Issue No.12
End of Term July 2026

John Scurr Newsletter

With Love and Thank You from Maria

After 12 years as Headteacher, and as I prepare to hand over the reins, I find myself full of gratitude for the journey we've shared as a community. It's hard to put twelve years into a few paragraphs, but I want to try.

We've seen genuinely transformational change to our beloved building – from the troublesome toilets to the warm, welcoming spaces our children have learnt and laughed in. I think often of our beautiful garden, and of the renovation of the outside of the school into a pleasant plaza where families can drop their children off safely each morning. Small things, perhaps, but they've changed how it feels to arrive at John Scurr every day.

I am proudest, above all, of what we built for our all pupils: our specialist classroom, an approach others went on to adopt after we showed the way; our breakfast boosters; and our willingness to grapple and then excel with the CUSP curriculum, always with ambition and aspiration for every single child.

Our team's response to COVID will stay with me for the rest of my career. The way this school moved so quickly to adapt to the information in front of us, even when we were scared and unsure, told me everything I needed to know about the people I was lucky enough to lead.

Our team has changed over the years, as all teams do – people coming, people going. What has never changed is how quickly new staff members feel part of the John Scurr tribe, and how warmly they're welcomed into the expectations and professionalism this school holds so dear.

Our 2-year-old offer is now a flourishing part of how we hold children, as a community, from cradle to career – with the other end of that promise being the excellent results our Year 6 children achieve, and an aspirational oracy and debating offer that sends them off ready for whatever comes next.

The music and singing, the wonderful artwork, and more recently our food festivals – all of it has been a genuine joy to lead and be part of. I will always remember the music as the beating heart of this school, and I hope with all my heart that it stays there long after I've gone.

Since taking on a dual role, I have watched our leadership team show real courage and determination, and it has been humbling to witness. In particular, Keeley's leadership as Head of School has been a steady and inspiring force through this period of change. Our introduction of coaching circles and houses has felt like a natural progression of how we belong to one another as a community, and of how much we value the relationships we invest in.

I will be watching this school's onward success with pride and affection. The decisions we have made together have secured its sustainability and its place at the heart of this community, and I know this wonderful team of parents, staff and children will welcome Nicola and the Bonner partnership as another chapter in the John Scurr story – one I can't wait to read from the outside.

And to our current Year 6 children, who are leaving John Scurr alongside me this year – it feels only right that we go together. I am so proud to be graduating with you. I know how overwhelming it can feel to leave behind the only school you are fond of, the friends, the teachers, the corridors and classrooms that have shaped you. Please know that you carry John Scurr with you wherever you go next, and that this school will always be proud to call you one of its own.

Maria Lennyth

Final Year 6 Production of Matilda the Musical

ROALD DAHL'S Matilda THE MUSICAL

For the last 7 weeks, Year 6 have worked incredibly hard to create their musical production of Matilda. The heatwaves did not stop the children from placing 100% of their energy into acting, singing as a group, singing solo parts, dancing, and learning the skills of stage management and IT support in a theatrical production.

We hope you agree that the final performance was worth the wait. The Year 6 team are all immensely proud of what the children have achieved and the courage they showed during their rehearsals and their performances to parents and the school.

Well done Year 6

Sporting Triumphs

Y4 Cricket:

8 Children from both Y4 classes competed in a fantastic Cricket Festival that was put on by the Platform Cricket, which is done every year in schools across London and we at John Scurr are lucky to be apart of. Pilea and Orchid Class represented themselves and our school exceptionally well, Pilea put in a big effort but just lost by a couple of point in the final group stage. Orchid class went through and just missed out a second place but came on strong to win a Bronze medal, a fantastic effort, Also 3 children also received an MVP (most valuable player) award for showing a great skills and sportsmanship throughout the day, well done to Daniel, Victor and Ishan. Also I would like to thank the parents that came to support their children and the school Ishan's Dad gave us a great lift in energy and Daniel's mum for bringing the whole squad some snacks.

Y5/6 Athletics:

It was a tough and growling day, it was the first time we have competed in this competition and they were tested to their limits. We competed in many events, *0m, 150m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, Long Jump, Javelin, High Jump, no stones was left unturned, they gave it their all. A very big congratulation to out only medalist 'Valentina' who received a silver medalist in the girls long jump, we are so very proud of this achievement here at John Scurr.

SEND Sport Cluster:

Our SEND children travelled to 5 different schools over the course of 6 months, learning different sports and learning with children from other schools. They played New age Curl & Padle Badminton, Boccia & Sitting Volleyball, Archery & Dodgeball, Basketball & Indoor Athletics and finally Walking Football.

Free Football Camp

Free football camps for children this summer
We wanted to share a great opportunity for families over the school holidays.

