We are focusing on all of the Fundamental British Values for this half term.

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

23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe that we have already reached the end of our first half term. It has been a busy, exciting and rewarding few weeks, with so much to celebrate.

I am incredibly grateful to work alongside such a committed, hardworking and experienced team of staff. Building on our strong foundations of high-quality teaching, staff have worked tirelessly to provide children with a rich range of learning experiences, including educational visits, class exhibitions, boosters, targeted interventions, clubs and poetry performances.

Our half termly pupil voice discussions, involving groups of children from every class, have been particularly encouraging. Hearing children talk so positively about their learning and experiences reminds us of the difference our staff make every day.

Thank you, too, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. It makes such a difference to our school community.

Parents' consultation meetings It was lovely to open our doors to parents and carers this week for our parents' consultation meetings. Thank you to everyone who attended and took the time to meet with teachers to discuss their child's learning, progress and next steps. We greatly value the partnership we have with our families and appreciate your continued support in helping your children achieve their very best.

Thank you for your generosity in donating to our Harvest food appeal A heartfelt thank you to all the families who were able to contribute to our Harvest collection. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated.

The donated food items will be sent to Lewisham Foodbank, where they will support individuals and families experiencing difficult times.

This has been another lovely example of our school community coming together to help others and of our children seeing our values of kindness and community in action.

Reading Please encourage your child to read to or with you, regularly over the half term holiday. Even 15 to 20 minutes a day can make a real difference to their reading fluency, vocabulary and confidence. Sharing a book and talking about the story together is equally valuable.

Looking ahead to next half term We have another exciting half term ahead, with plenty planned for the children.

Please take a few moments to look through our **Parents' Events Diary** so that you are aware of the activities and important dates coming up.

As we head into the half term break, I would like to wish you all a restful, safe and enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November for another exciting term of learning and celebration.

Shermane Okorodudu
Headteacher

SEND Coffee Morning



We warmly invite parents and carers to our upcoming SEND coffee morning.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about how we support children with special educational needs and disabilities at John Stainer.

Jan Ashdown, our SENDCo, will be joined by members of the SEN Advisory Service from Lewisham Services for Schools. They will share information about the school's provision, the support available to children with additional needs and how we work with families.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and meet other parents and carers in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Refreshments will be provided, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Late collection charges

A small number of parents are regularly arriving late to collect their children. This means staff have to remain with the children or arrange supervision through the After School Club, creating additional staffing costs and affecting other responsibilities.

We understand that unexpected delays sometimes happen. If you are running late, please telephone the school office as soon as possible so we can make arrangements and reassure your child.

Where there is a repeated pattern of late collection, charges will apply in accordance with the school's published arrangements.

Thank you to the many families who consistently collect their children on time.

Keeping Warm



As the colder weather approaches, please ensure that children come to school wearing suitable warm clothing, including a coat. Please also ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

We are also entering the flu season. We encourage parents and carers to consider the seasonal flu vaccination for their children, as this helps reduce the spread of flu and protects our school community.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone healthy and comfortable during the colder months.



Lewisham Council has confirmed that the holiday free school meal voucher scheme has ended following changes to government funding. The council continued to provide vouchers for Easter and May half term 2026 but is no longer able to fund the scheme.

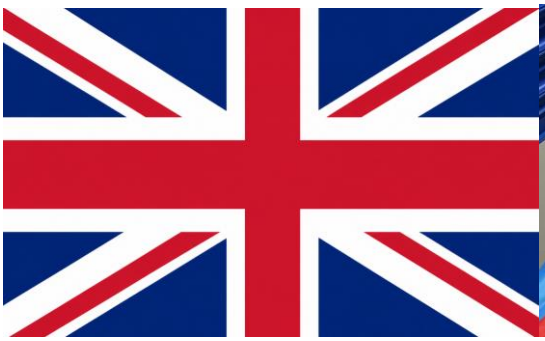
We recognise that this may place additional pressure on families, particularly during school holidays.

Lewisham Council continues to offer support through its Crisis and Resilience Fund for households experiencing financial difficulties. Families can also access advice and support through local family hubs, foodbanks and community food projects.

For further information, please contact Advice Lewisham on **0800 231 5453**.

If your family is experiencing difficulties, please speak confidentially to a member of our school team so that we can help you find appropriate support.

