

Weekly Newsletter

#18

23 January 2026



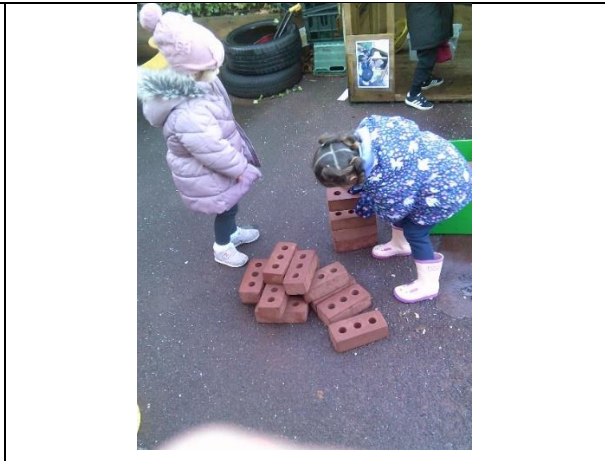
Curriculum in Action



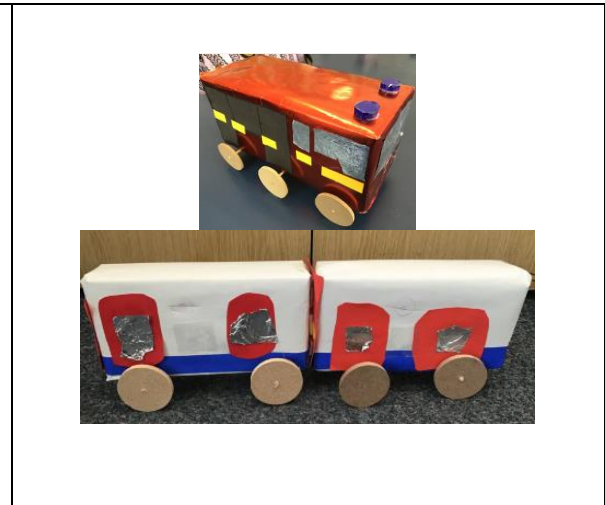
We were all very busy in Autumn Term with our DT projects. Take a look at what we designed and made.

EYFS and KS1

Children in Nursery and Reception use lots of different types of construction in their play both inside and out. Mahmoud made his house using the magnetic tiles and Meriem and Rosalia made a castle tower!



Year 1 learnt about toys. In White Class, the children wanted to try some sewing so they made their own puppets! Red Class made their own London transport.



Curriculum in Action—Design and Technology (continued)

KS2

Year 3 made their own African instruments. Here are some of the children from Scarlet class with their finished creations.



Curriculum in Action—Design and Technology (continued)

Year 4 made their own pizzas including the dough! We even used tomatoes that we had grown ourselves at school. Why not try the recipe at home?



[Buddy's quick pizzettas | Jamie Oliver recipes](#)



Year 6 made their own Glory Buns, a recipe from WW2.



Curriculum in Action—Design and Technology (continued)

Year 5 made working drawbridges with pulley systems.



Why not get designing and making at home? What can you make out of the things in your recycling box? Can you use your imagination to transform your “junk” into an imaginative creation? It’s a great way to give new life to waste materials and you will be learning and using lots of skills.



Social Skills
communication, collaboration, sharing, turn-taking, leadership

Physical Skills
fine and gross motor control, hand-eye coordination

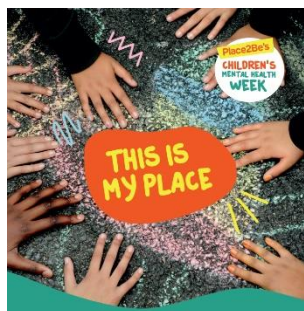
Cognitive Skills
flexible thinking, reasoning, deconstructing problems into smaller problems, initiative, observation

Creative Skills
imagination, problem-solving, experimentation

Emotional Skills
perseverance, understanding, self-belief, self-motivation, resilience



Children's Mental Health Week



Children's Mental Health week is 2nd – 6th February. This year, the theme of Children's Mental Health week is "This Is My Place".

'THIS IS MY PLACE'

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

What is Belonging?