Kellogg's are offering free places at professionally run football camps for children, led by FA-qualified coaches and delivered in partnership with the English Football League (EFL), Manchester City, Celtic FC and Rangers FC.
The sessions are designed to be fun, inclusive and confidence building, helping children stay active, meet new friends and enjoy a positive, experience during the holidays. As well as giving children something to look forward to, they also provide a valuable free childcare option for families over the break, with supervised sessions taking place at a range of local clubs nationwide.
How to book your FREE place:

Visit www.kelloggsfc.com on mobile
Find your local club
Enter the code: SCHOOL and book a FREE day of football fun

Rastaman Vibration - End of Term Music Concert

On Tuesday 14th July, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Bob Marley's breakthrough album, Rastaman Vibration for our Summer Term Music Concert. Marley used his music to spread peace, love, and unity—messages that still inspire millions of people today.

A selection of John Scurr's talented reggae musicians shared Bob Marley's powerful songs through voice, djembes, glockenspiels and keyboards. They got everyone in the relaxed, stress free mood to enjoy the upcoming Summer holidays. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the incredible educators supporting our pupils: Tamas, Mawuli, Nancy, Charmaine, Elisabeth, and Howard.

A very special farewell goes to Shekhem, our brilliant resident musician. Thank you for sharing your talent and inspiring our students over the last two years. We wish you the best and fully expect to see you on Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage someday! Finally, thank you to our wonderful parents and carers. Your constant encouragement has made my time as Music Lead incredibly joyful and purposeful. Next year, I will be passing on the position to Laurie and wish her all the best!

Celebrating Another Year of Success at John Scurr

As the academic year ends, we are delighted to celebrate our children's achievements. Their hard work, supported by our staff and families, has produced strong outcomes across the school.

A Strong Start in Early Years

In Reception, 74% of children achieved a Good Level of Development, above the current national figure of approximately 72%. Children across our Nursery provisions also made excellent progress within nurturing, language-rich environments.

Building Confident Readers

In Year 1, 75% of pupils passed the Phonics Screening Check. Phonics will remain a priority as we work towards the national figure of approximately 82%.

By the end of Year 2, this increased to 88%, reflecting the impact of sustained teaching and additional support.

Strong Key Stage 1 Outcomes

Year 2 pupils achieved strongly:

- Mathematics: 83%, compared with approximately 71% nationally
- Writing: 68%, compared with approximately 63%
- Science: 91%, compared with approximately 83%
- Reading: 70%, in line with national outcomes

Exceptional Multiplication Results

An outstanding 80% of Year 4 pupils achieved full marks in the Multiplication Tables Check, compared with approximately 44% nationally. This places John Scurr in the 98th percentile nationally.

Excellent Year 6 Achievement

In Year 6, 72% achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics combined, compared with 63% nationally. A further 22% achieved the higher combined standard, compared with approximately 8%.

Outcomes were also above national figures in reading, writing and mathematics, demonstrating that pupils are well prepared for secondary school.

Looking Ahead

Next year, we will continue strengthening phonics, reading, writing and handwriting while building on our excellent mathematics provision.

Thank you to our wonderful children, dedicated staff and supportive families. Together, we have much to celebrate at John Scurr.

PARENT SURVEY 2026

What Parents Told Us

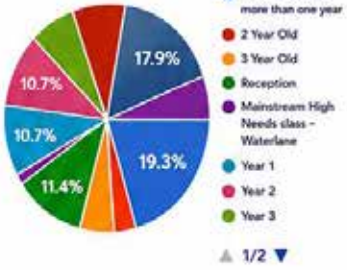
Thank you to the **141** parents and carers who completed our survey.

Your feedback helps us celebrate what is working well and identify where we can continue to improve.

The charts below show the percentage of parents who **Agree** or **Strongly Agree** with each statement.

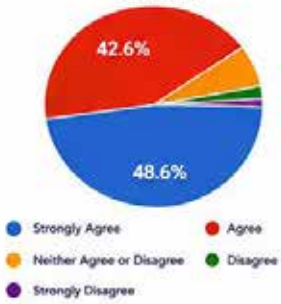
CHILD'S YEAR GROUP

140 responses



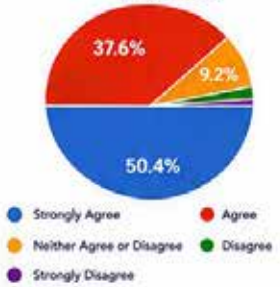
1. I AM HAPPY WITH THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION MY CHILD/REN RECEIVES AT JOHN SCURR PRIMARY SCHOOL.

141 responses



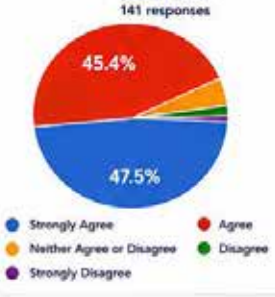
2. THE SCHOOL COMMUNICATES CLEARLY AND REGULARLY ABOUT MY CHILD'S PROGRESS AND SCHOOL EVENTS.

