



# St Paul's Whitechapel Newsletter

[www.st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk](http://www.st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk) Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear all,

After a great deal of thought I have decided that I will be retiring from my role as executive headteacher of St Paul's and St John's Schools at the end of the Summer Term, after more than 22 years as a headteacher.

I first joined St Paul's School, as deputy headteacher, in September 1997 and was appointed headteacher in May 2001, when Mrs Chalk, the previous headteacher, retired. In October 2012, the Diocese and local authority asked me to take on St John's School, which had just been graded as 'inadequate' by Ofsted. St Paul's and St John's Schools federated under one governing body in September 2014 and I was appointed as the Executive Headteacher of this federation.

It has been a privilege to have worked over those years with such incredible children, families, staff and governors. You can rest assured that I will continue to spend every possible moment up until the day I leave, trying to provide the best experience for our fantastic children and support for our families.

*T Bennett*



## Message from Robin Precey, Chair of the Governing Body

*The Governors are sorry to accept Mr Bennett's retirement letter but do appreciate that he very much deserves a chance to develop a new life after school. He will be with us until the end of the academic year so there will be a chance to say a proper farewell and recognise his very significant achievements for generations of children and families in Shadwell and Bethnal Green.*

*Rest assured the Governors will be working hard to replace Mr Bennett to ensure that the children's education within the Federation goes from strength to strength.*

*Dr Robin Precey (Chair of Governors)*



Follow us  
on Twitter

[@StPaulsCESchool](https://twitter.com/StPaulsCESchool)

## What's inside:

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- 3 Energy costs
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## Do your children play Fortnite?





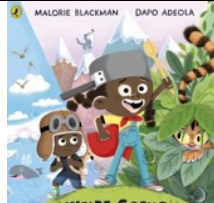
**Advice for parents/ carers from Andrew Hall  
(specialist safeguarding consultant)**

Since its release 2017, Fortnite has become ubiquitous in classrooms and playgrounds throughout the world. The game, which features cartoonish renderings of characters, bright colours and non-visceral consequence free violence, has had a mass appeal to children. Each Christmas another draft of young pupils are induced into its overcrowded multi-player lobbies, to the point that there is not a school pupil in the country who hasn't owned it, begged their parents for it or played it round a friend's house.

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# What's on for parents and families this half term

Please sign up at school office - see Janice for more information

Date	Activity	What it is	Time and where	For who	
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Creative taster session - making story tents	A taster session looking at journeys and how we got here! Sewing and creating led by 'Stitches in Time' FREE	9.15am leave for 10.00am at Rich Mix Session 10.00am – 12.00pm Then 8-week creative/sewing course at Rich Mix	Open to all – but you must book a place!	
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Food Scrutiny	Voice your views on provision for families to use food bags or have help with food from Tower Hamlets Council.	9.00 – 10.00am studio	Ideally you will have used a food bank or had help with food supplies	
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Gratitude Jars	A creative session to make a family gratitude jar, using recycled jars and glass paint	9.00 – 10.00am Studio	St Paul's parents  Bring your own jar if you can	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Gratitude Jars	Part 2 finishing your jar and looking at what gratitude means	9.00 – 10.00am Studio	St Paul's parents	
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Reading ideas for Reception class	Tips and ideas on how to use the book trust pack your child will come home with	9.00 – 10.00am Studio	Reception parents	

## The St Paul's/ Place2Be Kindness Cup

Our Kindness Cup was provided by Place2Be and is presented each week in our celebration Assembly. Class teachers nominate children who demonstrate acts of kindness towards others in their class or around the school. Each week a child from a different class is nominated. Winners keep the cup for a week before handing it over to the next recipient.

Kindness Cup Winners this term, are:

Year 6            Sofia  
Year 5            Jeho'ash  
Year 4            Nura  
Year 3            Zainab

Well done to all of them!



