



St Paul's Newsletter

Friday 24th January 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

Happy New Year to our school community. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. The children have returned with great enthusiasm as we move into the Spring term. Our Value of the term is Humility and there are many definitions of this. I think that if you show humility you are being kind and respectful, not showing off and remembering that everyone has something special to share. I think that sums up our school family nicely.

We have a small number of places available in the school plus free nursery places, part time or full for this year and next so if you know families that need a place, do let them know about us.

There is so much happening in our lovely school, I hope you enjoy reading all about it in this week's edition.

Have a great weekend and be kind to one another.

Staffing Update – Ms Blake

Congratulations to Ms Blake who has recently been appointed our Head of School following on from her successful role as Deputy Headteacher.

Ms Blake was interviewed by representatives from the Local Authority and Diocese along with our Chair of Governors and members of our Governing Body.

Ms. Blake brings a wealth of experience and dedication to this role and we are confident that her leadership will continue to strengthen our school community allowing her to take more of a strategic overview of the school whilst continuing her operational duties.



Follow Us on X and Instagram

One of the very best ways to keep up to date with what is happening in our school is to follow us on social media. We are on X

<https://twitter.com/StPaulsCESchool> and

<https://www.instagram.com/stpaulswhitechapel/?hl=en>

Follow us – there are some fantastic photos and clips of your children.



Staffing Update – Ms Janice

Ms Janice, who has been an integral part of our St. Paul's family since 2008, will sadly be leaving us at the end of the month.

Ms Janice joined us as our Parental Engagement Officer, coming on board as part of a collaboration with local schools. Over the years, she has been a beacon of support and guidance for countless families in our community. Her impact has been immeasurable, from leading exciting school trips to offering invaluable advice on pupil transitions.

One of Ms Janice's most admirable qualities has been her unwavering commitment to supporting those in need. She's been a driving force behind our food bank and clothes bank initiatives, ensuring that no family in our community goes without essential resources. Thank you for all your help and support Janice – you will be missed.



Democracy In Action

We've recently completed our Head Boy and Girl elections, and what a fantastic experience it was! The importance of democracy shone through as our pupils delivered incredible speeches, showcasing their leadership potential.

A big thank you to Ms Foster for orchestrating this event. It's heartening to see our school community come together to make such important decisions. The process truly embodies the spirit of decision-making as everyone gets a vote.

In our next newsletter, we'll be hearing from our newly elected Head Boy and Girl.

Congratulations to everyone who participated – our children were superb.





Thank you Reynolds!

Our cooking and nutrition lessons have been bursting with flavour lately! Thanks to the generous support of Reynolds Food, our pupils have been whipping up even more delicious dishes. It's wonderful to see their culinary skills growing alongside their enthusiasm for healthy eating.



Kindness Cup Update

We've recently awarded two more Kindness Cup Winners, and I couldn't be prouder! These amazing pupils have truly embodied our school's value of Compassion, showing kindness and care in their everyday actions. They are such fantastic role models for their friends and their actions remind us all of the power of small acts of kindness and how they can make a big difference in our school environment.





Panathlon Success

Our incredible KS2 pupils have done it again! They've brought home the gold in the Panathlon, showcasing their amazing talents and teamwork.

It's moments like these that make us all proud to be part of St. Paul's. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Thanks to Coach Idrees and Ms Blake for organising. Keep up the great spirit, everyone! There's no limit to what we can achieve!





Collective Worship Update

Thank you to Father Richard and Ms Elizabeth for leading such inspiring Collective Worships. These moments of reflection and learning are so valuable for our pupils, helping them grow not just in knowledge, but in character too.

Father Richard's recently spoke to our pupils about treating others as we'd like to be treated ourselves emphasising the importance of respect and peaceful coexistence in our communities, regardless of our differences.

These moments of reflection offer our pupils the opportunity to think deeply about their place in the world and the contribution they can make.



Learning Through Play in the Early Years





Class 5 Keeping Fit and Healthy in PE Lessons



Foodbank Update

A big thank you to our staff who have gave up their time in the Christmas holidays to set up our food bank. It was one of our busiest ones yet as we received so many donations from the Felix Project, The Hygiene Bank, our great friends at Reynolds and friends of the school who helped us with kind donations. Thank you to Ms Janice who organised additional deliveries of food and to Ms Blake who drove to the Felix Project depot and loaded up the car with lots of goodies. A big thank you to Mr. Bennett and Ms Dixon who kindly lent a hand too!