141 responses



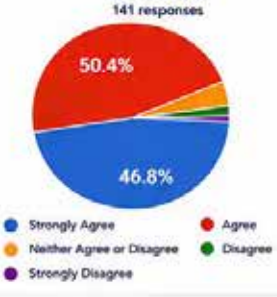
3. THE SCHOOL PROVIDES A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE MY CHILD/REN FEEL SUPPORTED AND CARED FOR.

141 responses



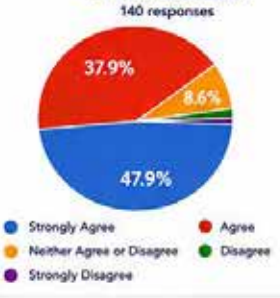
4. JOHN SCURR PRIMARY SCHOOL PROMOTES RESILIENCE, RESOURCEFULNESS, AND RESPECT EFFECTIVELY THROUGH ITS VALUES.

141 responses



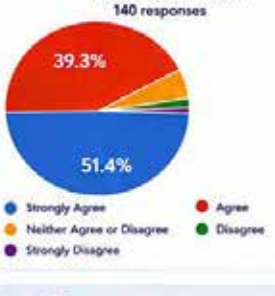
5. THE CURRICULUM AT JOHN SCURR HELPS MY CHILD/REN DEVELOP COMMUNICATION AND THINKING SKILLS.

140 responses



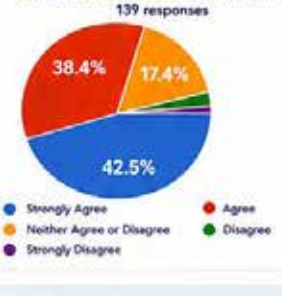
6. I WOULD RECOMMEND JOHN SCURR PRIMARY SCHOOL TO OTHER PARENTS/CARERS.

140 responses



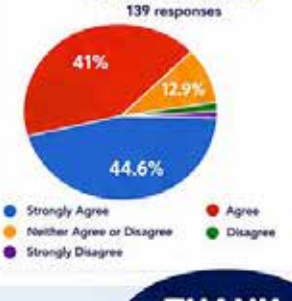
7. THE SCHOOL EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTS CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES (SEND).

139 responses



8. BREAKFAST BOOSTERS AND TUITION SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S PROGRESS AND SCHOOL READINESS.

139 responses



WE ARE PROUD THAT PARENTS TOLD US...

- ✓ Our children are happy and safe.
- ✓ They receive a high-quality education.
- ✓ John Scurr is an inclusive and welcoming school.
- ✓ Our school promotes values that help children grow and succeed.
- ✓ You would recommend John Scurr to other families.

YOU SAID... WE'RE DOING!

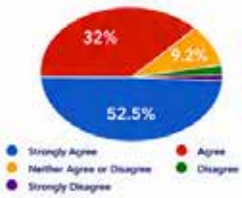
PARENT SURVEY 2026

Your feedback helps us celebrate what is working well and identify where we can continue to improve.

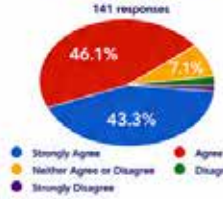
You said...		We're doing...
Our children are happy and safe. More than **94%** of parents agreed or strongly agreed that John Scurr provides a safe, caring and nurturing environment.		✓ Continuing Coaching Circles ✓ Investing in wellbeing and pastoral support ✓ Strengthening safeguarding and attendance
We value the quality of education. More than **91%** of parents agreed they are happy with the education their child receives.		✓ Continuing to invest in staff training ✓ Developing our ambitious curriculum ✓ Providing exciting learning opportunities
John Scurr is an inclusive school. Almost **97%** of parents agreed that our school promotes resilience, respect and belonging.		✓ Continuing to celebrate diversity ✓ Strengthening Personal Development ✓ Developing confident, respectful young people
Communication matters. **4** parents suggested communication could be simpler and easier to follow.		✓ Moving to Arbor for parent communication ✓ Reviewing how information is shared ✓ Reducing duplicate messages
Drop-off and collection could be smoother. **5** parents commented on queueing and supervision.		✓ Continuing senior leadership presence each morning ✓ Tania and Jermaine will be out on the gate each morning to support families with lining up and entering the school safely and fairly – parents please do join the end of the queue to help us with this. ✓ Supporting families to keep routines calm and safe
Homework matters. **4** parents asked for more opportunities to support learning at home.		✓ Establishing a Parent Homework Working Party ✓ Continuing to promote reading every day
We want to know more about SEND and how to support our children. **3** parents asked for more workshops and information.		✓ Expanding parent workshops ✓ Sharing more information about SEND ✓ Continuing to strengthen home-school partnerships

MORE OF WHAT YOU TOLD US...

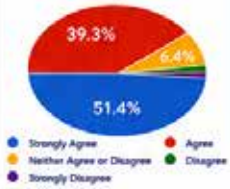
9. The school encourages and supports my child to embrace and respect diversity within the school community.
141 responses



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



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



* Written comments reflect the number of parents who raised each theme. Percentages relate to survey responses for each individual question.

