

John Burns Primary School

Newsletter – Friday 18th September 2026



Dear Parents,

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

There are 190 school days and 175 other days in the year that can be used for holidays and other occasions. The school academic year is set out a year in advance and available on the school website. A reminder that we DO NOT authorise holidays during term time. Whilst a Leave of absence application forms are intended for families, where there is an exceptional circumstance that requires a child to be away from school, a request must be completed and returned to the office before the absence takes place.

CHRIS RIDDELL AUTHOR EVENT



Year 5 had an exciting visit to Burntwood to see the author Chris Riddell. The children really enjoyed meeting him and learning more about his work as both a writer and an illustrator.

During the visit, Chris Riddell spoke about his books and his experiences as an author and illustrator. The session was highly interactive as he brought his stories and ideas to life by drawing while he talked. The children were fascinated to watch his illustrations develop in front of them and enjoyed seeing how he transformed his ideas into characters and pictures.

Some of the children also had the opportunity to buy one of his books, including books from The Edge Chronicles series. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to meet a successful author and illustrator and to see first-hand how words and pictures can work together to create exciting stories.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The school photographer will be in school on **Monday 21st September** to take individual photos. Please make sure that your child is wearing their full school uniform, including school shoes.

Part-time Nursery pupils (end of week) are welcome to come in to have their photograph at 9:00am on Monday 21st September. You will be asked to wait for your child in the dinner hall whilst their photograph is taken. We will arrange for any Nursery child with an older sibling in school to have a sibling photograph taken too.

EARLY YEARS + KS1 WIMBLEDON TENNIS WORKSHOPS

Early Years and Year 1 children had a fantastic time taking part in an exciting tennis workshop with Wimbledon Tennis. This was their first of six sessions this half-term.

Two professional coaches introduced the children to the basics of tennis through a range of fun, age-appropriate activities. They practised hand-eye coordination, using cones to throw and catch the balls, balancing the balls on the rackets and moving around the space safely. They even had a chance to hit the ball using the tennis rackets.

The workshop encouraged the children to be active, develop their physical skills and, most importantly, have fun. They showed great enthusiasm and perseverance as they tried new challenges and supported one another.

It was wonderful to see so many smiles, lots of energy and a real willingness to have a go.

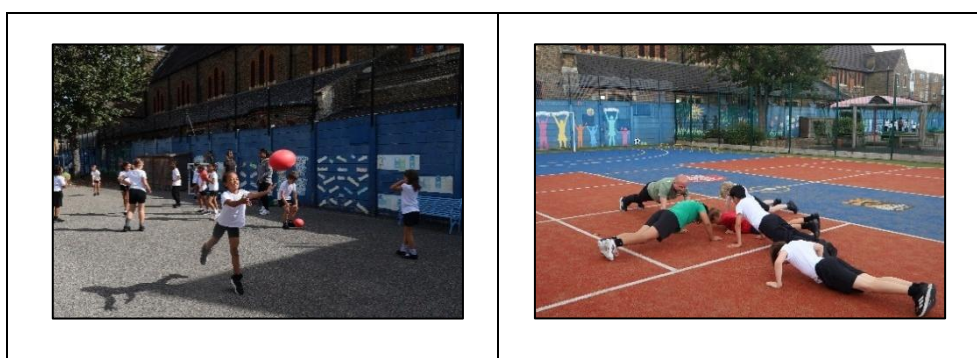
Well done, Early Years and Year 1!

NATIONAL FITNESS DAY

Our pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 took part in an exciting and energetic National Fitness Day. The children participated in 5 different activities designed to develop a range of important fitness skills, including strength, balance, coordination, flexibility and cardiovascular fitness.

Throughout the day, the pupils showed fantastic enthusiasm and determination. They challenged themselves, encouraged one another and gave their best effort in every activity.

It was wonderful to see children across the school getting active, having fun and developing their understanding of the importance of keeping fit and healthy.



Well done to everyone for their fantastic effort and participation!

Yesterday, it was a pleasure for Miss D Buckley and I to take a fantastic group of Mini Marathoners out for a jog around Battersea Park!

We started with a 1-mile walk to warm up, followed by a 1.25-mile jog, and finished with a 1-mile walk to cool down — a great session and a brilliant way to get everyone moving together.

We're hoping to hold monthly sessions like this to help build confidence, fitness and consistency, while preparing our runners for next year's London Mini Marathon.

A huge well done to:

Amaya
Giulia

Isabel
Kye'lah

Liv
Ka'leah

Joshua
Momin

Buddy
Henry

Rhys
Joshua

Ahad
Abdul

I very much look forward to the next session.

Jeans for Genes Day – Charity Fundraiser

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our families and the wider community for your incredible generosity in supporting this year's Jeans for Genes Day.

Thanks to your kindness and generosity, we are delighted to have raised £96 this year! Your willingness to contribute played a crucial role in making the event such a tremendous success.

Every donation, no matter the size, will help support vital research and make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families affected by genetic conditions.

We are deeply thankful for your continued support and for helping make this year's fundraiser such an outstanding achievement. Your generosity truly makes a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.