Reading in Year 1

It is so important to encourage reading. The first thing you will see when you walk through our Reception area is our library. Here you can see some children in Year one sharing stories with their friends.



Reception Class Survey The Local Traffic

Our Reception children recently went out into the local community to study the impact traffic has on our local area. They were asked to find out how many different vehicles they could see and used a tally chart to record their findings.





TOWER HAMLETS

Holiday Childcare Scheme

Ages 3-13 years old

The Tower Hamlets Childcare Scheme offers Ofsted registered childcare.
020 7364 0523
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs

February scheme Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025 (5 days)

Bookings now open



Holiday Childcare February Scheme 2025

Information for professionals

The Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare February 2025 Scheme is now open for bookings for working parents' resident in the borough, and for vulnerable referrals. Non-working parents / carers are welcome to book places from 28th January 2025.

Scheme dates

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025 (5 days).

Our scheme dates are based on the Tower Hamlets school holidays.

Booking closing date: 11th February 2025 by 12pm or earlier once bookings are full.

Venue

St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School, Sutton Street, E1 0BD

Please support and share this information with families you feel may benefit from our scheme. To refer a child please complete our [referral form](#) and support the family to book following the steps on our [booking system](#).

More information can be found on our website www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs.

We will look forward to receiving your bookings.

Holiday Childcare Team
Parent & Family Support Service
Education Directorate
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

GET TALKING!

FamiliesMatter

Delivered by the Parental Engagement Team



**Communication course for
parents with children in nursery and
reception**



**Saturday 1st February 2025
11am-12 noon
Meath Gardens Family Hub,
Smart Street, E2 0SN**

**Learn how to
teach children
how to
communicate
effectively**

**For more details
Tel: 07858 689 243
Email:
Parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

Access to Fostering scheme



Are you curious about becoming a Foster Carer, but need support with the process?

Join the Open College Network accredited course

You will learn about:

- The role of the Foster Carer
- The skills needed to become a Foster Carer
- Child development and attachment
- Supporting children's learning
- Supporting children's health and wellbeing
- Keeping children safe from harm

To find out more and to see if you may be eligible to join the course, come along to one of the fostering information sessions:

- Monday 27 January,
- Monday 10 February,
- Wednesday 12 February,

10-11am at The Parents Advice Centre 30 Greatorex Street, E1 5NP

The 11-week course starts on Wednesday, 26 February



To sign up for the course or for more details, email fostering.training@towerhamlets.gov.uk

leaving your name and number and we will call you back

This course is a co-production between the Parent & Family Support Service and Fostering

Dads' Network Baby Massage Session

A fun session for dads and children aged under 2,
exploring the benefits and techniques of baby massage!

Booking required



**Saturday 15 February,
11am-12 noon
Meath Gardens Family Hub
1 Smart Street, E2 0SN**

Facilitated by The Parent and Family Support Service

Email: parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Telephone: 07858 689 243

Share your views!

Free School Meals Parent Focus Group

Parents and carers are invited to participate in a Parent and Carer Council focus group at the Town Hall to share your thoughts on the free school meals at your child's primary and/or secondary school.

Friday 7th February 2025
9.30am-11:30am

Tower Hamlets Town Hall,
160 Whitechapel Road,
E1 1BJ



It has been over a year since Tower Hamlets Council became the first local authority in England to rollout universal free school meals to all primary and secondary pupils.

Universal free school meals provide financial, health and educational benefits to children and the council is committed to ensuring as many pupils as possible can benefit.

The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee is reviewing the borough's free school meal provision to explore how the council can continue working with schools, parents and pupils to increase uptake and satisfaction.

The session aims to focus on strengths, areas for improvement, balancing nutrition and appeal, accessibility, and communication in relation to free school meals.

Refreshments will be provided. Places are limited and booking is required.

