

RPS Weekly Newsletter

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year! Thank you to all families for the thoughtful gifts for members of staff. I hope you had a fantastic holiday, although I am sure it seems a long time ago now!

This year marks the launch of the '**Go All In**' campaign as part of the National Year of Reading. The focus is on encouraging everyone to read more for pleasure. This includes you as adults too! You are your children's first role models, so seeing you read for pleasure is great for your children.

I am very pleased to say that we have been selected to participate in the **National Literacy Young Readers** events once again this year. As part of this program our Key Stage 1 children will take part in fantastic book-based activities as well as receiving 3 free books across the year to take home and immerse themselves in. Watch this space.....

Nina, our English Lead, launched the **National Year of Reading** with some **parent workshops** this week. They spoke about the importance of reading for pleasure and the role oracy (speaking and listening) can play in a child's reading development. She shared some strategies with parents for supporting a child's reading at home and then, the parents and children spent time browsing books and chose two to take home as their own.



On Tuesday, our Key Stage 2 **school councilors** took part in a visit to **Rose Court**, a local care home for old people. The children will visit the care home monthly as part of an intergenerational charity project being led by 'In Common'. The children were very well received by the elderly residents who clapped when they arrived. The children did a fantastic job of introducing themselves and engaged in some music games. Jayden and Lucy from year 3 deserve a special mention as they bravely taught the residents a song. 'It had a really happy atmosphere' the children agreed as part of their reflections.

Sunday 18th January is **World Religion Day**. Our RE Lead Grace delivered an assembly on Monday to promote understanding and peace, as she pointed out the similarities across religions.

Folu from the **Education Wellbeing Team** led the first of three coffee mornings on Thursday. Please do come along and find out more about how the team can support your children's wellbeing- see flyer below.

Have a great week. Lisa (HoS)

Sound Steps Music Assembly

We love music at RPS and on Tuesday, we were very pleased to invite Matthew from Sound Steps Music to deliver two special assemblies for our children. He talked to them about the keyboard and played the children some rousing tunes. They had a great time singing along to the music. He also got some children to play a few tunes to the rapt audiences.

Sound Steps offer keyboard lessons within the local area (see flyer below). I do hope some of the children will let us know if they start learning to play this fun instrument. A huge thank you to Matthew.



This week year 5 did mono-printing Art as part of their Architecture unit. In the first lesson last week, they completed observational drawings of houses. This week, they chose a section of their drawing from which they created an abstract impression through mono printing. We are so impressed with their final products!

We love art!



Year 6 Explore the Science of Light!

Year 6 continued their fascinating study of Light this week by investigating how different surfaces reflect light. To do this, pupils created their own reflective light catchers and used them to measure the reflectivity of various materials.

The experiment helped students observe that when light from an object hits a surface, it changes direction—it bounces off at the same angle as it arrived. This principle, known as the law of reflection, was demonstrated as pupils compared shiny, dull, and textured surfaces to see which reflected the most light.

Through hands-on exploration, Year 6 discovered that smooth, shiny surfaces like mirrors reflect light best, while rough or dark surfaces like black paper absorb more light. The activity sparked great discussions about how reflection is used in everyday life, from car mirrors to a trip to the hairdressers.



STEAM
Science Technology Engineering The Arts Mathematics
Contributors: Annabel, Iman, Kloe 16 January 2026

In this issue:
• Art and Design
• Science
• Mathematics
• Technology

EXCITING NEWS!!!!!!

Artist Chila Singh is coming to our school on the 5th of February!

I AM REALLY EXCITED! I wonder, how she bent the wires.
— Malik

I feel thrilled. The pieces are majestic and vibrant. I wonder what inspired her.
— Elsie-mae

Art
Recently, Peck class have made ancient artwork. They were inspired by Ancient Egyptian paintings and symbols on tombs and walls.

I liked drawing about Ancient Egyptian symbols.
—Mekavi

We made drawings with oil pastels.
—Arisha

Mathematics
Recently, Year 5 have been working hard on fractions, specifically finding out their amounts, turning amounts, turning them into decimals and simplifying these fractions.