THANK YOU!

Many parents described John Scurr as:

- ★ Caring
- ★ Safe
- ★ Inclusive
- ★ Ambitious
- ★ Friendly
- ★ Supportive

Parents also thanked staff for their kindness, dedication and hard work.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to make John Scurr the very best it can be for every child.

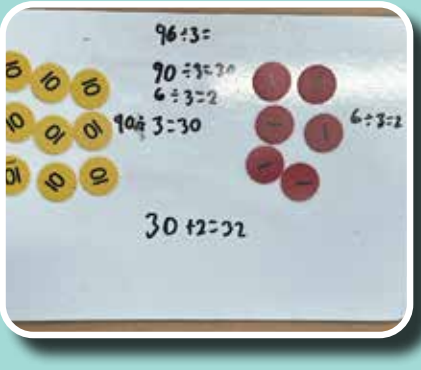
Year 5 Rich Mix Film Making Experience

This year, our Y5 pupils had the incredible opportunity to take part in a free film education programme at Rich Mix, and we are so grateful to have been included. The programme gave our children an exciting insight into the world of filmmaking while developing their creativity, teamwork and confidence.

The journey began with an introductory workshop, where pupils learned about the project and what to expect. They then worked with the inspirational poet Mr Gee during a Creative Literacy session, using storytelling to develop ideas for their films. An introduction to filmmaking equipped them with the skills needed before film production began. Working collaboratively, the children took on a range of important roles, including actors, camera operators, producers and costume designers.

They also created props and backgrounds, bringing their creative visions to life before learning how films are edited. The experience culminated in a very special red carpet premiere, where the children proudly watched their finished films on the big screen. It was a truly memorable experience that inspired our young filmmakers and created lasting memories for everyone involved.

- **Science museum visit for space unit**
- **Cooking week in DT and food festival**
- **Maths learning**



Year 4: Spitalfields Music and Our Visits this Term

What a fantastic summer term it has been for Year 4! We were delighted to take part in the Spitalfields Music project for the second time. All of the children worked incredibly hard to learn and perform the songs.

Their confidence and enthusiasm shone through in the final performance, they really did a wonderful job. We also enjoyed a visit to the Olympic Park, where we explored how nature changes during the summer season.

The children loved spotting different plants and wildlife before spending the rest of the day in the play area.

To finish off a brilliant day, everyone enjoyed a well-earned ice cream in the sunshine! Orchid Class also completed their swimming lessons this term. We are so proud that both Year 4 classes have developed their swimming skills and learned how to stay safe in and around water.

Year 2 : This Summer Term

This summer term, Year 2 enjoyed a wide range of exciting and practical learning experiences.

Throughout the term, the children also made excellent progress with their Accelerated Reader book levels, regularly reading and completing quizzes both in school and at home. During Science Week, the children became young scientists by investigating how different types of paper changed when placed in water. They made predictions, observed carefully, recorded their findings and discussed their results.

In Design and Technology, the children learned about healthy eating, nutrition and balanced diets while preparing couscous salad, quiche and crunchy pitta crisps. They practised chopping, mixing and following recipes safely. The Japanese Food Festival gave the children another opportunity to explore a different culture and build on their cooking skills. They designed a take-home box and made a tasty salad roll using sushi rice, fresh vegetables and soy sauce.

On a visit to Whitechapel Market, the children became smell detectives, exploring different scents to discover how people, trade and cultures have shaped the history of Whitechapel over time. During a gardening workshop, the children learned about different herbs, how they can be used in food and medicine, and planted herbs in the school garden.

As they move into Year 3, we look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, independence and curiosity.

DT Food Festival 2026

This term John Scurr celebrated the DT Food Festival! Diving into Japanese food and culture, every child at John Scurr, from 2-year-olds right up to Year 6, fully immersed themselves in the joy of preparing Japanese cuisine and sharing it with their loved ones.

In Nursery, Reception and Rose Class, the children prepared Kazari sushi, Years 1 and 2 made healthy lettuce wraps, in Years 3, 4 and Waterlily the children were tasked with making maki and Years 5 and 6 had the tricky job of preparing Japanese gyoza.

From designing their takeaway boxes, to creating ingredients lists, to participating in lessons to learn more about the geography and culture of Japan. Our children have grown a deeper appreciation for not only the cuisine of this country, but also the for the pleasure of cooking.

These vital life skills of careful preparation, attention to detail and building a healthy and nutritious dish from scratch, are key to growing our children into well-rounded individuals. We hope you had as much fun sharing the children's dishes at home and they did creating them.

Govenors Strategy Day

On a bright and sunny Thursday in July, governors from the John Scurr Governing Body met in school for their annual strategy day. We have been holding these strategy days at school for some years now, and it is a great experience to come in and see how the school works day-to-day, and to look at what has changed and how things are going.

