

Our school values are;

Community, Kindness, Friendship, Happiness, Honesty and Respect.

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

11th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to all of our families who were with us last year, and a very warm welcome to those of you who are new to our school community.

We have had a lovely, calm start of the school year. The children have been amazing, settling back into the swing of school life, engaging fully in their learning and getting used to their new classes and routines. It has been lovely to see them reconnecting with friends and staff. We are looking forward to a happy and successful academic year together.

Getting back into our routines During these first few days, we have been spending time re-establishing the routines and expectations that help our school run calmly and safely. Children are practising moving around the school sensibly, lining up, looking after their classrooms and resources, and showing kindness and respect to others.

Please continue to talk to your child about these expectations at home. Your support really does make a difference.

Scooters, bicycles and balls To help keep everyone safe, please ensure that **scooters and bicycles are pushed rather than ridden once on the school site. Additionally, balls should not be used in the playground before or after school.**

Thank you for helping us keep these busy times safe for everyone, particularly our youngest children.

School uniform The children have returned looking very smart, and we would like to thank families for supporting our uniform expectations. Please ensure that children come to school each day in the correct school uniform and suitable footwear. Please also clearly label coats, jumpers, PE kits and other belongings with your child's name. This makes it much easier for us to reunite lost items with their owners.

Our **School Council elections** will take place in classrooms next week for children in **Years 3 to 6**. Children who would like to stand for election can prepare a short speech explaining why they would make a good class representative. Parents and carers are welcome to support their children with preparing their speech at home.

The elections are a great opportunity to put our **British Value of Democracy** into practice, giving children the experience of standing for election, voting and having a voice in school life. We look forward to meeting our new School Council representatives.

Keeping us informed Please ensure that the school office has your current telephone number, email address and emergency contact details.

If there are any significant changes at home that may affect your child in school, please let us know so that we can provide appropriate support where needed.

Thank you for helping us make such a positive start to the new academic year. We greatly value the support of our parents and carers and look forward to working together throughout the year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Shermane Okorodudu
Headteacher

Allergy Awareness

By now, parents and carers should have received an email regarding allergy awareness and the changes we are making in school to help keep children and staff with allergies safe. Please take some time to read this information and familiarise yourself with our Allergy Policy.

There are 14 major allergens, and allergic reactions can be serious. Please check food labels carefully and be mindful of the food you send into school.

Packed lunches should be healthy and balanced. Please do not include nuts or products containing nuts, sweets, fizzy drinks, juice or flavoured water. Children should only be drinking plain water.

We will continue to remind children that food should not be shared, swapped or given to other pupils.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.



POETRY SHOW

You are warmly invited to attend our POETRY SHOW on **Wednesday 30th September at 2.30pm**. Every class from Year 1 to Year 6 will be performing a poem they have learned by heart. We would really like to welcome as many parents as possible, so at this performance classes will not stay in the audience. Each class will perform their poem then leave. There is a limit of **one adult place per family**, and the googleform will close when we reach capacity. The show will start promptly at 2.30pm and latecomers will not be admitted. We ask that you stay for the whole performance, which will be finished by 3.25pm. Please note that **we will not send tickets**, as your name will be recorded by the form

<https://forms.gle/V9sPRCYskECPsJKVA>

Gymnastics is back at John Stainer! 🤸



Herinoxs is pleased to welcome **Gymnastics Club** back for the Autumn term. Sessions will run every **Wednesday from 3.45pm to 4.45pm**, from **16th September to 9th December**, for 11 weeks.

The club is suitable for children of different abilities and will help them develop **strength, flexibility, coordination and confidence**, while learning and practising gymnastics in a fun and supportive environment.

Cost: £110 for 11 weeks

Places are limited, so families interested in enrolling their child are encouraged to secure a place soon.

✉ **Email:** info@herinoxs.com

📱 **WhatsApp only:** +44 7575 797479

See you on the mat.

🎵 Celebrating Music and Culture at John Stainer

We are incredibly proud of the **rich musical and cultural enrichment opportunities** across our school. Every class receives **specialist musical tuition** and enjoys live performances through our partnerships with **Trinity Laban, Grange Park Opera, the Berkeley Ensemble, and English National Opera and Ballet**.

Our children also visit iconic London venues including the **Barbican, Shakespeare's Globe, Blackheath Halls, Royal Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall**.

We are delighted to welcome back our incredible **Choir** and the **John Stainer Orchestra**, led by the fantastic **David and Mary Schweitzer**. 🎻

Lewisham SENDIASS

Lewisham SENDIASS provides **free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support** to parents and carers of children with SEND. The service can help families understand their rights, navigate the education system and understand the legal framework that schools and local authorities follow. Parents and carers can contact SENDIASS directly for advice, information and support, including help with SEND related processes and decisions.

[Find out more about Lewisham SENDIASS and access support](#)

The Importance of Reading at Home

Reading at home is one of the most valuable things you can do to support your child's learning and development.

Building a regular reading routine helps children develop their **vocabulary, confidence, imagination and enjoyment of books**.

Try to make time each day to **read to your child and read with them**. This could be sharing a bedtime story, listening to your child read, talking about pictures or characters, or simply enjoying a book together.

The Words for Life website <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/> has lots of helpful ideas, activities and resources to support families with reading at home.



The team at John Stainer will be sharing more information across the year to share ways you can support your child's reading and learning at home.



Achievement Awards

Week 1: 7 th September – 11 th September		
Class	Gold award	Citizenship award
Reception Elder	Lara	Hezekiah
Reception Magnolia	Zenith	Melissa
Year 1 Spindle	Fern	Amelia
Year 1 Sycamore	Rosa	Lila
Year 2 Oak	Husna	Arthur
Year 2 Ash	Zayd	Amirah
Year 3 Juniper	Audrey	Joshua
Year 3 Elm	Elsie	Naieelah
Year 4 Maple	Samara	Finnigan
Year 4 Birch	Cassian	Jaseena
Year 5 Lime	Khy'an	Iyanu
Year 5 Willow	Jaheim	Aliza
Year 6 Chestnut	Celina	Clemente
Year 6 Beech	Maddax	Aminata

