



St Paul's Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

An update from Mr. Rubin...

It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent Christmas Fayre. What a great turn out and how wonderful that everyone got a free ice cream and cookie thanks to The Caring Family Foundation. I think there were a few happy parents and carers that may have got an ice cream too!

There is a lot that is packed into the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading what the children have been up to. As ever, I would like to thank our incredible staff who work so hard to make sure our children receive all these lovely experiences.

I am pleased to report that all three schools will be training together at the start of January. An opportunity for St Paul's, St John's and Christ Church to come together and learn from one another.

Enjoy the newsletter. Have a great Christmas holiday and remember to be kind to one another.



Thank you Reynolds

We are one of a small number of schools that teach cooking and nutrition to our children. Our driver for that is the high number of children with obesity and tooth decay in our borough. We believe that if children learn how to put together a healthy balanced meal, that will give them the opportunity to make informed choices as they grow up. We are so fortunate to receive such incredible produce from our friends at Reynolds Food Group who deliver their quality produce to some of the finest establishments in the country. You can see from the picture that our children are very proud of the food that they make including this delicious fruit salad, laden with healthy fruit. Once again, Reynolds will be kindly donating goods to our foodbank over Christmas, If you would like a slot contact parents@st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk



Follow Us on X and Instagram

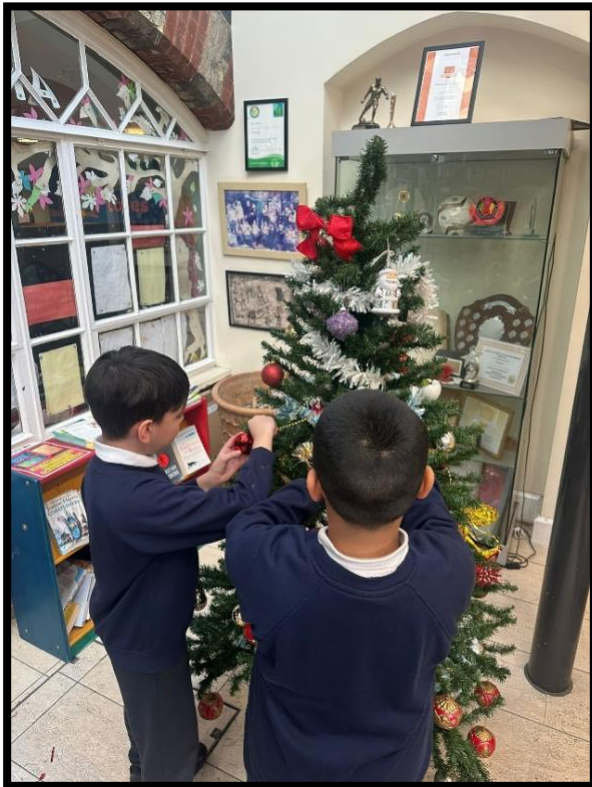
One of the very best ways to keep up to date with what is happening in our school is to follow us on social media. We are on X <https://twitter.com/StPaulsCESchool> and <https://www.instagram.com/stpaulswhitechapel/?hl=en>
Follow us – there are some fantastic photos and clips of your children.





The Spirit of Christmas at St. Pauls

As you step into St. Pauls, the first thing to greet you is our beautifully decorated Christmas tree, lovingly crafted by our pupils. A heartfelt thank you to all the children who brought festive cheer to our school with their creativity and effort. Their decorations captured the spirit of Christmas, filling our school with warmth and joy. This tree stands as a shining symbol of our community's togetherness and the light we all share during this special season.



New Parent Governor Needed

Huge thanks to Mr Ahmed who has stepped down from his role as Parent Governor. He has supported the school since May 2023 and we are so grateful for his wisdom, time and support. Our Governing Body has a strong focus on three core strategic functions

- Ensuring Clarity of Vision
 - Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
 - Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Governors commit to attend regular meetings and training. Each individual Governor is a member of the Governing Body and all decisions are the joint responsibility of the Governing Body.

We are now looking for a new Parent Governor to join. If you could send expressions of interest to Parents@st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk, we will begin the process.



Stunning Class Assemblies

I know you will have been dazzled by the wonderful array of class assemblies and Nativity performances that have taken place recently at St. Pauls. These events showcased the talent, enthusiasm and hard work of our pupils. The hall has been packed with proud parents and carers, all coming together to celebrate the children's achievements and creativity. It has been heart-warming to see the children perform with such confidence and joy, bringing stories and songs to life with their energy and spirit. We are incredibly proud of every child who took part and we hope these moments have created lasting memories for you as much as they have for us. Well done to all the staff who work so hard to put it all together.