# Do your children play Fortnite?

Continued from Page 1:

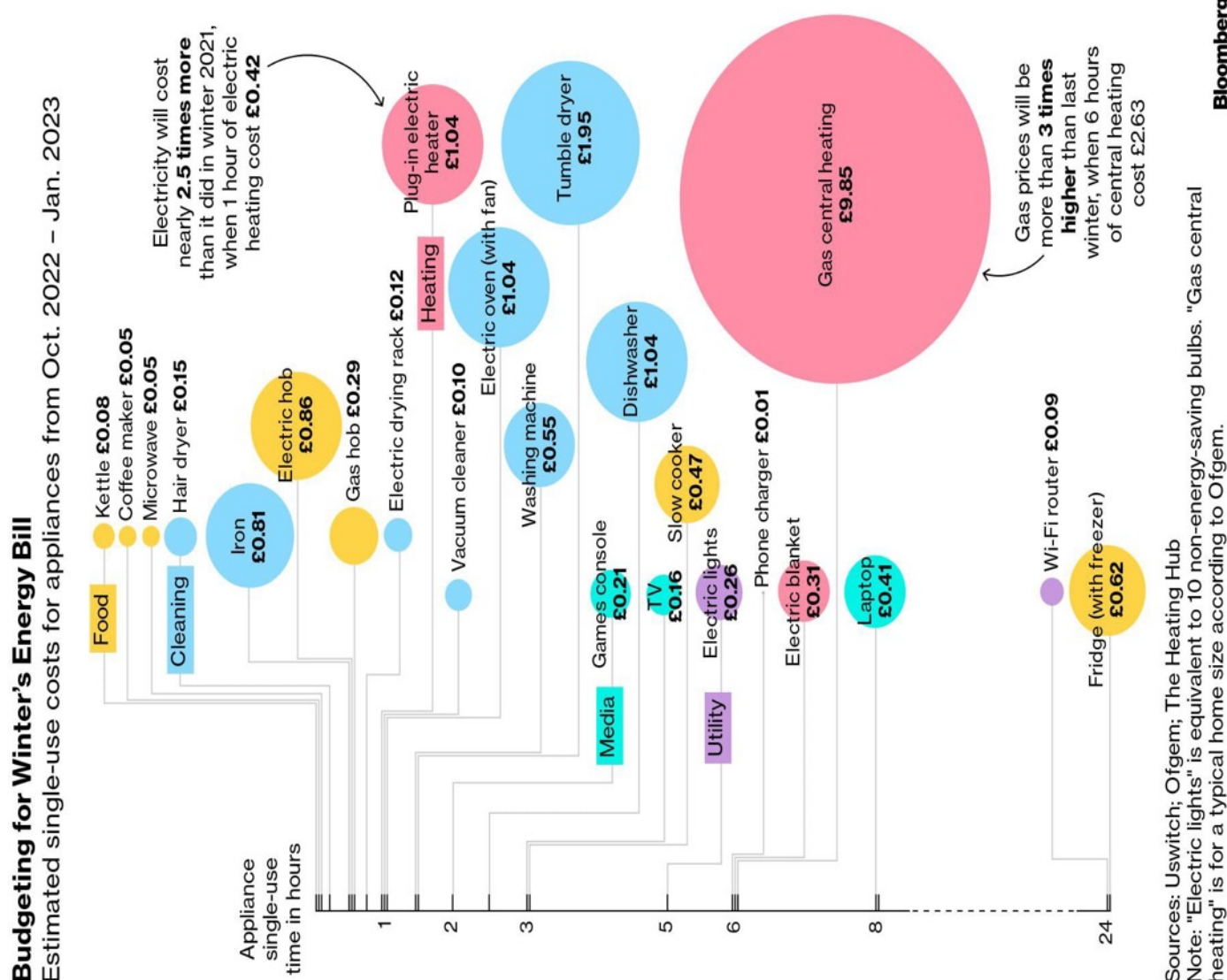
As a result, more children than ever are exposed to multi-player chatting with strangers, and financial exploitation via the game's spend-to-gain-advantage operating style. Allowing children to use real world money to gain perks and costumes. From criminal blackmailing, to the coercion of nude exchanges by online 'friends' posing as children, the danger this game presents from a safeguarding perspective is clear. As an added complication, the verbiage surrounding the game used by pupils is near-incomprehensible, frustrating adepts to secure their safety.

Fortunately to allow for greater comprehension of reports to staff involving the game, Internetmatters.org has published a guide to understanding the game and its terms. You can find the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming>

See also, 'Online Safety & Gaming' on Page 4.

## How much does it cost to run that appliance?





# Online Safety & Gaming

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.



Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.



Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

## Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



## Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

## Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



## Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:  
[swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/](http://swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/)

or scan the QR code



## Further Support

**Professionals Online Safety Helpline:** [saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline](http://saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline)

**Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service:** [swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/](http://swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/)

**Report Harmful Content:**  
[reportharmfulcontent.com](http://reportharmfulcontent.com)



NOMINET



# St Paul's School Photo News

A review of what has been happening in, out & around school. Find lots more like this on Twitter!



