starting point, they would like to get an idea of how screens are currently being used by children at John Scurr, so they have created a survey for children from Y1-Y6 to complete.



KS1 Complete the Survey

KS2 Complete the Survey

Sophie Lewis

Section 3: We all know that everyday counts

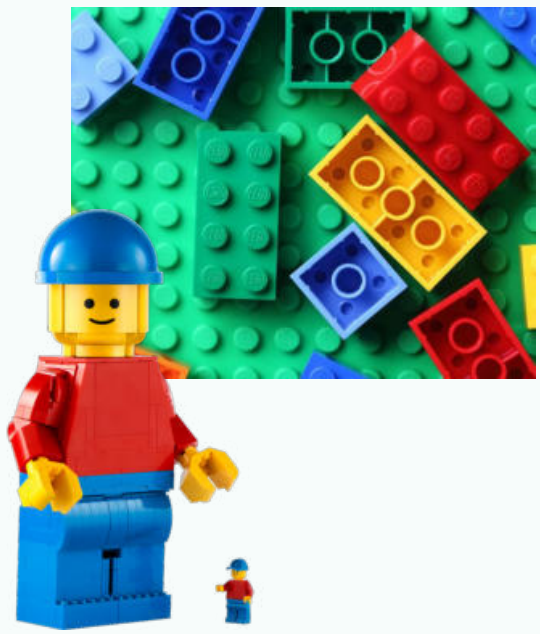
We hope everyone's had a great start to the term! As we settle into the rhythm of school life, we wanted to share a gentle reminder about something that makes a huge difference to your child's learning being here, every day, on time.

We know mornings can be chaotic (lost shoes, forgotten homework, the sudden need for a specific breakfast that wasn't on the menu five minutes ago we get it!), but your efforts to get your child through our doors each day really do matter.

Think of school attendance like building a tower of blocks every day is another block added. Miss a few days here and there, and suddenly there are gaps that make everything a bit wobbly. But when children are here consistently, they build strong foundations for their learning, keep up with their friends, and don't miss out on all the exciting things happening in class.

Our goal is simple: we want every child at John Scurr to attend well because we know that's when they thrive. Whether it's mastering tricky maths concepts, enjoying story time, or playing with friends at break, these moments matter and they can only happen when children are here with us.

Please ask your children to share with you our latest incentives of Target Tuesday and 'Building Together', a lego construction as a class.





Excellent Attendance in Early Years



Good attendance in the early years really matters. This is when your child builds the foundations for everything that comes next. Young children learn best through routine, repetition, and warm relationships with familiar adults and friends. When children come in regularly, they feel settled, confident, and ready to explore. Each day adds another small but important step in their learning journey, and those steps quickly add up.

A typical day in early years is busy and full of learning, even when it looks like "just play." Children might start the day with a welcome routine and songs, followed by child-initiated play where they build, create, explore stories, and practise sharing and turn-taking. There's usually focused learning time too, such as early phonics/letter sounds, number games, mark-making, or listening to stories.

Outdoor play helps children develop physical skills, confidence, and teamwork, while snacks support independence, language, and social skills. When a child misses a day, they don't just miss one activity – they miss conversations, friendships, routines, and the chance to practise key skills that grow through daily experience.

We understand that children do get ill, and their health always comes first. However, many everyday childhood sniffles are manageable in school and don't need time off. Children are usually too ill to attend if they have:

- A high temperature or fever
- Vomiting or diarrhoea (they should stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode)
- A contagious illness where they are clearly unwell or unable to take part in activities

On the other hand, we are very happy to welcome children who have a mild cough, runny nose, or a slight cold, as long as they are otherwise well and able to join in. Being in school with familiar routines and friends often helps children feel better more quickly, and it keeps their learning and confidence moving forward.

By working together to support good attendance, we give children the best possible start happy, secure, and ready to learn.

Vicky Beedle

Need A Little Extra Help: Parenting Support

Dear Parents,

We are really excited to be working alongside the Best Start in Life projects for the borough.
You can find out more information in this link BEST START IN LIFE The website and support are there to help you with School Readiness and parenting advice.

Did you know that food sucked directly from a baby pouch can also cause tooth decay. This is because they can contain hidden, natural sugars that are not always clearly labelled.

Did you know that the arrival of a new baby in the family often has greater impact on the school age children (older children) than in those that are under 3?

Did you know that research shows that children who attend high-quality early education and childcare between ages two and four perform better at every stage of school?