Advent

We are always so grateful to Father Richard and Ms Elizabeth for visiting us to teach our pupils during Collective Worship. Recently they discussed the significance of Advent helping us to understand the themes of hope, preparation, and reflection that are central to this important season.

Our children always listen attentively and participate with enthusiasm, lighting the Advent candles—a moment that beautifully symbolises the growing light and promise of the season. Worship is always ended with a prayer over the prayers that the children have thoughtfully written.





Lantern Making

Our Year 4 class had an amazing time creating their colourful lanterns as part of the Aldgate in Winter Festival workshops. They worked with visiting artists to design beautiful lanterns that shone proudly in the Lantern Parade.

A special thank you to Ms Foster for assisting with arrangements.





The EYFS Nativity

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our EYFS children for their delightful Nativity performance this year. Their enthusiasm, smiles, and confidence truly brought the Christmas story to life and filled the hall with joy and festive spirit. We are incredibly proud of how much effort they put into learning their lines, songs, and every single action, making the performance special and memorable.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the EYFS team for their dedication and hard work in preparing the children so well. The set was incredible and there was even hay!

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support and celebrate with us. Your encouragement means so much to the children and the whole school community.





Times Tables Rock Stars Update – Miss Foster

This term our pupils have been working hard on their times tables using our online platform Times Tables Rock Stars!

To celebrate our successes, every week, one child from Year 1-6 is chosen from each class to rock out with Miss Foster.

We love Times Tables Rock Stars! The big question is... Who will be the first Rock Star of their class in Spring term?!



Year 6 Sing at St Paul's Cathedral Churchyard

How lovely it was to have both our choirs across the Federation sing together at St Paul's Cathedral Churchyard. A huge thank you to Mr Bruce and Mr Cook who organised everything and of course to our children who once again, performed so well!

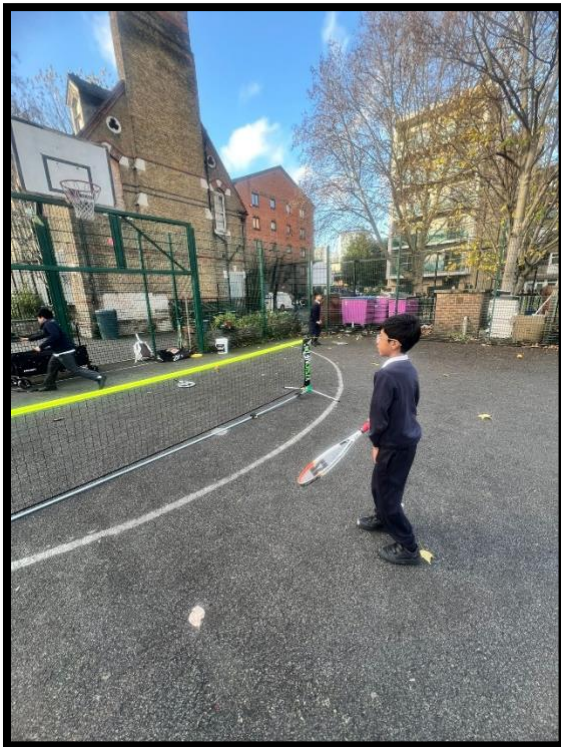




Fun Fun Fun at the Christmas Fayre!







Tennis Coaching

Our pupils from Years 1, 2 and 6 had the fantastic opportunity to take part in tennis sessions organised by Alex Scally from Courtside, a local sports club run by Tower Hamlets. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning new tennis skills in a fun and supportive environment. These sessions not only helped pupils develop their hand-eye coordination and physical fitness but also encouraged teamwork, focus and a positive attitude towards sport.

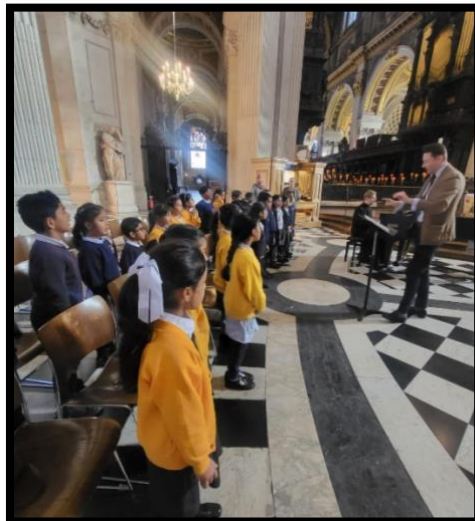
We are grateful to Courtside for supporting our school and helping our pupils build confidence and skills through tennis. Maybe these lessons have inspired a future world champion?