The school councillors interviewed our wonderful cook, Tosca Yemoah, today. They asked thoughtful questions that really helped us to learn about the role of a school cook and how a school kitchen is run. It also gave us a chance to express our thanks for all the delicious lunches! (above).



Nursery class are celebrating Chinese New Year by making some lovely tasty noodles.



Clockwise, from above left:

Year 1: True or False - An Arctic Fox is an herbivore?

Year 2: What a lovely afternoon looking for plants and animals while learning about habitats.

Year 3 have been practising their 8x table with chatterboxes, or 'fortune tellers' to help them learn.

Year 4: had a singing and art workshop in preparation for the 'Man in the Moon' show in Covent Garden!

Year 5: Such a hard-working class!





# SWIM SCHOOL HOLIDAY COURSES

Why not keep the kids active this holiday while learning a new life skill with our Swim School Holiday Courses.

Classes for 2023 (Foundation class's only):

13th -17th February, 9am - 11:30am

3rd - 6th April, 9am - 11:30am

14th -18th and 21st -25th August, 9am - 11:30am

- For ages 4 years - 11 years.
- Each class is 30 minutes
- £5 per lesson
- Tiller Leisure Centre, Tiller Road, Docklands, Tower Hamlets, London, E14 8PX

To find and book a Swim School holiday short course:

- Visit [better.org.uk/book-lesson](https://better.org.uk/book-lesson)
- Find and click on your preferred location to be taken to the available courses.
- Select 'Swim School Holiday Courses' in the left-hand filter

Our Learn to Swim framework is designed by industry experts to ensure lessons are of the highest quality, progressive and make our pupils journey fun and hassle free. All our teachers are professional, passionate and pupil-focused; and will ensure your child is in safe hands.

Book your short course today at  
**[better.org.uk/lessons](https://better.org.uk/lessons)**

'All of Tower Hamlets' residents deserve healthy, affordable food. Food Stores showcase all that is best about our Borough - communities coming together to ensure that everyone is fed, regardless of their background. I am proud to oversee the opening of these stores, and look forward to working more closely with and supporting them moving forward'.

*Lutfur Rahman, Mayor of Tower Hamlets*

#### How does it work?

In return for a weekly membership fee of £3.50 you will be able to pick up £20 to £30 worth of groceries and household items. While you are a member we will also set you up with access to advice services for help with debt, benefits access, housing issues and other areas you might find useful.

#### What kind of food will I get?

We stock quality redistributed food that can help to top up your weekly shop with nutritious essentials. Your weekly groceries will include fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled and frozen foods, and store cupboard staples. We also offer household items, like toiletries and cleaning products, when we have them.

#### Where is The Food Store?

The Food Store is running in sites across Tower Hamlets.

#### How long can I be a member?

Every three months we will check in to see how you are doing and if you are getting the right support. If things have improved and you no longer need our help, the membership will end – if not it will carry on. Memberships normally last for six months.

#### How do I sign up?

To sign up, or for more information, please email [TheFoodStore@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:TheFoodStore@towerhamlets.gov.uk) with your name, address, postcode and contact details.



Improving lives  
and reducing  
waste in  
Tower Hamlets



The Food Store is a place you can go every week to pick up large quantities of food for a small amount of money, all while being helped to access support for your finances and wellbeing.



MAYOR OF  
**TOWER HAMLETS**



# St John's & Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools

## Term Dates and Holidays - 2022/ 2023

### Autumn Term 2022 (70 days)

Last Day of Term Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Day* Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
*Boxing Day* Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December

### Spring Term 2023 (58 days)

*New Year's Day* Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January  
Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
*Staff Training* Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
First Day of Term Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Half Term Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> to Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> February  
Second half of term Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Last Day of Term Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

*Good Friday* Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April  
*Easter Monday* Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April

### Summer Term 2023 (64 days)

First Day of Term Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Staff Training Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Half Term Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
Second half of term Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
Last Day of Term Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

*Ramadan begins* Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March\* 2023  
*Eid Al-Fitr* Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April\* 2023  
*Eid Al-Adha* Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023

190 School Days, 5 Staff Training Days (2 to be arranged)  
\* to be confirmed



### Final Thought

*"The bread you store up belongs to the hungry; the cloak that lies in your chest belongs to the naked; the gold you have hidden in the ground belongs to the poor."*

*St Basil the Great  
(330 – 378/9)*