To book your place, email your name and your child's school to

parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

This Parent and Carer Council Family Voice Event will be facilitated by the Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement Team and Corporate Strategy and Communities Service.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentfamilysupport

Booking required

Children's Services are offering Toileting Troubleshooting sessions in Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs for parents of children with additional needs

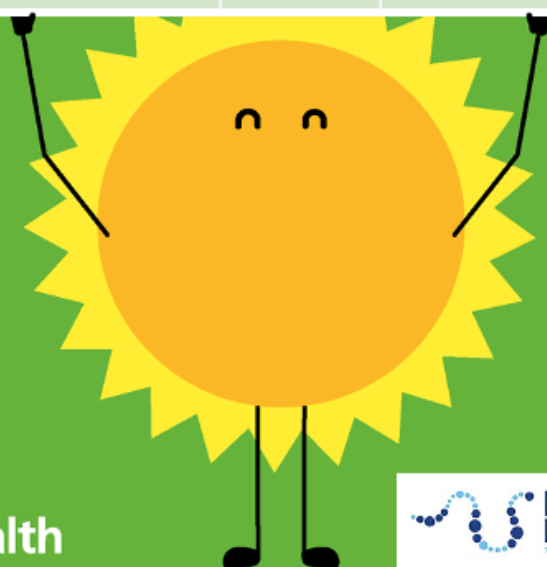


If you are interested in attending:

- 1) First attend a Toileting Workshop in any Tower Hamlets Children and Family Centres and Family Hubs.
- 2) After trialling strategies from this workshop, you feel you would benefit from further support please choose a date that suits you to book onto.

The workshops happen on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Month	Date	Time	Children Centres & Family Hubs
January	8 th January 2025	1-3pm	Marner
February	5 th February 2025	1-3pm	Ocean
March	5 th March 2025	1-3pm	Meath gardens
April	2 nd April 2025	1-3pm	Isle of Dogs
May	7 th May 2025	1-3pm	Overland
June	4 th June 2025	1-3pm	Chrip Street



Young Barts Health




Supporting you,
for a brighter future

Penalty Notices Information – New National Framework

Please read and familiarise yourself with the latest guidance from Tower Hamlets. Please note that the fines go to the local authority and that all schools receive this information to share with parents/carers.

PENALTY NOTICES

New National Framework for Penalty Notices for poor school attendance and unauthorised leave in term time are changing from 19 August 2024.



Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notices will still be issued to each parent for each absent child.

For example – 2 siblings absent for unauthorised leave in term time will result in each parent receiving two separate fines.

Term Time Leave: 5 consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period

First Offence

The first time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.

(Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.)

Second Offence

The second time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.

(There is no reduction for any early payment.)

Third Offence

The third time a penalty notice is issued, the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.


Fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child, can be issued by the courts.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE

London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ

Email: LBTHAttendance&WelfareServiceAdmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7364 3450

The best of London
in one borough







WRAPAROUND CARE

Our wraparound care after school club has started.

It is open every day from 3:30pm – 5:30pm and is open to everyone from Nursery to Year 6 at a cost of £8.00 per session that must be booked in advance.

Lots of activities, healthy snacks and an opportunity to have fun in the safe environment of our school.



BECOME A CHORISTER AT ST PAUL'S



Dear parent/guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well. St Paul's Cathedral is currently recruiting the next generation of boy and girl Choristers to join its world-famous choir. We would be delighted if your child might be interested in applying. Invitations have been offered to students who have shown potential and enthusiasm in school, and I hope that you will encourage your child to explore the many musical and social opportunities that Choristership can offer.

Director of Music, Andrew Carwood MBE, writes:

"Being a Chorister at St Paul's is an extraordinary and inspiring experience, offering children a unique start in life. Alongside a first-class musical education, our Choristers board at the Cathedral School, where they benefit from an exceptional academic curriculum. In addition to singing Choral Evensong throughout the week, Choristers participate in special services, concerts, broadcasts, and tours."

St Paul's Cathedral is determined that no child should ever have to pay to sing in their Cathedral. Choristers learn and board at the Cathedral School and receive 100% bursaries for their education fees and up to 100% on the cost of boarding.

We are holding online introduction meetings for parents and their children on November 13th, beginning at 6:00 PM for boys and 6:45 PM for girls. These meetings will offer insights into the unique benefits of Choristership at St Paul's and how it can help shape a child's future.

For more details, including how to apply, please visit www.stpauls.co.uk/join-cathedral-choir, or email me directly on wbruce@stpaulscathedral.org.uk.