Class Trips

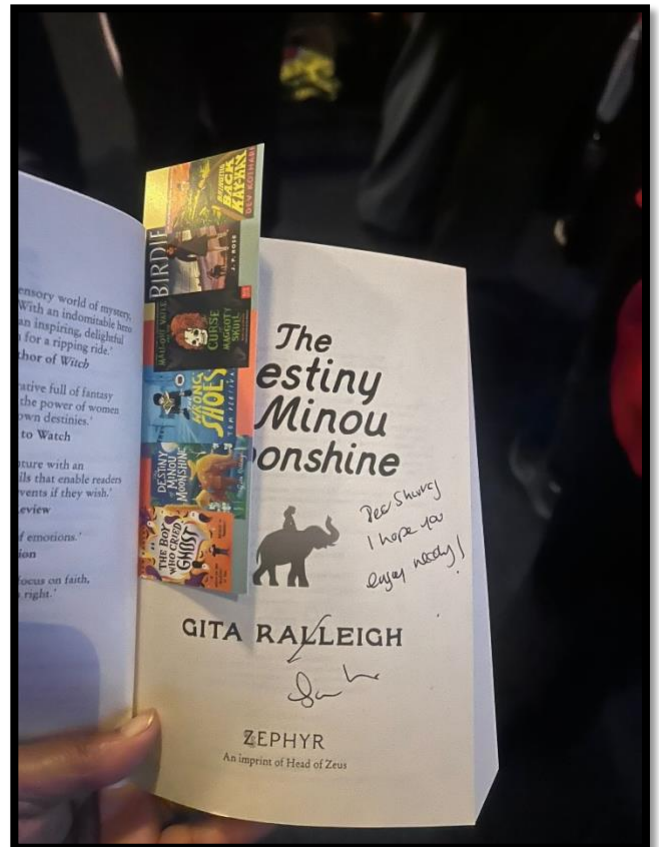
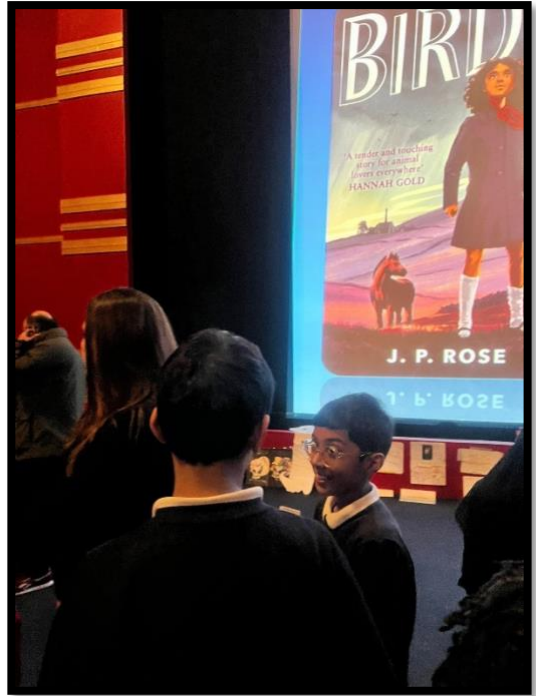
Our children have been very busy out and about on Class Trips ranging from seeing some excellent films at the cinema. Children are pictured here seeing the film 'Flow' – a wonderful adventure about a cat getting up to lots of fun.

Our Year 3 class had a huge treat joining the Eucharist Service at the world famous ST Paul's Cathedral performing the hymns they had learnt with Mr Bruce and Ms Elizabeth. Huge thanks to them for helping to organise this trip.



