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

25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now a few weeks into the new school year, and it has been lovely to see the children settling into their classes and routines. Learning is well underway across the school, and we are pleased to see the children becoming increasingly confident in their new year groups.

Congratulations to our newly elected **School Councillors and student leaders**. We are very proud of all the children who put themselves forward and took part in the election process.

Our School Councillors play an important role in representing the views and ideas of their classmates. They listen to other pupils, bring suggestions and concerns to School Council meetings and help us think about ways we can continue to improve school life. They will also be involved in projects and initiatives across the school throughout the year.

Alongside our School Councillors, our other elected pupil leaders have an important part to play in our school community. **Student leadership** gives children the opportunity to take responsibility, develop confidence and communication skills, and understand that their voice can make a positive difference.

We look forward to working with our new student leaders and seeing the contribution they make to John Stainer this year.

You will have received an email from me last week about ways in which **parents/ carers and their wider networks might be able to support our school**. We have already received some really positive responses from both parents and governors, for which we are very grateful.

In response to this, our parents Jessie and Michael arranged for the Piatti Quartet to come into school and perform for the children this week. Their performance was greatly enjoyed by all and was a lovely example of how the skills, talents and connections within our school community can create additional opportunities and experiences for our children. I will write to you again soon to share some of the other offers of support and opportunities that have come from this.

We are aware that some school emails are currently being directed to parents' **Spam or Junk folders**. We are working to resolve this issue.

In the meantime, please check your Spam/Junk folder regularly and mark emails from the school as **'Not Spam'** so that you do not miss important information.

Secondary Transfer We know that choosing a secondary school is an important decision for our Year 6 families. If you are taking your child to an open morning, please inform the main office beforehand.

Tracy is also available if you have any questions.Please add your child's name to the schedule in the main office.

A huge thank you to all our **EYFS parents and families** who joined us for our Tea Party on Friday. We hope you had a lovely time meeting other children and families and getting to know one another.

It was a lovely opportunity to bring our Nursery and Reception community together at the start of the new school year. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the afternoon so enjoyable.

Have a lovely weekend.

Shermane Okorodudu
Headteacher

Allergy Awareness



As part of our updated allergy-safety arrangements, we would like to remind families of the following:

- **No nuts or nut products** should be brought into school.
- Children must **not share or swap food** with one another.
- **Packed lunches are now eaten inside**, where children can be appropriately supervised.
- Food-related activities and events will be **carefully managed** to ensure that allergy information is taken into account.
- We are making some changes to the way **food is brought into school, prepared, served and shared**.

These arrangements are about keeping everyone safe while still allowing our children to enjoy food-related activities and celebrations in school.

Keep up to date with our school diary



A quick reminder to subscribe to our school diary so you can keep up to date with key dates and events. If any dates or details change, you will receive the updated information once it is posted on our website.

Click here to view and subscribe to the school diary

Simply follow the subscription instructions at the bottom of the page.



We are delighted to let you know that it is time again for **Harvest**. This is a special occasion in our school calendar when we come together as a school community to reflect on the importance of giving, sharing and being grateful for the things we have.

As part of our celebrations, we will also be collecting food donations to support the Lewisham Foodbank. We would be very grateful for your contributions.

We welcome **non-perishable food items** such as tinned foods, pasta, rice, cereals, long-life milk, tea, coffee and other unopened, in-date cupboard foods.

Please send any donations with your child between **Thursday 1st October and Friday 16th October.**

Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity.



This is a reminder that our **Poetry Show will take place on Wednesday 30th September at 2.30pm**.

Classes from **Year 1 to Year 6** will perform a poem they have learned by heart. We would love to welcome as many families as possible.

Due to capacity, there is a limit of **one adult place per family**, and the booking form will close once we reach capacity.

The performance will begin promptly at **2.30pm** and finish by **3.25pm**. Unfortunately, latecomers will not be admitted, and we ask that parents stay for the whole performance.