YEAR 6 SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

All information regarding applying for a secondary school place is available [here](#).

Any parent with any questions or needing further assistance with applying for a secondary school place can ask to speak to a senior leader, who will be very happy to help.

Name of school	Date	Time	Other information
Ark Bolingbroke Academy www.arkbolingbrokeacademy.org	10 October* 15 October*	9.30am - 12.30pm 5.15 - 7.15pm	* Please check our website for the times of the Principal's talks
Ark Putney Academy www.arkputney.org	28 September 29-30 September* 1 October* 19-23 October*	4 - 7pm 9 - 10.30am 9 - 10.30am 9 - 10.30am	* Tours by appointment
Ashcroft Technology Academy www.atacademy.org.uk	21 September 23 - 25 September	6 - 8pm 9 - 11am	Please check the school's website for updates
Burntwood School www.burntwoodschool.com	2 July 16 September 22 September 1 October	9.15 - 11am 6 - 8pm 9.15 - 11am 9.15 - 11am	Please check the school's website for updates. Book at www.burntwoodschool.com
Chestnut Grove Academy www.chestnutgrove.org.uk	16 September* 24 September 1 October*	9.15-10.30am or 10.30-11.45 5 - 8pm 9.15-10.30am or 10.30-11.45	*To book a tour for open mornings, please visit www.chestnutgrove.org.uk/admissions/open-events
Ernest Bevin Academy www.ernestbevinacademy.org.uk	1 July 23 September 25 September 2 October	9.30 - 11am 5 - 7pm 9.30 - 11am 9.30 - 11am	Tours are welcome during the school day, please email to book: admissions@ernestbevinacademy.org.uk
Graveney School www.graveney.org	15 October* 15 October*	8.45am - 12pm 5 - 8pm	*Tours by appointment. Please check the school's website for updates
Harris Academy Battersea www.harrisbattersea.org.uk	24 September 29 September 1 October	5 - 7pm 9 - 10.15am 9 - 10.15am	Please check the school's website for updates
Saint Cecilia's CE School www.saintcecilias.london	7 July 17 July 22 September 6 October	9am - 12pm 5 - 8.30pm 9am - 12pm 9am - 12pm	Please check the school's website for updates
St John Bosco College www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk	1 October 8 October 15 October	4.30pm - 6.30pm 9 - 11am 9 - 11am	Tours by appointment. To book a place phone 020 7924 8310 or email tours@sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk
Southfields Academy www.southfieldsacademy.com	1 October 6 October 8 October 13 October 14 October 15 October 20 October	8.45 - 10.15am 8.45 - 10.15am 5.30 - 7.30pm 8.45 - 10.15am 8.45 - 10.15am 8.45 - 10.15am 8.45 - 10.15am	For other visits during the school day please email Sean.French@southfieldsacademy.com or call 020 8875 2661

HOME LEARNING

Noor Inayat Khan was one of the most remarkable spies of the Second World War. She was born in 1914 and was a British Muslim woman of Indian heritage. During World War II, she joined Britain's special operations Executive, known as SOE, and became the first female wireless operator to be sent into Nazi-occupied France. Her codename was "Madeleine". Working as a wireless operator was extremely dangerous because the Germans could track radio signals, so Noor had to keep moving from place to place while secretly sending important messages between the French Resistance and Britain.

WWII

PARIS
France

LONDON
UNITED KINGDOM



After many members of her spy network were arrested, Noor chose to stay in France and continue her work. She was eventually captured in 1943 but refused to give the Germans important information. She also tried to escape before being taken to Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

NOOR INAYAT KHAN.

Noor Inayat Khan was executed at Dachau on 13 September 1944 when she was only 30 years old. Her courage and determination were remembered after the war, and she was awarded the George Cross, one of Britain's highest awards for bravery. France also awarded her the Croix de Guerre. Noor made history not only as a brave secret agent but also as a Muslim woman and one of the first women to carry out such dangerous intelligence work behind enemy lines. Today she is remembered as a symbol of courage, loyalty and sacrifice during World War II.

WWW: _____
FBI: _____
SPAG: _____
Marked by: _____

WWII

Selma (Year 6)

Adam Blade

The Beast Quest book series is primarily aimed at children aged 7 and older.

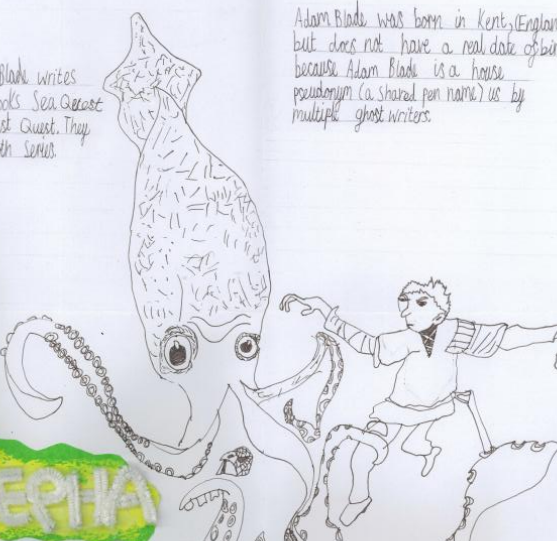
Adam Blade was born in Kent, (England) but does not have a real date of birth because Adam Blade is a house pseudonym (a shared pen name) us by multiple ghost writers.