Did you know that research shows it's best for your child's bowel and bladder health to stop using nappies between 18 and 30 months? Even if your baby or child has SEND, you don't need to wait to start toilet training?

There are so many interesting packs and support on the website to help you - why not take a look? This may also help with conversations that you may be having with your Health Visitor and GP.

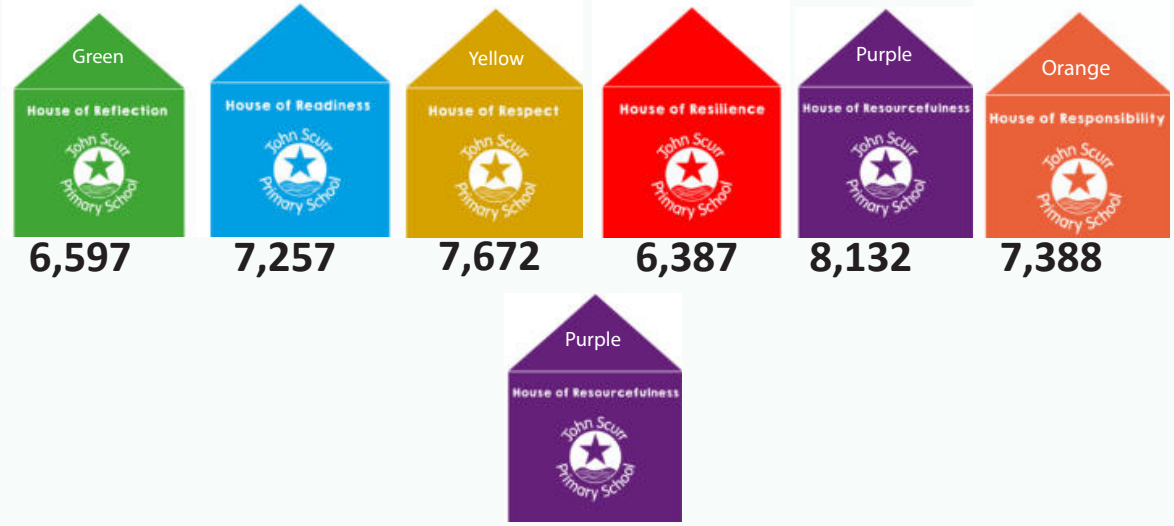
Please remember that we also have advice on hand here at school from our Tower Hamlets Emotional Welfare Service. Please speak with Helen or Evelyn if you would like to arrange support for your school age child's anxieties.

We also recommend following JO FROST advice on her website and links on Facebook and Instagram wwwjofrost.com

Maria Lewington

Maria Lewington

End of Term House Points



Well Done 'Purple House' you are our Winner

House Polo Shirts available from the School Office



Please enquiry at the front desk

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

Attendance This Term

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 started 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 January - February 2026

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks (%)
Bluebell	90.82%
Buttercup	88.97%
Primrose	91.72%
Sunflower	93.2%
Acacia	93.28%
Hibiscus	93.25%
Waterlily	91.78%
Calendula	94.37%
Magnolia	93.54%
Orchid	94.76%
Pilea	95.67%
Agave	96.14%
Cactus	94.96%
Hellebores	94.48%
Rhododendron	95.06%



Syrihah Khatun - Attendance Administrator



National Year of Reading - Spring Term - 'In The Room'

Motivating the readers in front of you

January	Launch of the Reading Garden	10 Librarians Appointed	Reading Mission - January Read a book that makes you laugh
February	Year 5 Harry Potter Night 5th February	Reading Mission -Tell someone about a book that makes you laugh	Trip to the Book Shop - For our Million Word Readers and Reading Ambassadors
March	4th March Reading Workshop for Parents -The Importance of Reading and Representation	Trip to Brick Lane Book Shop for Million Word Readers & Reading Ambassadors	5th March World Book Day Reading Mission - Join in the World Book Day Celebrations

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

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

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

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

Y6 Easter School

8.45am - 1pm

Week beginning 6th April, 2026

John Scurr Primary School

School to confirm dates closer to the time

Mornings ONLY: 8.45am - 1pm
Includes a Pizza and Team building games

All Year 6
Children are expected to attend

CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2025 - Apr 2026

CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES
healthy, honest, good food

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

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Maria,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at John Scurr Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader- sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with your region's RISE networks and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education