- Feeling that you have a place where you are always welcome and valued as either place or set of people.
- A place you belong with your family and friends.
- Feeling included, not left out.
- Belonging means feeling a connection with something, feeling like I am meant to be there with no stresses or worries. It's all about feeling safe.
- Feeling a part of something e.g. a group or society.
- People accepting you as you are.

Monday 2nd February will be "Come as Yourself Day". We used to call this "Dress to Express".



On Monday, we are encouraging everyone to wear an outfit which makes them feel most confident, comfortable and like they truly belong – whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours or something totally unique. Celebrate what makes you!



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Southwark Youth Voices -- Lunch Club

John Ruskin children had a lovely time creating artwork as part of a Lunch Club run by Emma-Jane from Southwark Youth Voices. Their contribution was impressive and the final piece will be shared with parents in due course.



FoJR Sponsored Dance



FoJR are asking every class to do a sponsored dance in their PE slots at school until the end of February to help raise money for the children of John Ruskin.

Please could friends and family encourage their child by sponsoring online on:
<https://www.paypal.com/pool/9INpg2dW2h?sr=ancr>



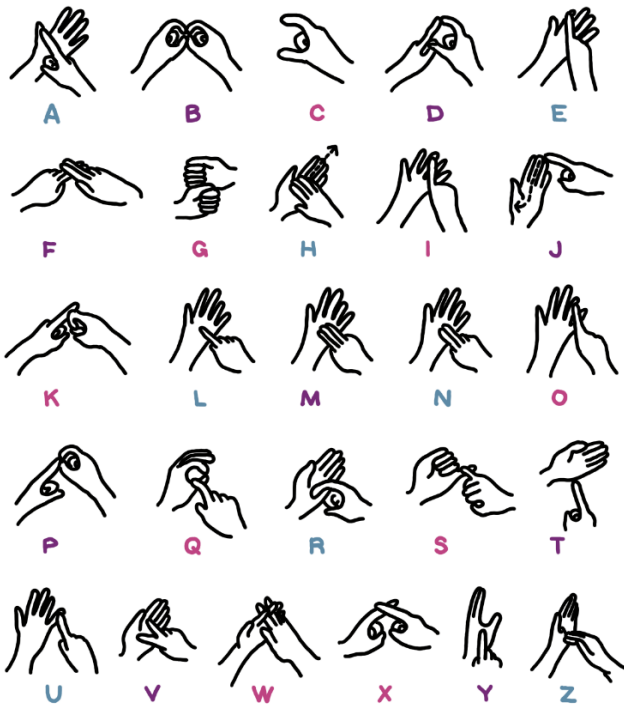
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British Sign Language



Non-Urgent Healthcare



About ParentLine

ParentLine and ChatHealth are supported by the Children and Young People's Health Partnership which brings together organisations and families in Lambeth and Southwark to improve everyday healthcare for local children and young people.

Confidentiality

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules.

ParentLine Number

Text: 07520 631 130

We are here during school holidays too!

The ParentLine number is a text number only. It cannot receive phone calls.

This number is confidential and is for use by parents and carers of children and young people in Lambeth and Southwark.

A text message service is also available for young people. [find out more about ChatHealth](#).

If you need some non-urgent healthcare advice about your child, one way to get this is through the **ParentLine** text number.



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Free Tickets to the Independent Schools Show, Spring26



Date: Saturday 28 February 2026, 10:00-16:00

Location: RHS Lindley Hall, Elverton Street, London SW1P 2QW.

To book free tickets please visit: <https://schoolsshow.co.uk/tickets>

The Spring Show is our family show. Bring your children, grandparents, friends. Ask questions and leave with the whole family feeling informed, reassured, and ready to make the right move at the right time.

A visit is like attending 25 open days in a couple of hours. Under one roof you will meet London day schools, UK boarding schools, schools catering for specialist needs and abilities, schools within commuting distance of the capital. This is a unique overview for London parents of private school choices.

In addition, heads of leading schools and education experts are speaking in the talks and workshops programme. Speakers address all the key parental concerns: finding the right school in your part of London, making SEND choices, would my child suit boarding, affordability and fee assistance.

Our events are **open to all** and designed to leave parents feeling informed, reassured and excited about what's ahead.