One new innovation this year is the coaching circles for staff and children, and we were honoured to be invited to observe the staff circles and two of the childrens' groups. We were impressed with how well these circles worked and how confident the children were.

A group of John Scurr parents joined us after school drop-off for an in-depth discussion of what was working well at the school and what could be improved. Thanks are due for some excellent suggestions which we have fed back to the school and will review.

We spent some time in a Pupil Book Study session, hearing how well children could recall information they had learnt about historical civilisations.

Later on, we joined a special lunch for the Millionaire Plus Readers - all of whom had read more than a million words this year!

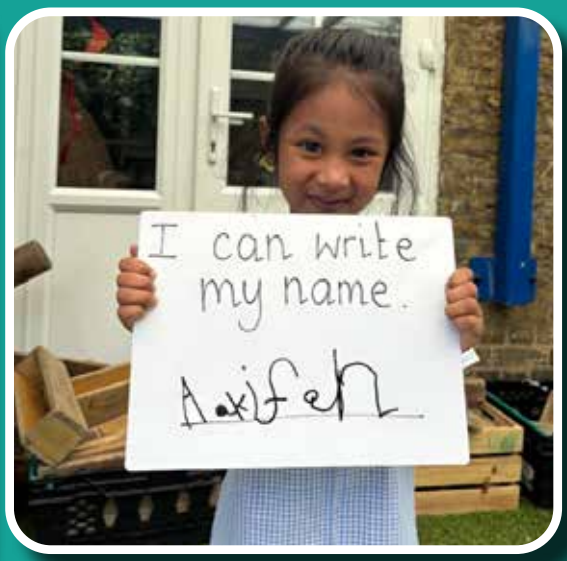
Finally, we spent some time together as governors in a curriculum committee meeting, and making plans for the Governing Body for next year.

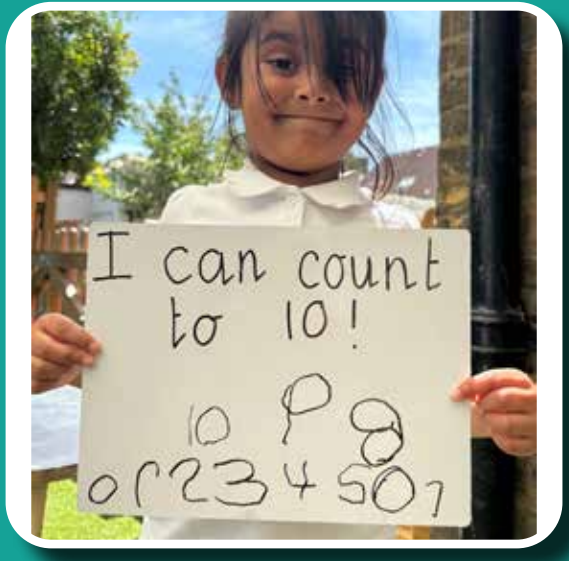
Nursery: Look At Us We Are School Ready

What an incredible year it has been for our nursery children! As we prepare to say goodbye and watch them take their exciting next steps into reception, we wanted to celebrate just how far they've come. From those first nervous days in September to the confident, curious learners we see today —our nursery children are truly school ready!
Look at what they can do now:

- Independence skills —They can put on their own coats, manage their belongings, and use the toilet independently
- Social skills —They've made wonderful friendships, learned to share and take turns, and can play cooperatively with others
- Communication —They can express their feelings, ask for help when they need it, and follow multi-step instructions
- Learning skills —They show curiosity, perseverance when things are tricky, and love exploring new ideas
- Emotional development —They can manage their feelings, show empathy to their friends, and demonstrate resilience when facing challenges

Thank you for all the hard work and commitment you have put into ensuring your child is on time to school and is attendance every day. They are truly ready to start their Reception adventure in september!





What's happened in our garden this year?

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. They learned about how things grow,m and explored the different sensory experiences the garden provides!

Moving up to Key stage one, year one have been out hunting for bugs and learning about the different parts of a plant, while year two have baked their own bread from fresh ingredients grown at John Scurr! Continuing up the school, year three have become young entrepreneurs, selling plants they had grown (in gift bags they designed!) while year four explored different kinds of pollination and learned about composting. 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 have been tending to all of the different plants in the garden, with children from all age groups planting, watering, and growing their own seeds. The fun isn't over yet though! Over the summer, a team of amazing volunteers are coming into school to rejuvenate our wonderful garden and get it ready for the busy year of gardening sessions coming our way in September. We can't wait!

Reception: Tuesday Trips

Our Reception children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their local community through a series of exciting educational visits. They have taken regular trips to the local park, where they developed their physical skills, a visit to Bethnal Green fire station gave the children a fascinating insight into the important role of firefighters, while also teaching them valuable fire safety messages and a trip to a local church to explore different features and cultures.