With renewed thanks,

Will Bruce
School Choral Director

"We believe that every young person should have access to the world's best music — that's why we're committed to providing progression opportunities at the highest level. "

Will Bruce
Artistic Director of Choral Partnerships

St PAUL'S
CATHEDRAL



St PAUL'S
CATHEDRAL

Become a Chorister

If your child is between Years 2 and 5 and is enthusiastic about singing, scan the QR code or ask for a leaflet to find out more.



Don't worry about screen time; aim for screen quality

Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or video calling Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.



Check the safety settings are turned on



Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are - can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? What about safe search and Youtube? See parentsafe.lgfl.net for more.

Get your children to show you their apps and games



You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced - they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** reviews.

Don't try to hide news about scary things in the news



If you don't talk about it, your children might read inappropriate pages, believe scare stories or simply catastrophise in their heads. Why not watch **Newsround** together and talk about how they feel - there is guidance from **Childline** to help you.

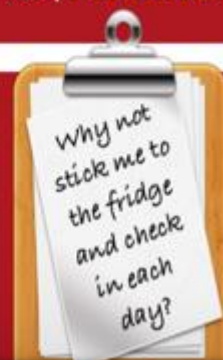
Remind them of key online safety principles



There are too many to list, but remember human behaviour is the same online and offline. Remind your children to be a good friend, to ask for help if they are worried or if someone is mean, not to get undressed on camera and most important of all... if somebody tells them not to tell or ask for help because it's too late or they will get in trouble, **THAT'S A LIE!**

If you aren't sure, ASK!

Your school may be able to give you advice, but there are plenty of other places to ask for help as a parent or a child, whether it is advice or help to fix something. Lots of sites are listed at reporting.lgfl.net, including ones to tell your kids about (they might not want to talk to you in the first instance).





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES

LUNCH MENU

Nov 2024 - Apr 2025



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Lebanon	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	04 Nov 2024 • 18 Nov • 02 Dec • 16 Dec • 30 Dec • 13 Jan 2025 • 27 Jan • 10 Feb • 24 Feb • 10 Mar • 24 Mar • 07 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Beef, Pepper & Onion Pizza with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Chicken Sausage with Mash Potatoes & Onion Gravy	Chicken Shawarma with Lebanese Rice or Lebanese Flatbread	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
Option 2	Vegan Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges	BBQ Vegetable Strips Wrap with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Vegetable Hotpot	Falafel in Sumaq & Za'atar Sauce with Lebanese Rice	Lentil & Vegetable Dahl with Rice
On the side	Sliced Carrots and Peas	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Cauliflower and Sliced Carrots	Mix Vegetables	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Green Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Fattoush Salad	Macedoine of Vegetable Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Banana & Date Yoghurt	Apple & Sultana Yoghurt with Rice Krispies

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 Ireland	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	11 Nov 2024 • 25 Nov • 09 Dec • 23 Dec • 06 Jan 2025 • 20 Jan • 03 Feb • 17 Feb • 3 Mar • 17 Mar • 31 Mar • 14 Apr				
Option 1	Piri Piri Vegan Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Italian Beef Meatballs Marinara Subroll with Cajun Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Irish Beef Stew with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes	Battered Pollock Fillet or Bubble Salmon Fillet with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Mixed Vegetable Balti with Rice	Vegetable Nuggets with Katsu Curry Sauce and Rice	Jacket Potato with Leek, Onion & Beans	Veggie Sausage with Champ/Colcannon Mash Potatoes & Gravy	Quorn Frankfurter Hotdog with Chips and Homemade Tomato Sauce
On the side	Green Vegetable Medley	Broccoli & Sweetcorn	Green Beans & Cauliflower	Green Cabbage & Sliced Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Carrots & Cucumber Ribbons	Tomato & Pasta Salad	Chef's House Salad	Potato Salad	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheddar Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Raspberry & Mango Fruit Fool	Apple & Banana 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



Pro Veg recognises that OUR healthy menus are environmentally friendly for humans, animals and the Planet.

All our Vegan & Vegetarian recipes are packed full of nutrition including PROTEIN & FIBRE to keep children healthy & happy.



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.