Tower Hamlets Book Awards

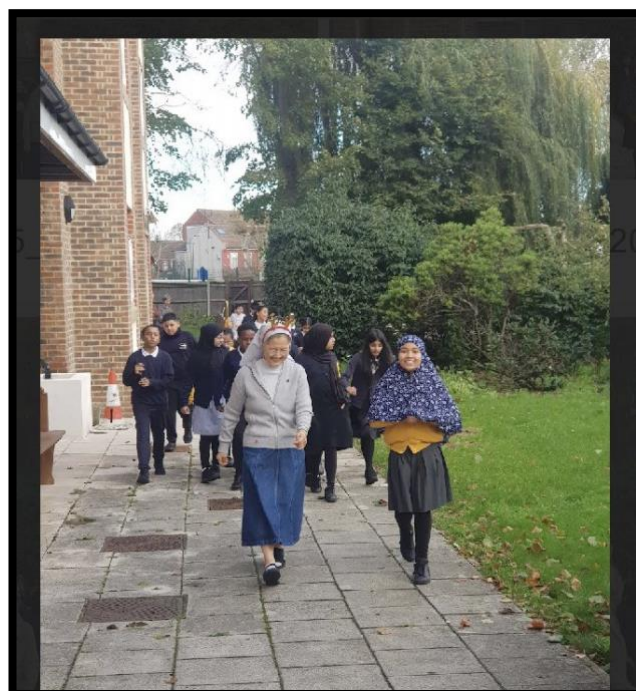
Some of our pupils went along to the Tower Hamlets Book Awards – a fantastic event where children celebrate books and get to meet the authors who write them. Big thanks to Ms Georgina and our parent volunteers for assisting with the trip.





SEWA Day Visit

Our Year 6 children recently visited St Margaret Convent to entertain the clients there by singing and chatting. Sewa is about sacrifice so the children gave up some of their learning and play times to attend this visit and bring some shine to everyone that was there. A big thank you to Ms Elizabeth and Miss Foster who organised the trip. Everyone really enjoyed the visit and it was a very worthwhile activity to take part in.





Sports Update – Ms Blake

A group of our pupils took part in an exciting basketball match at Bethnal Green, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to put their skills into practice in a competitive yet supportive environment. Additionally, another group of pupils honed their abilities at a parasport basketball workshop, where they developed both physical skills and confidence in an inclusive setting.

Sport plays a vital role in building not only physical fitness but also important life skills such as communication, resilience, and cooperation. These experiences help our pupils grow in confidence and foster a healthy competitive spirit, encouraging them to strive for their personal best both on and off the court.





CONTRACT CATERING SERVICES LUNCH MENU Nov 2025 - Apr 2026



Week 1	Monday 'Planet Earth Day'	Tuesday 'Street Food Day'	FREE FROM Main Allergens Wednesday 'Traditional Day'	Thursday Hungary	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	03 Nov 2025 • 17 Nov • 01 Dec • 15 Dec • 29 Dec • 12 Jan 2026 • 26 Jan • 09 Feb • 23 Feb • 09 Mar • 23 Mar • 06 Apr				
Option 1	Tomato, Basil & Mozzarella Potato Gnocchi	BBQ Veggie Chicken Tenders with Spicy Diced Potatoes	Veggie Bangers and Mash	Layered Cheesy Vegetables & Potatoes (Rakott Krumpli)	Vegetable Nuggets with Sweet and Sour Sauce & Rice
Option 2	Thai Red Vegetable Meatballs Curry with Noodles	Keralan Style Chicken Curry with Savoury Rice	Minced Beef Cottage Pie	Hungarian Beef Goulash (Pörkölt) with Mashed Potato	Cod Fish Fingers with Chips
On the side	Sweetcorn and Green Beans	Broccoli & Carrots	Braised Red Cabbage & Peas	Green Vegetable Medley	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Mixed Bean Salad	Crunchy Red Coleslaw	Chef's House Salad	Hungarian Cucumber Salad	Asian Noodle Salad
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Apple & Cinnamon Greek Style Yoghurt	Dates & Banana Yoghurt
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 Brazilian	Friday 'Favourites'
Dates	10 Nov 2025 • 24 Nov • 08 Dec • 22 Dec • 05 Jan 2026 • 19 Jan • 02 Feb • 16 Feb • 2 Mar • 16 Mar • 30 Mar				
Option 1	Macaroni Cheese & Sweetcorn	Margherita Pizza with Cajun Potato Wedges	Vegetable Hotpot	Black Bean & Vegetable Stew with Rice	Mediterranean Puff Pastry Tart with Chips
Option 2	Chickpea & Vegetable Tagine with Couscous	Chicken Shawarma with Rice	Roast Beef with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Beef Feijoada with Rice	Battered Pollock Fillet with Chips or Jacket Potato with Tuna, Salmon & Sweetcorn Mayonnaise
On the side	Carrots and Broccoli	Vegetable Medley	Roasted Cauliflower and Green Beans	Baby Corn & Carrots	Garden Peas and Baked Beans
Salads	Beetroot & Spring Onion Salad	Carrot & Sultana Salad	Chef's House Salad	Brazilian Slaw (Salpicão Salad)	Crunchy Coleslaw
Dessert	Fruity Yoghurt Bar with Toppings	Cheese with Breadstick	Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad	Banana & Mango Fruit Fool with Toasted Coconut	Mandarin 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