Science
This week, Little class, has been learning about the digestive system and that their digestive system starts at their mouth.

I learnt that the digestive system starts at the mouth and ends at the anus. It was interesting.
—Ruben

Computing
In computing, Year 4 was creating their initials Using an application named scratch.

Quan—
“I loved the lesson because we were making shapes on ipads with commands. Sometimes, it was hard but I fixed it.”

10 New Year's Resolutions for the Classroom
1. I will be more organized.
2. I will be more focused.
3. I will be more creative.
4. I will be more patient.
5. I will be more positive.
6. I will be more persistent.
7. I will be more persistent.
8. I will be more persistent.
9. I will be more persistent.
10. I will be more persistent.

Who has been eating my porridge?



This week in Nursery the children have been reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears. To bring the story to life the children took part in making porridge together.

The children helped to get the ingredients and follow the recipe. Whilst making and eating their porridge the children shared their thoughts. Myla said, "it's just perfect" and Salma said, "it's too hot". George said, "I make porridge in Bulgaria," making a connection to his own life and culture.

Some children used their cutting skills to chop a banana and add it to their porridge, while others decided they did not like the taste. Several children enjoyed making more than one bowl. They linked this to size: big, medium and small bowls just like in the story. What wonderful learning!



Reception love learning!



This week the children in Reception have been exploring numbers within 10. For our talk task on Tuesday, the children worked together to count up to 10 objects reliably. They used ten frames, counters and dice.



Oracy Matters

Our whole school debate topic this week is...



Money
buys you
happiness.



Each class debated this statement in their classroom this week using their oracy skills. Please ask your child about the discussion and what was presented for each side of the argument. You could even hold a mini debate at home!



Free Children Piano/Keyboard Taster Available Now

- Weekly 1 hour lessons available Monday to Sunday for children aged 5-13
- Children learn to read, write and play music in every lesson. we also provide keyboard at every lesson
- Termly Exams and certificate along with opportunities to sit at internationally recognised exams and perform at live events



Contacts us Now by Email, Phone, Whats App or via our Website/QR Code to Book Your "FREE TASTER SESSION"

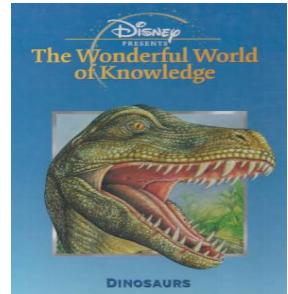


e:office@soundstepsmusic.co.uk t:07926 371583
www.soundstepsmusic.co.uk

Pupil Book Recommendation

Pupil: Mark (Year 5)

Book: The wonderful Worl Dinosaurs



Author: Jimmy Johnson (Disney)

This book is about dinosaurs (obviously) and it tells you facts like what dinosaurs live in certain eras, what dinosaurs prey on, and much more. Here is a little sentence from the book.

'Dinosaurs were the most successful animals that ever lived. They were the rulers of life on earth for an amazing 165 MILLION YEARS!'

Surprising! My favourite part of the book was when you get to see the different eras. I recommend this book for any dinosaur lovers out there. It's filled with a bunch of knowledge about dinosaurs that you didn't know. Its super interesting! For any dinosaur lovers out there, this book is for you.