Contract Services CPU team were WINNERS at the Staff Awards Ceremony for "Excellent Support Services"

Fantastic FOOD IN SCHOOLS

Tower Hamlets & City SENDIASS

(Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service)

The SENDIASS Team provides free and impartial expert advice to parents of children with SEND and to children and young people themselves who are residents within Tower Hamlets or City of London. Some of the ways we can support you are:

- **Attending meetings with schools/professionals**
- **Applying for an Education Health and Care Plan**
- **Mediation with the Local Authority**
- **Preparing and attending SEND Tribunals**
- **Providing information about other support services and departments**

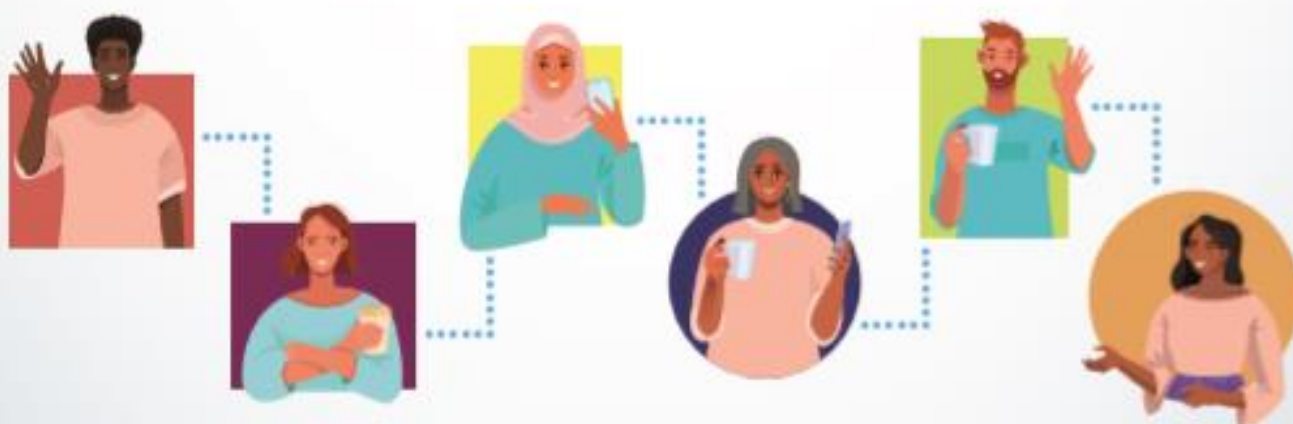
Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

If your query can not be resolved during the telephone consultation, we will take a referral and you will be allocated a caseworker who will contact you within 10 working days.

We have a dedicated telephone line, **020 7364 6489**, that you can call to speak to an advisor Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m-17:00 p.m.

You can also email us at:
towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

You can visit our website at:
<https://www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com/>



DISCOVER
FOOTBALL
JUST PLAY

FOOTBALL

Training

£6.00

PER SESSION

YOUTH AGE

5-7

WEDNESDAY
TERM TIME ONLY

4:45-5:45 PM

ST PAULS WHITECHAPE PRIMARY SCHOOL
E1 8GN

PLEASE USE BACK GATE

BOOK VIA HAPPITY



FOOTBALL@STGEORGEINTHEEAST.ORG

St
George
—in-the—
east

CHSNGE!!



The Designated Members of Staff Responsible for Safeguarding and Child Protection at St Pauls are:



Darren Rubin
Executive Headteacher



Kathy Blake
Deputy Headteacher



John Boutflour
Assistant Headteacher



Rebecca Foster
Senior Leader

St John's & St Paul's Whitechapel CE Primary Schools
Term Dates and Holidays - 2024/ 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Staff Training	Mon 2 nd & Tue 3 rd September
First Day of Term	Wednesday 4 th September
Half Term	Monday 28 th – Friday 1 st November
Staff Training	Mon 4 th November
Second half of term	Tuesday 5 th November
Last Day of Term	Friday 20 th December

<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Wednesday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Thursday 26th December</i>

Spring Term 2025

New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January

First Day of Term	Monday 6 th January
Half Term	Mon. 17 th to Fri. 21 st February
Second half of term	Monday 24 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th April

<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 18th April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 21st April</i>

Summer Term 2025

First Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term	Tuesday 27 th to Friday 30 th May
Second half of term	Monday 2 nd June
Last Day of Term	Tuesday 22 nd July

<i>Ramadan begins</i>	<i>Friday 28^h February 2025*</i>
<i>Eid Al-Fitr</i>	<i>Sunday 30th March 2025*</i>
<i>Eid Al-Adha</i>	<i>Friday 6th June 2025*</i>

195 days including 5 staff training days - 2 staff training days to be arranged

* to be confirmed