They also enjoyed a walk around the local area, spotting familiar landmarks and learning about the people and places that make up their community. These real-life experiences have helped to build the children's confidence, communication skills, and understanding of the world around them. The Reception children have developed their independence, listening and co-ordination skills all whilst enjoying different activities off-site! They are ready for any exciting trips the venture on in Year 1.

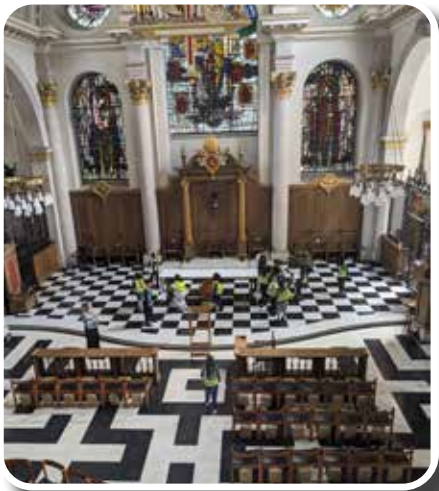
Y6 at Chessington

On Thursday 2nd July, year 6 had a wonderful time at Chessington World of Adventures, finally celebrating the completion of all their hard work in preparation for the SATs. The children were impeccably behaved and challenged themselves to try many different rides.

The adults witnessed so many acts of kindness and friendship, which only proved again what fantastic cohort of children we have in this year group. We wish them all the best for the future as their time at John Scurr ends.

Year 3: We have Been Out and About!

Year 3 went to St Mary le Bow church to take part in an incredible workshop learning about the organ. We learned that the organ at St Mary le Bow has around 2000 different pipes! The church was beautiful inside and all the children got to play the organ, which was a real treat.



Year 3 recently went on their local area visit to Shandy Park. This was our summer visit to the park to observe the changes in the plants and nature there compared to autumn and spring. We noticed that lots of the grass looked very dry due to the recent heatwave, but there were still lots of beautiful flowers.

Meet Our Office Team: Who are they and what they do

Tania Bashir- SBM & Office Manager

Tania Joined the school in 2021, She leads the main office team.

Anne-Marie Blenkinsop – Finance & Operational Assistant

Anne-Marie joined us in 2025, as she is responsible for ensure all our suppliers, contractors and payments are made. She ensures they school is well equipped buy purchasing items that are needed for the school.

She also helps with hospitality when we have visitors.

Alomgir Rahman- IT & Admin Assistant

Alomgir joined the school in 2019, as a apprentice. He then completed the apprentice and now works in the Office as IT & Admin assistant.

One of his roles is to do the school Admission. He also ensures the school's IT is working well and supports the office in his admin role.

Shorif Rahman- Operational & Front of House

Shorif joined the school in 2024, and is the face of the school.

His role is deal with the parents and quires that may have.

He also supports the school in his admins rile by sending out reminders and vital information to parents.

Michelle Drew Marketing and PA to SLT

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs

We have exciting news. From September ~~the~~ top floor of our Learning Lodge will be used by the Early Years Stronger Practice Hub in partnership with the Best Start in Life project. There will be 5 EYFS practitioners (consultants) ~~Lead~~ by Dr Julian Grenier (who also works at the Educational Endowment Fund) to work with Nurseries and Private Nurseries ~~all~~ led from our Learning Lodge ~~to~~ improve school readiness using the best practice and the latest research. This means we will work hard at creating a shared space with the organisation. ESOL classes will continue and we , as a school will have joint access to the smaller room at the top of the stairs for smaller meetings.

Julian and his team will be moving in from next week- very slowly at first. Please make him and his team welcome. We shall have photos of them on our board from September.

The Wanderer

A captivating mystery has taken over our entire school! A mysterious traveller known only as The Wanderer has been quietly visiting our classrooms, leaving behind a fascinating trail of artefacts and clues for everyone to find.

From heavy wooden clogs and a ringing Tibetan sound bowl to exotic scents wafting through the air, alongside a steel Kara, a velvet Kippah, and beautiful Huguenot silk, a wave of excitement is spreading across every year group.

But it isn't just objects he is leaving behind; it is big questions. Scribbled on a piece of old paper and attached to our school gate, he asked us: "How do so many stories fit into one small space?"

His presence has turned our whole school into a bustling history lab! Children are decoding clues and exploring how our rich local heritage matches the wider world and how our local area has come to be such a vibrant and diverse place.

Ask your young investigators what they have discovered this week ~~they~~ might just inspire you to look closer at the history hidden on our doorsteps!

Celebrating our Oracy success!

We are thrilled to announce that our school has officially been awarded the Oracy Silver Award, presented by Voice 21 and the Tower Hamlets Oracy Hub!

This recognition highlights our ongoing commitment to embedding high-quality speaking and listening skills across the entire curriculum. Following our Bronze award a few years ago, our staff and students have worked incredibly hard to reach this next stage.