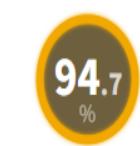
Dates for your Diary

6.1.26	Children return to school
7.1.26	Recorder lessons start for year 5 Swimming lessons start for Effra class
8.1.26	Pioneer Dance starts back
9.1.26	9.30am new to reception open morning
13.1.26	EYFS/KS1 Reading parent workshop 9:00-9:30 am Sound Steps Assembly
14.1.26	KS2 Reading parent workshop 9:00-9:30 am
15.1.26	Groundwork parent coffee morning 9-9:45 am
18.1.26	Energy Saving Week
22.1.26	Effra class trip to the Garden Museum
23.1.26	'Midnight in the Toyshop' workshops for Reception and Year 2 children.
29.1.26	Groundwork parent coffee morning 9-9:45 am
3.2.26	Breck Foundation workshops Yr 3 & 4 and YR 5 & 6: Staying safe online First Debate Mate competition
5.2.26	Year 4 Parent Workshop – Multiplication check 3:45 pm
6.2.26	Time to Talk Day (mental Health and wellbeing)
9.2.26	Year 1 Parent Workshop – Phonics Screening check 3:45 pm Safer Internet Day LGBT – history week
12.2.26	Groundwork parent coffee morning 9-9:45 am
13.2.26	Break up for Half term
25.2.26	Pupil Led Review parents meeting (all classes except Brent)
26.2.26	IQM review Brent class Pupil Led Review parents meeting
2.3.26	Yr 1 Mock phonics check
3.3.26	Tyne class trip to the National Gallery Parents evening individual meetings
5.3.26	World Book Day
9.3.26 week	STEAM Week/Yr 6 Mock SATS Avon & Peck trip to the National Gallery
16.3.26 week	Parents meetings for children with SEND
21.3.26	World Poetry Day
23.3.26	Effra class trip - Royal Festival Hall
26.3.26	Achievement Awards KS2 Pioneer Dance finishes
27.3.26	Easter Bonnet Parade Achievement Awards KS1 Children break up for Easter

Attendance Matters

Class	Weekly percentage	Star attendance winners
Penguin	88.9%	
Jellyfish	93%	
Octopus	95%	
Whale	93.2%	
Eden	96.1%	
Tyne	96.2%	
Avon	99.1%	
Peck	93.8%	
Effra	95.3%	
Brent	95%	
Lea	97.4%	
Thames	94.1%	

Please help us to improve our school attendance. Currently we fall below national expectations for attendance- 96%.



Attendance

Week to Date



Attendance

School Year to Date

If children are unwell they should remain at home, but please **do not book holidays** during term time! This may lead to a penalty notice.

Reminder: Parents need to contact the school and let us know each day that a child is absent. If you have the Study bugs app, this makes it far easier for you to let us know. So, if you have not already signed up to study bugs, please do so by following this link:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>



Week starting 5th
January



Octopus	Ariz	Ariz has really impressed me with his focus this week. He has stayed on task and has produced beautifully presented work particularly in writing sessions. Continue to take pride in your work! Well done 😊
Tyne	Kenisha	Kenisha has been working hard to improve in areas she sometimes finds a little trickier, especially reading and spelling and her progress has been wonderful to see. Kenisha always tries her best, never gives up, and shows a positive attitude towards her learning both in school and at home.
Eden	Aaliyah	Aaliyah's first week at Rotherhithe and she has settled into the class seamlessly. I have been really impressed with her willingness to learn and contribution to class discussion.
Avon	Ollie	Ollie is our star of the week as he has shown excellent learning behaviours. He has used effective strategies and demonstrated active listening during maths lessons. He also remained focused on the carpet and made thoughtful contributions during our oracy discussions. Well done for such a positive attitude!
Peck	Rhyle	Excellent, consistent effort with his home learning. Always done well and on time. Furthermore, we are so impressed with how Rhyle has gone above and beyond with his work on Numbots. He is ambitious and hardworking and his progress has been fantastic.
Effra	Hamza	Hamza has had an excellent week, showing increased focus and resilience in his learning. We are very proud of the higher quality work he has produced as a result. Well done, Hamza!
Brent	Denver Miguel Mary Christine	These fantastic members of Brilliant Club have worked so hard this term and today submitted their final thousand-word assignments. We are so proud of them!
Lea	Israel Emre Amelia Elsie-Mae Sawda	These fantastic members of Brilliant Club have worked so hard this term and today submitted their final thousand-word assignments. We are so proud of them!
Thames	Ehab	Ehab has demonstrated exceptional diligence and academic excellence by completing holiday homework promptly and to a high standard. Also, by undertaking additional independent learning in the subject of Science. Well done!