Since 2006, the Independent Schools Show has brought together the UK's leading private schools under one roof - making it easier for parents to make education choices.

Tickets on the door are £15, advance tickets are FREE.


Find out more at schoolsshow.co.uk



Fostering with Southwark

FOSTERING WITH SOUTHWARK

CAN YOU HELP FOSTER A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IN NEED?



Southwark Council

WHAT IS FOSTERING?

Foster carers look after somebody else's child in their own home when the child is not able to live with their birth family. It can be for a short time or a few years. Foster carers provide a loving, safe, and caring environment that every child or young person needs.



Fostering can be a life changing and rewarding decision for anyone. For more information about your journey to fostering...

Contact us to find out how fostering can work for you:

- www.southwark.gov.uk/foster
- fostering@southwark.gov.uk
- 020 7525 0700



Who can be a foster carer? The answer might surprise you.

Foster carers can come from any background. Single households, couples, and families are all welcome to consider fostering.

You do not need to own your home, but typically, you'll need to have a spare bedroom. You must be at least 21 years of age.

Do I receive any benefits with Southwark?

There are several incentives when fostering with Southwark. Our fostering service work alongside social workers who are responsible for the children in our care.

Our foster carers receive ongoing training, financial support with council tax exemptions, clinical support, a 24/7 helpline with a dedicated social worker.



Is fostering really worth it?

For many foster carers, this path really is worth it. The opportunity to give back to children and young people is remarkable.

Although sometimes challenging, you will also receive access to specialist health, educational and therapeutic support for every child you foster and invites to social events and coffee mornings.





Fostering with Southwark (continued)

Shape young lives beyond the classroom

Use your skills from your day job to further transform lives

Fostering Futures

REFER A FRIEND to become a Foster Carer and receive £2000 if they're successful

Take that next step today - get in touch!

SCAN ME

You'll need:
A spare room in your home

Southwark
Council

A green-themed advertisement for fostering. It features a central image of a man lifting a young girl. Text includes 'Shape young lives beyond the classroom', 'Use your skills from your day job to further transform lives', 'Fostering Futures', 'REFER A FRIEND to become a Foster Carer and receive £2000 if they're successful', 'Take that next step today - get in touch!', a QR code, 'SCAN ME', 'You'll need: A spare room in your home' with a green checkmark, and the Southwark Council logo.





Fostering with Southwark (continued)

Shape young lives beyond the classroom

Fostering Futures

Use your skills from your day job to further transform lives

Our children with special needs require support from people like you with relevant experience and training

You'll need:
A spare room in your home

REFER A FRIEND to become a Foster Carer and receive £2000 if they're successful

Take that next step today - get in touch!

SCAN ME





Perform Drama and Dance School

Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a **special introductory discount of £40 for members of John Ruskin School** if they sign up by Saturday 2nd May 2026. Parents should quote JRUS020526 when they book their free session by going to perform.org.uk/near-me or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at perform.org.uk/near-me. Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

Click to find [your nearest classes](#) or view a list of [all areas](#).

SPRING HOLIDAY FUN

Three days of drama, dance and singing for 4-10s

WE ACCEPT TAX-FREE CHILDCARE AND PAYPAL PAY IN 3

February Half-Term
Hansel AND Gretel

Easter Holidays
The Jungle Book

“Elsie came home buzzing about all 3 days. She loved the show, but also the games and making new friends.”
- Helen Cooke

PERFORM
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

perform.org.uk/holidays

Ignite Imaginations THIS SPRING

“Wonderful to see my child literally leap in the air with happiness and take a bow as the applause for each child rang out.”
- Deirdre Goss

We've got the school holidays covered with two fabulous drama, dance and singing holiday courses for 4-10s, bringing two classics to life and ending with an enchanting final performance.

Hansel & Gretel

16th - 18th Feb

Join Hansel & Gretel for a delicious adventure as they discover the Gingerbread House. But, will they manage to escape the clutches of the Witch?

Courses in: Cambridge, Clapham South, Clerkenwell, Fulham, Hackney, Highgate, Kensington, Richmond, St John's Wood and Wanstead.

The Jungle Book

30th Mar - 1st Apr & 8th - 10th Apr

Your young cub will join Mowgli, Baloo the bear and black panther Bagheera as they hunt down ferocious Shere Khan in Rudyard Kipling's classic, The Jungle Book.