We are proud to now be one of only a handful of schools to achieve this fantastic milestone. Thank you for your continued support as we help our children find their voices. Next stop, Gold!

TOWER HAMLETS
ORACY HUB

This is to certify that

John Scurr Primary School

has been awarded the Silver Award

2026- 2029

Tower Hamlets Education Partnership

John Scurr Primary Achieves Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status!

At John Scurr, we believe that consistency and kindness are what allow every child to thrive —and we're thrilled that this came through so clearly in our latest review. We're delighted to share that John Scurr Primary School has been reviewed by the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and has been recommended to progress from Centre of Excellence to IQM Flagship School status —one of the highest honours a school can achieve for its commitment to inclusion.

The review team spent the day with us, meeting staff, pupils, parents and leaders, observing lessons, and touring the school. A particular highlight was our "first 30%" approach, where lessons are planned first around the children who need the most support, meaning every child benefits from clear, consistent teaching. The visit also showcased wonderful examples of inclusive practice across the school, from multi-sensory science lessons to expertly led Book Studies and daily Structured Story Time in Early Years.

Our new Coaching Circles programme, was singled out as an outstanding example of building belonging, helping every child and staff member feel valued each week. Parents who took part in the review spoke warmly about how well the school communicates and supports SEND children's progress. One parent shared that "staff at the school really explain the systems to me," while another said "the school explained to me that every child is different." Our Learning Lodge was highlighted as a brilliant space for families to connect with specialists.

Our Pupil Voice Committee also impressed with their maturity, kindness, and evident pride in the school's inclusive culture, telling the assessor that "we try to include everybody, even people with SEND," and that they work hard to "make sure everyone is following the school motto of being kind and trying our best."

Strong progress was recognised too in our speech and language support, our curriculum , and the work of our Middle Leaders in supporting SEND pupils across the school.

Looking ahead, our flagship project for the coming year will continue to develop Coaching Circles even further.
Thank you to everyone —staff, pupils, and parents —who contributed to this wonderful outcome. It reflects the whole school community's dedication to making John Scurr a place where every child is known, valued, and supported.

Summer Fayre Fun

The sun came out on the tenth of July,
Face paint sparkled, slushies ran dry,
Lucky dip treasures and hook-a-duck fun,
The bouncy castle bounced everyone!
Tom got soaked with a sponge or three,
Then Maria stepped up, laughing with glee —
A soggy send-off as she says goodbye,
Thank you for giving so generously!

Summer Fayre 2026

Our annual Summer Fayre was a fantastic event, bringing together children, staff parents and visitors for a fun-filled day packed with exciting activities.

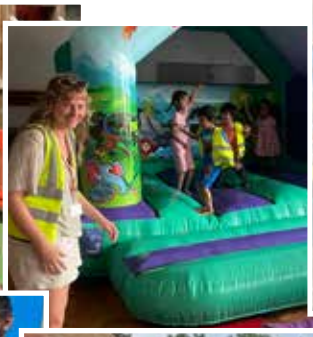
There was something for everyone to enjoy, with stalls selling delicious fresh cakes, refreshing drinks, books, toys and a selection of plants. Popular attractions included the henna stall, face painting, lucky dip, penalty shoot- out, hook the duck and ever-popular slushy drinks stall, which was the perfect refreshment on a warm summer's day.

The ice cream van proved to be a huge hit, with long queues of children and families waiting to enjoy a cool treat. The bouncy castle was another favourite, keeping children entertained throughout the day with lots of laughter and energy.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the hilarious Sponge the Teacher event. Children eagerly paid to throw wet sponges at brave teachers and teaching assistants, providing endless laughter for everyone watching.

The success of the fayre was made possible by the hard work and team work of our dedicated staff as well as generous support from our parents. The money raised will be used to improve our school facilities and provide additional resources that will benefit all our pupils.

Overall, the Summer Fayre was a wonderful celebration of our school community. It was a day filled with fun, friendship and fantastic memories, and we would like to thank everyone who helped make it such a great success.



Sports Day 2026

Why Summer Is a Great Time for Toilet Training
A short guide for parents

The impact on the classroom

- Staff time spent on toileting is time not spent settling your child in and building their confidence.
- If several children are still in nappies, staff attention gets stretched thin across the whole class.
- Children who are toilet trained can be under-attended while staff support toileting needs elsewhere.
- A calmer, more predictable start to the day helps every child settle — including yours.

Toilet training before September is one of the biggest things you can do to help your child, their new teacher, and their whole class get off to a strong start.

Warm weather helps

- Children can wear fewer clothes — easier to get to the toilet in time.
- Accidents dry quickly, and washing dries faster too.
- More time outdoors means more natural breaks to try the potty or toilet.
- No thick winter coats, tights, or snowsuits to fight with.

It saves money

- Nappies cost around £400 a year for one child.
- Every month of earlier toilet training is money back in your pocket.
- Fewer nappies also means less to carry, store, and buy each week.