Celebrating Black History Month, Culture and Community







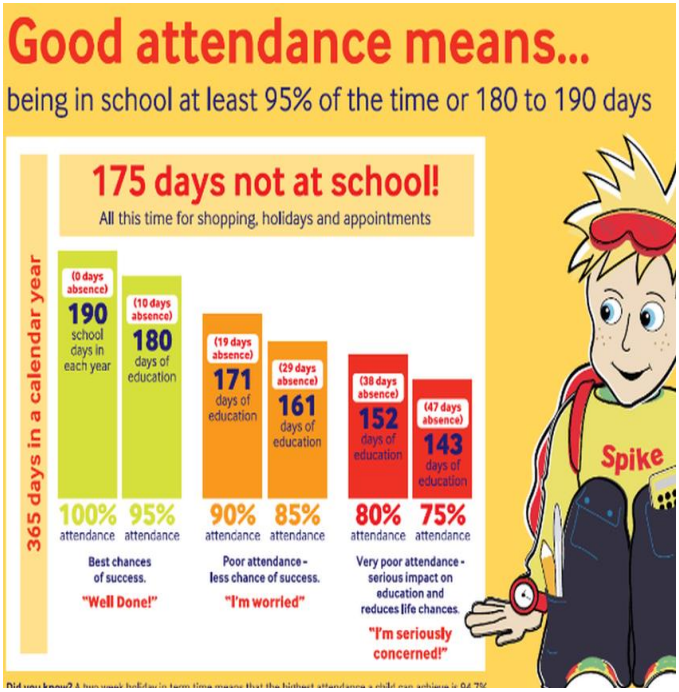
What an incredible celebration of culture, heritage and community we have enjoyed this month. Throughout October, our children have had opportunities to celebrate Black History Month, learning about the achievements, contributions and rich cultural heritage of Black people, both past and present.

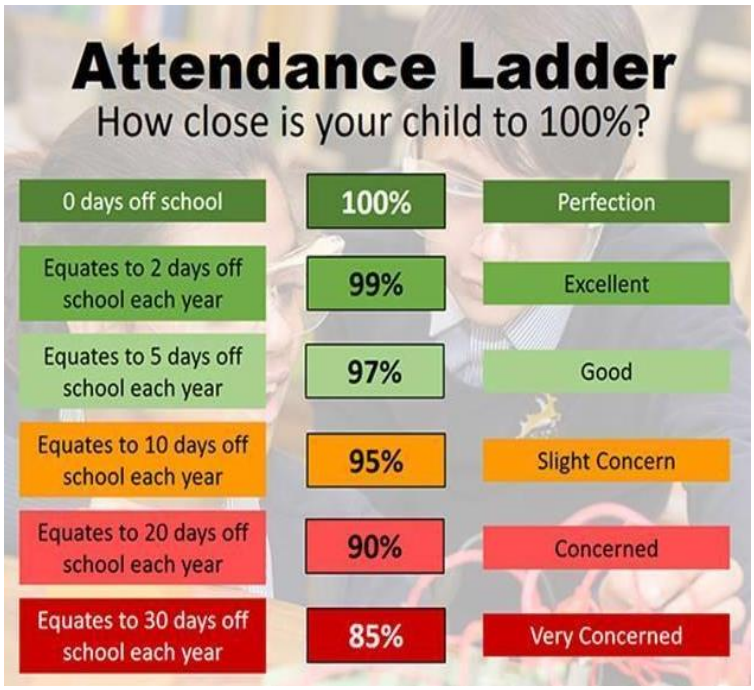
A particularly wonderful part of our celebrations has been the opportunity for children to experience food from different countries and cultures. Our fantastic dining team prepared a variety of dishes that introduced children to different flavours and traditions. Food has been a lovely way of bringing culture to life, sparking conversations and encouraging children to appreciate the differences in our community.

Our celebrations culminated in a fantastic **Cultural Dress Up Day and Food Tasting Evening**, bringing together children, families and staff in a joyful celebration of our wonderfully diverse school community.

Seeing the beautiful cultural outfits, the pride with which children shared their heritage and the enthusiasm of families coming together was truly special. The food, colours, conversations and sense of togetherness made this a memorable occasion for everyone involved.

Attendance and Punctuality





Achievement Awards

Class	12th October- 16th October		19th October- 23rd October	
	Gold award	**Citizenship award**	**Gold award**	**Citizenship award**
Reception Elder	Ke'Oir	Jace		
Reception Magnolia	Kashai	Aaradhya	Lauren	Maliah
Year 1 Spindle	Jayden	Solomiia	Mike-Jayson	Enzo
Year 1 Sycamore	Charlie	Sophia	On	Faris
Year 2 Oak	Fidel	Stephen	Ruby	Simeon
Year 2 Ash	Aria	William	Ethan	Hana
Year 3 Juniper	Ayomide			
Year 3 Elm	Kyson	Asia		
Year 4 Maple	Tamiyah	Amaia	Alejandro	Olivia
Year 4 Birch	Shiloh	Zakariya	Oliver	Dulce
Year 5 Lime	Milania	Teilo	Nathan	Hugo
Year 5 Willow	Elisa	Leandra	Amari	Aadil
Year 6 Chestnut	Nefertari	Ethan	Serena	Robin
Year 6 Beech	Kayla	Mounir	Jasmine	Samar

Attendance and Punctuality

Class	Attendance	Lates
Year 1 Spindle	95.2%	3
Year 1 Sycamore	98.6%	1
Year 2 Ash	95.0%	2
Year 2 Oak	92.2%	1
Year 3 Elm	96.3%	1
Year 3 Juniper	96.4%	2
Year 4 Birch	93.4%	3
Year 4 Maple	95.9%	1
Year 5 Lime	98.0%	1
Year 5 Willow	91.7%	3
Year 6 Beech	98.5%	0
Year 6 Chestnut	97.4%	1

Well done to Year 1 Sycamore for 98.6% attendance and Year 6 Beech for 0 lates!