



Dear Parents,

PARENT CONDUCT – POLITE REMINDER

Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents recently of parents speaking aggressively or inappropriately to members of staff, including the office. This is not acceptable and no member of staff should accept this. This also includes unacceptable conduct during telephone, email communication and on social media.

We understand that problems that concern our children can be troubling or worrying, but every member of staff has the right to come to work without the fear of aggression. If any parent is aggressive to any member of staff, they risk being banned from the school premises.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Every school day counts toward your child's academic success, social development and overall well-being.

A rising number of pupils are regularly missing days, resulting in incomplete school weeks. While we completely understand that children get genuinely sick, our recent data shows a distinct pattern of reported illness where certain pupils are missing one or two days almost every single week.

Why Routine Matters

When a child frequently misses a day or two each week, it creates a "broken" learning routine. This makes it incredibly difficult for them to:

- **Keep up** with sequential lessons (like maths and English units).
- **Build strong friendships**, as social groups form and bond during daily play and group work.
- **Develop resilience** and regular routines that prepare them for the future.

Finding the Root Cause

Sometimes, frequent physical symptoms like stomach aches, headaches or fatigue can be linked to other factors, such as:

- **Anxiety or stress** about a specific subject, test or social situation.
- **Poor sleep habits** or late-night screen time making it hard to wake up.
- **School avoidance**, where staying home becomes a comfort cycle that is hard to break.

How We Can Work Together

We want to support your family to ensure your child feels safe, happy and ready to learn.

- **Assess the illness objectively:** Unless your child has a fever, is vomiting, or has a contagious condition, we encourage you to send them to school. Often, children feel much better once they arrive and settle into their routine.
- **Speak to us early:** If your child is expressing reluctance to come to school, please let us know. We can put internal support systems in place, such as a morning check-in with a named member of staff.
- **Keep medical appointments outside of school hours:** Whenever possible, please schedule routine check-ups after school or during holidays.

If you are finding it difficult to get your child to school consistently, please reach out to your child's class teacher. We are here to listen and support.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and on time

Grapheme
A grapheme is a letter or group of letters that represents a sound.
sh
sh is a grapheme.
It can be one letter or more than one letter.

Phoneme
A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word.
/sh/
sh is a phoneme.
We blend phonemes to read and segment them to spell.

RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 PHONICS MORNING

Diagram
A diagram shows the sound and the grapheme together.

The diagram shows the sound /sh/ and the grapheme sh.
It helps us to make the link between the sound and the letters.

Trigraph
A trigraph is three letters that represent one sound.
igh
igh is a trigraph.
Trigraphs can be tricky, so we practise them a lot!

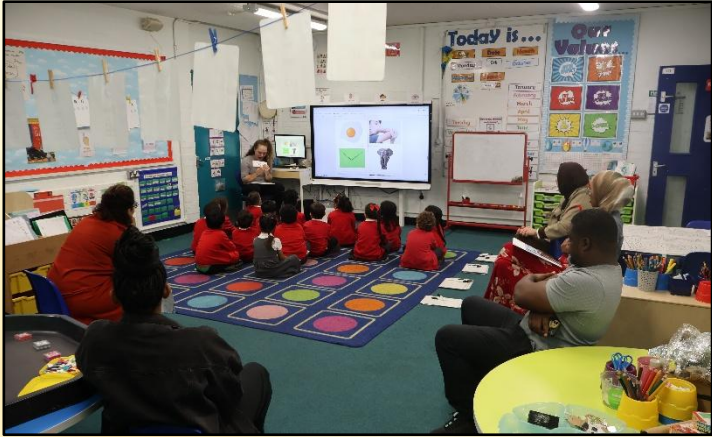
A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Phonics Morning. It was such a pleasure to see so many of you in school and to share a little insight into how we teach phonics at John Burns.

The children did so well and it was wonderful to see them confidently demonstrating their phonics knowledge and skills. They have already made fantastic progress this term, and we are so proud of how they are getting stuck into their learning.

Your support at home makes such a difference. By practising the sounds and words we are learning in school, reading regularly and sharing books together, you are helping your child to build confidence and become an increasingly independent reader.

Thank you once again for taking the time to come along and support your children!





SPORTS LEADER TRAINING

Our Year 6 junior coaches took part in Sports Leader Training with Nick Miller from Wandsworth Games on Thursday. During the session, they learned how to organise and lead fun, engaging games to teach and support younger learners. The training helped develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills, while building their confidence in taking responsibility and encouraging others to participate. It was a great opportunity to develop new skills and prepare them to become positive role models for younger KS1 children.



Friday 16th October

This year, as part of Show Racism the Red Card's annual Wear Red Day, children are invited to wear red clothing to school on Friday 16th October.

Wear Red Day is an annual event organised by Show Racism the Red Card. As part of the event, children will complete activities around the history of anti-racism and learn more about the history of the organisation and why it was established. Children may wear more than one item of red clothing and no donation is required.