Courses in: Blackheath, Buckhurst Hill, Cambridge, Chelsea, Clapham South, Dulwich, Exmouth Market, Guildford, Hackney, Highgate, Islington, Kensington, Muswell Hill, Notting Hill, Pinner, Primrose Hill, Richmond, Sevenoaks, St John's Wood, Twickenham, Wanstead, Wimbledon, Winchester and Wokingham.

YOUR CHILD WILL ENJOY:

- Three fun-packed full days of drama, dance and singing
- Energetic team of actors, dancers and musicians
- Engaging arts and crafts activities
- Colourful performance on the last day for friends and family with original music and costumes
- Personalised certificate of achievement for every child

To find your nearest venue and to book call 020 7255 9120 or visit perform.org.uk/holidays

PERFORM
WATCH YOUR CHILD SHINE

Course T-shirt/leaves required at a cost of £8.50. We offer a 20% discount for siblings attending the same holiday course at the same venue. Payment can be made by credit/debit card, childcare vouchers or PayPal Pay in 3 (subject to check). See our website for Terms & Conditions and refund policy. Your child should bring a water bottle and a nut-free packed lunch.





Perform Drama and Dance School (continued)



TRY A CLASS
FOR FREE

Now showing, **CONFIDENCE!**

Drama, dance & singing classes
designed to help 4-12 year olds shine

**“My son has adored his first term at Perform.
He has blossomed and I've seen his confidence grow every week.”**

Pippa Wotton



Play is a **POWERFUL THING**

Perform classes help boost children's **confidence, concentration, coordination and communication** skills, as well as being lots of fun.

Our expertly designed drama, dance and singing sessions for 4-7s and 7-12s are run by experienced teachers, hand-picked for their warmth and approachability. They'll be with your child every step of the way – inspiring and encouraging them to develop vital life skills as they discover the joy of performing.



What does Perform offer?

- Performing arts-based games and exercises
- Focus on a different social skill each week
- Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- Specially created scripts, videos and apps
- End of term presentation for family and friends

“Perform helps develop all key areas of a child in a fun, supportive and engaging way. It gives my daughter a brilliant sense of fun, community, purpose and pride in her achievements.”

Begum Bari

Ready to try for free?

Your child's first class is free, so why not give it a go? Classes take place all over, have a look online or call us:



perform.org.uk/try 020 7255 9120



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Key Events for Week Commencing 26 January

Monday
2.00-2.30 **Burgundy Class swimming**

Tuesday
10.00-10.30 **Turquoise Class swimming**
10.30-11.00 **Scarlet Class swimming**

Friday
All day **Year 5 trip to Science Museum**
2.00-2.30 **Vermilion Class swimming**

Forthcoming Dates

24 February **Orange Class trip to Brockwell Park**

2 March **Green Class trip to Brockwell Park**

4 March **Orange Class assembly**

9 -13 March **Year 5 School Journey**

11 March **Green Class assembly**

18 March **Scarlet Class assembly**

25 March **Azure Class assembly**

Spring Term Dates 2026

*INSET day: Monday 5 January
(school closed to pupils)*

Tuesday 6 January -- Friday 13 February

Half Term Holiday: Monday 16 February -- Friday 20 February

**Monday 23 February -- Friday 27 March
(school closes at 2pm)**



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Southwark Council Bulletin

Read here: [Latest News](#)



Useful Links

School term dates 25-26 - [Term Dates 2025-26](#)

Our website – www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk

School caterer - <https://accentcatering.co.uk/>

Uniform supplier – www.earthuniform.com/collections/john-ruskin-primary-school

Secondhand uniform supplier – uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=17273

School policies, including the school's safeguarding policy –

<https://johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk/parents-information/policies/>

The Nest - thenestsouthwark.org.uk

Chess in Schools - www.chessinschools.co.uk

Southwark Council – www.southwark.gov.uk

Camberwell Leisure Centre - southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre

Parentkind - www.parentkind.org.uk

Children's Commissioner - www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Department for Education - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

Ofsted - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

NHS - www.nhs.uk

TFL - travelforlife.tfl.gov.uk