No tickets will be issued. Your name will be recorded through the booking form.

Book your place for the Poetry Show

Extra-curricular Clubs



Our **extra-curricular clubs began this week**, and we are delighted that we were able to offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities for over 250 children. Our aim is for **every child to attend at least one of our free clubs** during the year, giving all pupils the opportunity to explore different interests, develop new skills and enjoy experiences beyond the classroom. A big thank you to the **staff and parents who have volunteered their time** to help us provide such a broad enrichment offer. Your support makes a real difference to what we are able to offer our children. As clubs get underway this week, please bear with us while we settle into the new arrangements and iron out any initial issues. We are looking forward to seeing the children enjoying their clubs.



Please remember to **label children's coats, jumpers, cardigans and other belongings clearly with their name**. We accumulate a considerable amount of unnamed lost property.

Children should also bring a **named water bottle** to school each day.

If your child travels to school on a **scooter**, please remind them that scooters must not be ridden within the school grounds and should be left in the designated area.



We are excited to celebrate **Black History Month this October!**

Our theme, **Honouring Our Community**, celebrates the people, stories, cultures and contributions that help shape our communities.

Our Events

Black History Workshops (**Throughout October)**
Children will explore Black history, including stories from the Windrush generation, through drama, dance and storytelling.

Foods from Around the World



Monday 5 – Friday 9 October
Children will have the opportunity to try foods from different countries and cultures **at lunchtime**.

Culture Day
Wednesday 14 October
Children and staff are invited to wear traditional clothing from their own culture or clothing that celebrates another culture. We will also have a morning parade!

Culture Evening
Wednesday 14 October · 3.30–4.30pm
Families are invited to bring a dish to share, enjoy food from different cultures, exchange recipes and take part in a fun dance session.

Culture Evening food: Please bring all dishes to the school office by **2pm**. Remember to include a list of ingredients. Please do not bring food containing or cooked with **nuts**. We cannot guarantee that food will be free from allergens due to possible cross-contamination so please ensure all children are supervised fully at the event.

Black History Homelearning Project

Children will bring home more information about this at the beginning of next week.

Home Learning will be due: Monday 19 October

Achievement Awards

Class	Week 1: 7th – 11th September		Week 2: 21st – 25th September	
	Gold award	Citizenship award	Gold award	Citizenship award
Reception Elder	Lara	Hezekiah	Zacharias	Elizabeth
Reception Magnolia	Zenith	Melissa	Honor	Harrith
Year 1 Spindle	Fern	Amelia	Esther	Leila
Year 1 Sycamore	Rosa	Lila		Zorelle
Year 2 Oak	Husna	Arthur	Evie	Kaizer
Year 2 Ash	Zayd	Amirah	Annabelle	Zyyon
Year 3 Juniper	Audrey	Joshua	Lilah-Mae	Serafina
Year 3 Elm	Elsie	Naieelah	Kayden	Elias
Year 4 Maple	Samara	Finnigan	Zoe	Henrietta
Year 4 Birch	Cassian	Jaseena	Shem	Asiya
Year 5 Lime	Khy'an	Iyanu	Joseph	Clara
Year 5 Willow	Jaheim	Aliza	Nami	Ruo Lan
Year 6 Chestnut	Celina	Clemente	Rose	Dylan
Year 6 Beech	Maddax	Aminata	Jamelia	Piper

Registration Form	Attendance	Late
Year 1 Spindle	99.2%	0
Year 1 Sycamore	97.5%	1
Year 2 Ash	95.5%	1
Year 2 Oak	100.0%	1
Year 3 Elm	98.1%	4
Year 3 Juniper	98.4%	2
Year 4 Birch	100.0%	0
Year 4 Maple	96.9%	1
Year 5 Lime	97.0%	0
Year 5 Willow	97.4%	0
Year 6 Beech	94.9%	0
Year 6 Chestnut	97.6%	2

Well done Year 4 Birch for 100% attendance and no lates!