Trainers and jeans may also be worn.

You can find out more about Wear Red Day here: <https://www.theredcard.org/wear-red-day/>

Y3/Y4

WINTER SOUNDS

Concert

A magical evening of music, singing & festive cheer!

We are delighted that your child will be taking part in the
Year 3 and Year 4 Winter Sounds Concert
at Fairfield Halls.

Wednesday
9th December 2026

Fairfield Halls,
Croydon

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS?

If you have already confirmed that your child will be attending,
please remember to purchase your tickets for this special evening.

We would love to see as many families as possible there
to support our young performers and celebrate their hard work!

Purchase your tickets here:
<https://www.fairfield.co.uk/events/winter-sounds-1-2026>
The ticket link is also available on the Y3/4 Winter Sounds Parent Letter.

We can't wait to see you there!

Come along, sing along and help us make it
a wonderful evening for our talented
Year 3 and Year 4 pupils!



John Burns Primary School

BACK TO MY ROOTS WEEK

2026

KEY EVENTS

During October, our school community recognise and celebrate the rich cultural heritages and diversity of our school community through a series of pupil and parent events as part of 'Back to My Roots' week.

This year, we will be hosting a variety of activities to celebrate the many cultures and traditions that make up our school community.

Bollywood Dance Workshops – Monday 12th October

On **Monday 12th October**, children in Early Years to Year 6 will participate in dance workshops celebrating traditional Bollywood dances. Please see timings below:

Year Group	Time
EYFS	9:45-10:25am
Year 1	9:00-9:40am
Year 2	10:35-11:15am
Year 3	2:30-3:10pm
Year 4	1:45-2:25pm
Year 5	1:00-1:40pm
Year 6	11:20-12:00pm



Cultural Dress Day – Tuesday 13th October

On **Tuesday 13th October**, your child is welcome to wear clothes that represent their cultural heritage to mark Cultural Dress Day. Children are also invited to bring in any items, books, photographs or other objects that have cultural significance to them or their families, to share and show the class.



After School Food Tasting Event – Tuesday 13th October

On **Tuesday 13th October**, we will be holding our much-loved **after-school food tasting event**. This is always a joyous occasion and a wonderful opportunity for our children and families to come together and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures within our school community. The event relies heavily on the generous support of our families, who kindly donate delicious dishes for everyone to enjoy.



On **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning** this week, **Miss D Buckley** will be in the playground with a sign-up sheet for any parents or carers who would like to prepare and donate a dish for the event. We would be incredibly grateful for any contributions, big or small.

Please ensure that all dishes are clearly labelled with:

- The name of the dish
- The country of origin
- All ingredients used



Important allergy information:

It is essential that all food is **completely nut-free** and **does not contain** any ingredients that may contain **traces** of nuts.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity, time and effort our families put into making this event so special each year. Your wonderful contributions allow us to share, celebrate and learn about the many different cultures represented within our school community. Thank you for helping to make this such a memorable and joyful occasion for our children.

Language Celebration – Wednesday 14th October

As part of our Language Celebration, we are delighted to invite parents and carers to come into school on **Wednesday 14th October** to read a book to their child's class in their home language.

Reading will take place throughout the school day, and we would love to welcome as many families as possible to share their language and stories with the children. This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to celebrate the many languages and cultures that make our school community so special.



If you would like to take part, please speak to **Miss D Buckley** in the **playground** or email the school with your availability.

We would be very grateful for your support and look forward to celebrating our wonderful home languages together!

Hello

Hola

Bonjour

你好

مرحبا

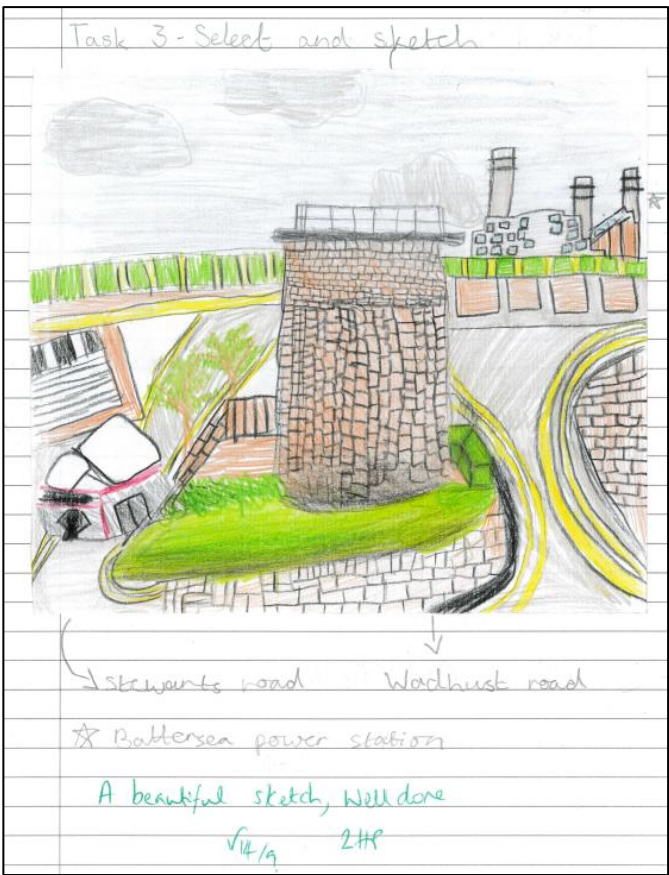
नमस्ते

Many Cultures • One Community

HOME LEARNING



Bella (Year 6)