Week Starting 12th
January



Octopus	Kobi	For impressing me with his ability to read the time to o'clock and half past on analogue clocks. Great work Kobi!
Tyne	Amira	Amira can sometimes be a little shy, but this week she has shown amazing determination to build her confidence in reading aloud. She has started volunteering to read in front of the whole class and is now reading clearly and with confidence. We are so proud of her progress and bravery—well done, Amira!
Eden	Alex	For impressing me in all subjects, getting involved and answering questions in class. Your perseverance in class is admirable and you always try your best - even if it's not your favourite subject. Keep it up Alex!
Avon	Maivili	Well done for your incredible work in Art this week! We have been creating Ancient Egyptian artwork and you did a fantastic job of identifying and using different colours, shapes and patterns. Keep up the amazing work!
Peck	Mekavi	Mekavi's presentation of work when writing a non-chronological report about the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians has been superb. Her work is neat, careful, considered and a great model for all.
Effra	Gladys	For her outstanding determination and effort during swimming lessons. She showed fantastic focus while practicing the push and glide technique, consistently trying her absolute best to improve her form and glide further across the water. Well done, Gladys!
Brent	Tori	Very well done to Tori for being Brent's star of the week! Tori has been working so incredibly hard, focusing on her writing and her spelling. I have seen Tori throw herself into self-reflection and taking feedback from myself and her peers and using this feedback to improve her work. Keep up the hard work!
Lea		Zack has started to learn the keyboard and I have been so impressed with his focus, dedication and progress. He has already learnt his first piece! I can't wait to hear what he learns next.
Thames	Tony	For displaying great assiduity in his arithmetic calculations, consistently maintaining both pace and accuracy. Well done!

Parent/Carer Support at Rotherhithe Primary School



With Folu from Groundwork
Education Wellbeing Team

We offer non-judgemental and
confidential support for
parents/carers of children with
anxiety, challenging behaviour,
and/or neurodiversity

Tea/coffee Morning

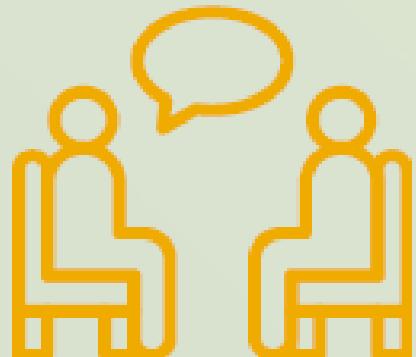
Time: 9:00- 9:45



Upcoming dates:

- 15th January: Introduction to the EWT
- 29th January: Selfcare & Managing Stress
- 12th February: Online Safety for Children

For more information please contact:
foluke.oshin@groundwork.org.uk



Millwall Breakfast and After School Clubs

Come and join us for our Breakfast and After School Clubs!

Breakfast club will start at 7.45am- This will include breakfast of cereal or toast and will cost £5.50 per day

After School club- sports activities and games will cost: 1 hour £6.30 and 2 and half hours £13.65

We are able to offer a discount to families that wish to book a full week after school club and this is charged at £57.75 per week.

Wraparound Care (ASC) will not be suitable for Nursery aged pupils.

Please see Sharon in the Office for more information!



Are you interested in working for NEST—or do you know someone who might be?

At NEST, we offer a wide range of rewarding roles across our schools. Whether you're an early careers teacher, an experienced educator, returning to work after a break, or simply looking for meaningful employment, we'd love to hear from you.

We have opportunities in **teaching, school administration, finance, HR, and estates.**

Click [here](#) to view our current vacancies or register for our talent pool and learn more about joining the NEST team and the exciting career opportunities available.



AutismSupportTeam@Southwark.gov.uk

AUTISM SUPPORT TEAM TOILET TRAINING FOR PARENT/CARER ONLY

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR AUTISTIC CHILD TO DEVELOP TOILETING SKILLS

In partnership with the Autism Education Trust (AET) we are offering Developing Toileting Skills Training for Parent + Carers of autistic children.