It fits the school calendar

- The 6-week summer holiday gives time to focus, without the pressure of daily nursery or school drop-offs.
- Starting now means your child has the best chance of being confident and settled before September.
- Children who are toilet trained before starting nursery or Reception often settle in faster, with less anxiety for you both.

Less pressure, more consistency

- No need to coordinate with school or nursery routines during the holiday.
- You can choose the right few days for your family and stay consistent, which matters more than the calendar date.
- You are in control of the pace — go at your child's speed, using the tips in our toilet training guide.

Safeguarding During the Summer Holidays

During the school holidays, the safeguarding team only monitors their email address admin@johnscurr.towerhamlets.sch.uk periodically. If a child is in immediate danger, **call 999**. For other serious or urgent issues, contact LBTH children's services directly on 0300 303 6070 rather than waiting for a reply at school

* Children and young people can contact **Childline free** and confidentially on **0800 1111.**
* Parents and carers can contact the **NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.**
* If a child or young person is struggling with their mental health, they can **text YM to 85258 for free, 24/7 crisis support.**
* Parents wanting advice can also contact the YoungMinds **Parents Helpline on 0808 802 5544.**

Our Head Teachers for the Day Winners

The applications received for the head teacher for the day was truly outstanding. We received so many good quality applications and it was very difficult to choose a winner. In the end we went for 2 head teachers for the day Ayub and Amelia. They took to the job really well and engaged with all the staff and pupils. They made complex decisions and also worked well with our support and office staff in making invaluable purchases for future proofing the school. This was no small task and we will see the results of their decision making soon. Well done again to Amelia and Ayub, you were both great head teachers for the day.

John Scurr Primary Dates 2026-27

Pupils are expected to attend for 190 days

Autumn Term 2026	Spring Term 2027	Summer Term 2027
From: Wednesday 2nd September To: Friday 16th October **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October (10 days)** **Term 2: 2nd November -18th December, 2026** **Christmas Holiday:** **Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January, 2027** **INSET- Tuesday 1st September**	From: Monday 4th January To: 12th February, 2027 **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February (5 days)** **Term 4: 22nd February – 25th March, 2027** **Easter Holiday:** **Monday 29th March to 9th April** **Term 5:** Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May	From: Monday 12th April To: Wednesday 23rd July **Half Term Holiday:** **Monday 31th May to Friday 4th June (5 days)** **Summer Holiday begins** **Wednesday 23rd July**
68 days	53 days	69 days

School Closure Days 2026-27

INSET Day (school closed to students)

- Tuesday 1st September 2026

Bank Holidays

- Friday 26th March 2027– Good Friday
- Monday 29th March– Easter Monday
- Monday 4th May – May Bank Holiday
- Monday 31st May - Spring Bank Holiday
- Monday 30th August – Summer Bank
- **Ramadan Starts**

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

Ramadan Start	7th February, 2027 TBC
Eid Al-Fitr	8/9 March, 2027 TBC
Eid Al-Adha	16/17 May, 2027 TBC

INSET and Twilight for all staff 2026- 2027

INSET Day- Tuesday 1st September

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

Tower Hamlets Summer Holiday Activities 2026

Summer Reading Challenge

We're ready! Are you ready?

The sun is shining, and the long summer holidays are looming. It can mean only one thing in libraries across the country the Summer Reading Challenge is here!

This year's challenge is called Read to the Beat and it started on Saturday 4th July and runs all the way through to Sunday 14th September. This is a FREE holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, and to increase your child's reading skills and confidence. All children aged 4-11 are welcome to take part.

Children can collect free rewards for their summer holiday reading. They just need to join the challenge and tell us what they have read to collect them. After each book Once they have read 6 books they receive a certificate and medal.

idea
Library Learning Information

TOWER HAMLETS

Know Which Class Your Child Will Be in Next Term: September 2026

	New Class	Previous Class	Teacher
Year 6	Rhododendron	*Cactus*	Ajanta
	Hellebores	*Agave*	Ellis
Year 5	Cactus	*Orchid*	Iqra
	Agave	*Pilea*	Rebecca
Year 4	Orchid	*Calendula*	Thomas
	Pilea	*Magnolia*	Sophie
Year 3	Calendula	*Year 2 (classes mixed)*	Stephanie
	Magnolia	*Year 2 (classes mixed)*	Tom
Year 2	Hibiscus	*Year 1 (classes mixed)*	Clara
	Acacia	*Year 1 (classes mixed)*	Dorothea
Year 1	Primrose	*Buttercup*	Joe
	Sunflower	*Bluebell*	Laurie
Specialist Classroom	Rose	*Rose*	Vicky
	Waterlily	*Waterlily*	Marie
Reception	Bluebell	*Nursery*	Caitlin
	Buttercup	*Nursery*	Lottie
Nursery	Tulip (AM)	-	Chloe & Jordann
	Daffodil (PM)		
Two-Year-Olds	-	-	Jubilee