Imogen (Year 5)



Zaidan (Year 5)



Amaya (Year 5)

Well done to following Times Table Rock Stars champions:

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

Greatest TT Rockstars presence over the past week... **Year 3**

ATTENDANCE



Last week, three classes hit the school attendance target of 96% and had visits from three of our attendance animals (the shark, the fox and the panda).

Well done to Year 6, Year 2 and Year 1!

We asked each class to name the attendance animal. Here are the names!

- Panda: Cookie (named by Year 1)
- Fox: Basil (named by Year 2)
- Shark: Jaws (named by Year 6)

Let's see who gets a visit next week! Keep up the great attendance!

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

Reception	93%
Year 1	95.69%
Year 2	95.72%
Year 3	91%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	91%
Year 6	95.6%

The classes with the highest attendance this week is Year 6 with **95.72%**

GOLDEN AWARD WINNERS

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Yusuf Ali ★ Gianna Brown ★ Alexander Cortes ★ Nagaad Nur ★ Emma Scarpa ★ Ezekiel Crabbe ★ Freddie Watkins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Jahmari Matheson ★ Anir Madani ★ Rosie Ellis ★ Nevan Ngaruko ★ Jeremiah-Constantine Nicholls-Lawrence ★ Ceanna Lawrence ★ Masroor Rajput |
|---|--|

STAR MUSICIANS, SUPER LINGUISTS AND SPORTS STARS



LETTERS ISSUED THIS WEEK

Please find below the links to letters that have been issued to parents this week:

05/10/26 [Letter to Parents – Wear Red Day](#)
 05/10/26 [Letter to Parents – Back to My Roots](#)
 25/09/26 [Letter to Year 2 Parents – Kew Gardens Educational Visit](#)
 25/09/26 [Letter to Year 2 Parents – Pudding Lane Educational Visit](#)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Mr Grogan
Headteacher

DATES & EVENTS

Events may be subject to change and alteration

Autumn 1 Week 7	
w/c Monday 12/10/26	Back to My Roots Week
Monday 12/10/26	Year 2 Educational Visit Kew Garden
Monday 12/10/26	Year 1 Bollywood Dance Workshop (9:00-9:40am)
Monday 12/10/26	EYFS Bollywood Dance Workshop (9:45-10:25am)
Monday 12/10/26	Year 2 Bollywood Dance Workshop (10:35-11:15am)
Monday 12/10/26	Year 6 Bollywood Dance Workshop (11:20am-12:00pm)
Monday 12/10/26	Year 5 Bollywood Dance Workshop (1:00-1:40pm)
Monday 12/10/26	Year 4 Bollywood Dance Workshop (1:45-2:25pm)
Monday 12/10/26	Year 3 Bollywood Dance Workshop (2:30-3:10pm)
Tuesday 13/10/26	Back to My Roots Cultural Dress Day
Tuesday 13/10/26	Back to My Roots food tasting event (3:15-3:45pm)
Wednesday 14/10/26	Language Celebration – Parents Invited to read a book to their child's class in home language (throughout day)
Wednesday 14/10/26	Year 6 Swimming Session 6
Thursday 15/10/26	EY Wimbledon Tennis Session 5 (9:00-9:50am)
Thursday 15/10/26	Y1 Wimbledon Tennis Session 5 (10:00-10:50am)
Thursday 15/10/26	Y6 TfL Workshop (1:30 – 2:30pm)
Friday 16/10/26	Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card
Friday 16/10/26	Year 6 Primary Ambitions 1:00pm – 3:15pm
Autumn 1 Week 8	
Monday 19/10/26	Year 2 Parents' Invited Spelling Session (9:00-9:25am)
Tuesday 20/10/26	EYFS Halloween Cinema Event (2:00-2:40pm) + EYFS Art Gallery Showcase (2:50-3:10pm)
Tuesday 20/10/26	Primary Pentathlon KS2 children (invitation only) @Southfields Academy (10:00am-12:00pm)
Wednesday 21/10/26	Year 6 Swimming Session 7
Wednesday 21/10/26	Year 2 Educational Visit - Pudding Lane and Monument
Thursday 22/10/26	Open Morning (9:15-10:30am)
Thursday 22/10/26	Year 1 – Year 6 PTA Halloween Disco (3:30-4:30pm)