LOOK OUT FOR OUR POPULAR THEME DAYS.

DECEMBER
Christmas Lunch

MARCH
Eid Celebration

JANUARY
National Pie Day

MARCH
World Book Day

FEBRUARY
Chinese New Year

FEBRUARY
Pancake Day



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.



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.





WE ARE

**YOUTH
YOUTH
YOUTH**

WE ARE

**A YOUTH MOVEMENT IN TOWERHAMLETS
CREATING COMMUNITY AND CHANGING CULTURE**

AT ST JOHN ON BETHNAL GREEN

FREE DROP IN YOUTH SESSION
FROM 3:30-5:00PM

EVERY MONDAY TERM TIME





WELCOME TO ST GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST

Dear parent/guardian,

It is our privilege to invite your child to join **St George's Youth Choir**. Places have been offered to students who have shown potential and enthusiasm in school and I hope that you will encourage your child to try out our choir and experience the many musical and social opportunities it will offer.

What is St George's Youth Choir?

St George's Youth Choir is run by St George-in-the-East Church and is proudly the first 'Choir Church' initiative in the country. We are also delighted to be a partner of St Paul's Cathedral's Choral Foundation. Striving for excellence, team spirit, fun, and amazing performance opportunities, we work to help young people grow and be the best they can be. In recent years, we have taken members to sing at St Paul's Cathedral and Kings College, Cambridge. We are an inclusive choir and we welcome children of all faiths, and none.

Where and when does the choir rehearse?

The choir rehearses weekly at **St George-in-the-East Church** on **Wednesdays** during term time from **4:00–5:00 PM**, with **snacks and socialising from 3:45 PM**. We celebrate a **monthly sung Eucharist** as part of our Wednesday evening sessions, which we warmly encourage friends and family to attend. Our unique, diverse and exciting performance schedule will be shared upon signing your child up.

How much does it cost?

With generous support from St George-in-the-East Church and a number of trust and foundations, our choir is **FREE** to join!

How do I confirm my child's place?

Places are limited, so please sign up your child as soon as possible using the following link: <https://forms.gle/H3kgGgPQVvYUYjqDZ>. A member of our team will then be in touch to confirm your child's place.

Will Bruce and Elizabeth Stout

Choir Director and Schools and Families Pastor



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).





Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS



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/>





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



Mr Rubin
Executive Headteacher



Ms Blake
Head of School



Ms Foster
Senior Leader

Term Dates and Holidays - 2025/ 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Staff Training	Monday 1st & Tuesday 2nd September (2days)
Term 1	Wednesday 3rd September–Friday 24 th October(38 days)
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
Term 2	Monday 3 rd November – Friday 19 th December (35 days)
Christmas break	Monday 22 nd December – Friday January 2 nd
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Thursday 25th December</i>
<i>Boxing Day</i>	<i>Friday 26th December</i>
<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Thursday 1st January</i>

Spring Term 2026

Staff Training	Monday 5th January (1 day)
Term 3	Tuesday 6 th January- Friday 13 th February (29 days)
Half Term	Monday 16 th February-Friday 20 th February
Term 4	Monday 23 rd February-Friday 27 th March (25 days)
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Friday 3rd April</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Monday 6th April</i>

Summer Term 26

Term 5	Monday 13 th April-Friday 22 nd May (29 days)
<i>May Day Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 4th May</i>
<i>Spring Bank Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 25th May</i>
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
Term 6	Monday 1 st June- Thursday 16 th July (34 days)
Staff Training	Friday 17th July (1 day)
<i>Ramadan begins</i>	<i>18th February</i>
<i>Eid Al-Fitr</i>	<i>20th March</i>
<i>Eid Al-Adha</i>	<i>27th May</i>

195 School Days including 5 training days (1 to be arranged)