Adam Blade writes the books SeaQuest and Beast Quest. They are both series.

THE MONSTER SQUID

Adam Blade doesn't have his own children.

Adam Blade's Beast Quest books were inspired by an old sword and shield in his father's office and his childhood dream of grand adventures.



Hezekiah (Year 3)

THE BLITZ

7th September 1940 - 10th May 1941
Ordinary people. Extraordinary courage.

Keep calm and carry on

What was the Blitz?
The Blitz was a German air bombing campaign against Britain during the second world war. The Luftwaffe dropped bombs on UK cities from 7th September 1940 to 10th May 1941. They wanted to destroy our cities, break our morale and make Britain surrender.

What was life like?
• People had to take shelter in Anderson shelters or in underground stations.
• Air raid sirens warned us to find safety.
• Many homes, schools, hospitals and churches were destroyed.

Where was it worst?
• London was the most heavily bombed city.
• Other cities included Coventry, Liverpool, Birmingham, Southampton, Plymouth and Manchester.
• Over 40,000 people were killed and more than 1 million homes were destroyed.

Interesting facts
• The Blitz lasted 56 nights.
• 1.5 million people were evacuated, many of them children.
• St Paul's Cathedral survived, even though the buildings around it were destroyed.
• The blackout made cities very dark at night.
• People used the slogan 'keep calm and carry on' to stay positive.

How did people help?
• The Home Guard protected local areas.
• The ARP helped with rescue and first aid.
• Firefighters worked through the night to put out fires caused by bombing.
• Neighbours looked after each other, especially children, the elderly and those with lost limbs.
• Many children were evacuated to the countryside to stay safe.
• Children and young people showed great bravery.

Why did it happen?
• Hitler wanted to test British morale and make them surrender.
• After the RAF stopped his plan to invade Britain, he decided on raids on cities instead.
• He wanted to show that British people were not invincible.

What are we known for?
• People are known for their bravery and spirit.
• British people and communities can make a big difference in difficult times and can stay hopeful.

Major cities attacked

City	Status
Glasgow	Attacked
Liverpool	Attacked
Manchester	Attacked
Coventry	Attacked
Birmingham	Attacked
London	Attacked
Southampton	Attacked
Plymouth	Attacked

Many other towns and cities were also attacked.

Selma (Year 6)

Well done to following Times Table Rock Stars champions:

		Regular Rock Stars!
	Top of the Year 6 Leader Board	Naya
	Top of the Year 5 Leader Board	Ahad
	Top of the Year 4 Leader Board	Liana
	Top of the Year 3 Leader Board	Asriel
	Top of the Year 2 Leader Board	-
	Top of the Year 1 Leader Board	-

Greatest TT Rockstars presence over the past week... **Year 6**

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

100%	Purple	Perfection!
97% - 99%	Blue	Excellent Attendance
95% - 96%	Green	Good – but room for improvement
91% - 94%	Amber	Cause for Concern
90% and below	Red	Persistent Absence

Year 1	88%
Year 2	94%
Year 3	85%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	91%

The classes with the highest attendance this week is Year 4 with **97%**

GOLDEN AWARD WINNERS

Every Friday at John Burns is Golden Award Assembly. The 14 golden winners for this week are:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| ★ Karin Kara | ★ Cody Self |
| ★ Kairo Brown | ★ Agnes Disha |
| ★ Harper Brahman | ★ Alexander Cortes |
| ★ Nagaad Nur | ★ Mohammed Liban |
| ★ Chelsey Allen | ★ Eiji Guichard |
| ★ Olivia Kodua-Smith | ★ Joshua Titre |
| ★ Alex Overhill | ★ Leonardo Garcia-Peterfi |

STAR MUSICIANS, SUPER LINGUISTS AND SPORTS STARS



Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Grogan
Headteacher

DATES & EVENTS

Events may be subject to change and alteration

Autumn 1 Week 4	
w/c Monday 21/09/26	After School Clubs Commence
Monday 21/09/26	Individual School Photos
Wednesday 23/09/26	Year 6 Swimming Session 3
Thursday 24/09/26	Early Years Wimbledon Tennis Session 2 (9:00-9:50am)
Thursday 24/09/26	Year 1 Wimbledon Tennis Session 2 (10:00-10:50am)
Autumn 1 Week 5	
Wednesday 30/09/26	Year 6 Swimming Session 4
Thursday 01/10/26	National Poetry Day 2026
Thursday 01/10/26	EY Wimbledon Tennis Session 3 (9:00-9:50am)
Thursday 01/10/26	Y1 Wimbledon Tennis Session 3 (10:00-10:50am)
Thursday 01/10/26	EYFS to Year 6 Open Door Classroom visit for parents (3:20-3:40pm)