Aims:

- To develop knowledge of how to support autistic children to achieve toileting independence.
- To understand the importance of working with others to support autistic children to develop independent toileting skills

Learning objectives:

- Understand how autism can impact on children developing independent toileting skills.
- Understand the importance of all adults working together to support the development of independent toileting skills.
- Consider how to remove barriers to developing toileting skills and how to make reasonable adjustments to support further toileting independence.

Free Training Online Dates:

• 21 st October	9.45 – 11.45 2025
• 15 th December 2025	12.30 – 2.30 2025
• 9 th February	9.45 – 11.45 2026
• 23 rd March	12.30 – 2.30 2026
• 18 th May	9.45 – 11.45 2026
• 23 rd July	12.30 – 2.30 2026
• 6 th August	9.45 – 11.45 2026
• 13 th August	12.30 – 2.30 2026

Register [here](#)

Online Microsoft Teams Training Link will be sent to your email 2 days prior to start date of training.



EPEC BEING A PARENT

For parents of children aged 2 – 11 years

This 9 week course helps parents learn practical skills for everyday life.

- Looking after yourself as a parent
- Recognise and manage your children's emotions
- Learn positive parenting strategies
- Support your children's resilience

Contact: Claire Gager

Email: Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk

Call: 07547 659 646

WHEN IS IT ON?

WEDNESDAYS
STARTING 14TH JANUARY
2026

CRAWFORD BEST START
FAMILY HUB
5 CRAWFORD RD,
LONDON SE5 9NF

THURSDAYS
STARTING 15TH JANUARY
2026

COIN STREET
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FAMILY & CHILDREN CENTRE
108 STAMFORD STREET,
LONDON SE1 9NH

What time?
10am-12pm



Southwark Children & Family Hubs

CPCS
EMPLOYMENT &
SKILLS

Empowering
Neighbourhoods

Southwark
Council

Southwark
Council

START
FOR
LIFE

easyPEASY

Support your child's development for free

Get unlimited access by scanning the QR code*

Parenting advice and activity ideas for children aged from birth to five, shared by our community and experts.

Available for all parents and carers in Southwark.



easyeasyapp.com/southwark

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

*For full terms and conditions, please visit easyeasyapp.com/terms.

FATHER'S GROUP



Join a 10-week course to improve your parenting skills.

Whether you are a father, grandfather or stepdad, receive advice and tips on topics such as positive parenting, improving relationships and role modelling. Crèche provided.

When	Friday Morning's at 10.30am - 12.30 Starting 16th January 2026
Where	1st Place Best Start Family Hub 12 Chumleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE5 0RN

BOOK A PLACE

Email: tara.long@southwark.gov.uk or jamal.jones-Thomas@southwark.gov.uk

Phone: 07513 713 090



1st Place

Southwark
Family Hubs

Southwark
Council

IWFC@1stplace.uk.com
www.1stplace.uk.com



TAP – IN SESSIONS

Free and stand alone information sessions for parents and carers on a range of topics.

Join us with Thinking About Parenting and TAP in to....

Monday 19th January
10am - 12
MS Teams

Parenting and Autism

Thursday 29th January
10am - 12
MS Teams

Parenting and ADHD

w/c 9th Feb
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Ages and Stages

w/c 23rd Feb
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Parenting Foundations

w/c 2nd March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Parental-Emotional-Wellbeing

w/c 9th March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Bullying Awareness

w/c 16th March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Emotional-Based School Avoidance

w/c 23rd March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Digital Safety

w/c 9th March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Tuesday 24th March
10am
MS Teams

Parenting and ADHD

w/c 16th March
10am - 11.30
MS Teams

Thursday 19th March
10am
MS Teams

Parenting and Autism

Tuesday 24th March
10am
MS Teams

Parenting and ADHD

All sessions held online - link will be sent out 1-2 days before session via email



TO REGISTER FOR A PLACE
[CLICK HERE](#) OR CONTACT

Beth Gilbey

07394 865 980
bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk
earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk