

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/ Carers

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to Ben Jonson for the start of another school year. September is always a busy month, but I have been particularly pleased with how well our children have settled into their new classes and routines. They have returned with enthusiasm and have already shown our values of being Brave, Kind and Curious in so many ways.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our recent workshop introducing CENTURY, our new online homework platform. It was fantastic to see so many of you there and to have the opportunity to explain how the platform will support learning at home. Children have now started using CENTURY, and we hope it will provide a more engaging and accessible way for them to practise and consolidate their learning. Please continue to encourage your child to use the platform regularly at home.

We will also be holding our Harvest Food Collection and would be very grateful for any donations families are able to contribute. Harvest is an important opportunity for us to encourage our children to think about gratitude, kindness and supporting others within our community. Information has already been shared about the items we are collecting and when donations should be brought into school. As always, there is absolutely no expectation for families to contribute—any donation, however small, will be greatly appreciated.

This year, we are also keen to strengthen the partnership between families and the school through our Friends of Ben Jonson group. We would love more parents and carers to become involved. The group is an opportunity to contribute to school life, support events and activities, help us build an even stronger school community and, importantly, have some fun along the way! You do not need to be able to commit huge amounts of time—even occasional support can make a real difference. Please look out for further information about how you can get involved.

As we move into October, I would like to thank our families for the support you have already shown the school this term. Strong relationships between home and school make such a difference to our children, and I am looking forward to working together throughout the year.

Looking ahead to October, we will be celebrating Black History Month. This year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities", is particularly meaningful for us at Ben Jonson as we celebrate the people, stories and contributions that strengthen the communities around us. We are delighted to have invited parents and members of our local community into school to share their experiences, knowledge and stories with our children. Throughout the month, pupils will also explore Black history, heritage, culture and achievement, recognising both well-known figures and the everyday people whose contributions make a difference. We are looking forward to celebrating and learning together as a school community.

Thank you, as always, for being part of the Ben Jonson community and for helping us make our school a place where every child can thrive.

Best wishes,

Norma Marshall (Headteacher)



WHAT'S ON?

KEY DATES:

Events	Dates
Year 2 Assembly for Black History Month	Friday 2nd October
School Photography Individual photos (Sibling Photos 8:30-9AM only on request)	Tuesday 10th November 2026
Year 1 Handwriting & Reading Workshop for Parents/ Carers	Monday 5th October 2026
Year 2 Handwriting & Reading Workshop for Parents/ Carers	Tuesday 6th October 2026
Year 3 Handwriting & Reading Workshop for Parents/ Carers	Wednesday 7th October 2026
Year 4 & Year 5 Handwriting & Reading Workshop for Parents/ Carers	Monday 12th October 2026
Year 6 Handwriting & Reading Workshop for Parents/ Carers	Tuesday 13th October 2026
Reception NCMP Measurements	Monday 19th October 2026
Year 2 Coral Class trip to the Science Museum	Wednesday 21st October 2026
Year 2 Torres Class trip to the Science Museum	Thursday 22nd October 2026
Year 2 Java Class trip to the Science Museum	Friday 23rd October 2026
Half term	Monday 26th October 2026 – Friday 30th October 2026
Year 1 Assembly	Friday 16th October 2026
Flu Vaccine Reception to Year 6 (via permission only)	Friday 16th October 2026
Last day of term	Friday 23rd October 2026
First day of Autumn 2 term	Monday 2nd November 2026



YEAR 2026 - 2027

Nursery & Reception Open Mornings

Between 9am to 10am

Come and visit our school and see us in action. 020 7790 4110

Nursery dates:
 Thursday 8th October 2026
 Thursday 15th October 2026
 Thursday 12th November 2026
 Thursday 19th November 2026

Reception dates:
 Wednesday 7th October 2026
 Wednesday 14th October 2026
 Wednesday 11th November 2026

Brave Kind Curious

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: YEAR 6 SECONDARY APPLICATION

If you live in Tower Hamlets and your child is in **Year 6** (born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016) you will need to make an online application via **admissions portal** for them to transfer to secondary school in September 2027

Please note: the closing date for making applications is midnight on **31st October 2026**

For more information, see:

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/education_and_learning/schools/school_admissions/Secondary-admissions/How-to-apply.aspx

WHAT'S ON?



BONFIRE NIGHT
AT BEN JONSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Join us for an evening of family fun!

**HOT CHOCOLATE • CANDY FLOSS • SWEET BAGS
BISCUITS • BROWNIES • SPARKLERS & GLOW STICKS
AND MORE!**

A dazzling bonfire to light up the night!

 **TICKETS**
Child: £2
Adult: £3
Under 2's: Free

 **DATE:** Thursday 5th November 2026
 **LOCATION:** Entrance through Commodore Street gates
 **TIME:** Starts at 5:15pm

**Come wrapped up warm and ready for a
cosy night of community fun!**

Brave, Kind & Curious

More information will follow...

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



LATENESS

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time every day. Prompt arrival in school is important for every year group from Nursery to Year 6.

Lateness disrupts the teaching in the classroom and results in your child missing out on their learning time.

Please note the following to ensure your child starts school on time everyday:

- **8.45am to 8.55am Drop off**—school gates open and children can go straight to class
- Parents are not allowed through the gates after 8.55am

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success — both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child improve attainment at school and develop healthy life habits.

Every week attendance is celebrated in school during a special assembly. The classes in KS1 and KS2 which have the highest attendance receive a certificate and trophy. Please make sure your child attends school every day they can and help your child's class receive the trophy!

**ABSENCES
ADD+UP!**

**MISSING JUST 2 DAYS
A MONTH MEANS YOU MISS
10% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!**

PENALTY NOTICES

New National Framework for Penalty Notices for poor school attendance and unauthorised leave in term time effective from 19 August 2024.



Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notices will still be issued to each parent for each absent child.

For example – 2 siblings being absent for unauthorised leave in term time, will result in each parent receiving two separate fines.

Penalty Notices will be issued for:

- Term Time Leave: 5 consecutive days or more
- 10 sessions of unauthorised absence and/or lateness in a 10 week period

First Offence

The first time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.

(Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.)

Second Offence

The second time a penalty notice is issued, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.

(There is no reduction for any early payment.)

Third Offence

The third time a penalty notice is issued, the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Fines of up to £2500 per parent, per child, can be issued by the courts.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTENDANCE SUPPORT SERVICE

London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Town Hall, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ

Email: LBTHAttendance&WelfareServiceAdmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 7364 3450

The best of London
in one borough





STAFF UPDATE



Miss Lewis
Assistant Headteacher
& Inclusion Officer



Mrs Shalim
PA to Headteacher



Ms M Chowdhury
SEN Intervention &
Inclusion



Miss Hickey
Assistant Headteacher
for Early Years & Class
Teacher

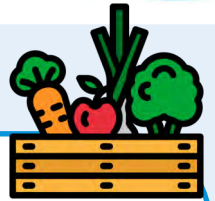


Mr Kent
Class Teacher



Mr Santana
Class Teacher

NEWS



HARVEST TIME!

We will hold our Harvest collection from **Monday 28th October to Friday 16th October** with a focus on gratitude for our food and thinking of those in need. As we are keen on promoting our core values - *brave, kind and curious*, - we will set up a harvest collection where all the generous donations will be gathered at Ben Jonson before being delivered to the local food bank. If you would like to contribute, please send your child into school with a donation in the form of an item of non-perishable food on the dates stated above.



NEWS

SEND COFFEE MORNING

On Tuesday 22nd September, we welcomed parents to a coffee morning with a member of the **Phoenix Outreach Service**. The session provided an introduction to autism, information about the outreach service and an overview of the role **Phoenix Outreach Service** play within our school.

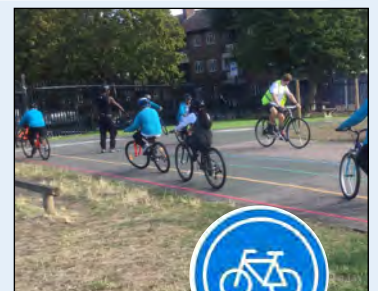
Parents had the opportunity to learn more about the support available to children and families, ask questions and share their experiences. It was a lovely and engaging morning, with parents actively participating and gaining a greater understanding of autism and the support available.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Phoenix Outreach and other external agencies to support our families throughout the year.



BIKEABILITY CYCLE

On the week beginning Monday 14th September, our Year 6 pupils took part in a Bikeability course. Pupils attended the training programme for 90 minutes a day. The training enabled children to demonstrate their bike handling skills and those who were confident were invited to progress onto the road in small groups with the instructors.





NEWS

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGE

On Monday 28 September, we celebrated European Day of Languages in style! Children showcased their language skills in Spanish, Sylheti and other languages during a special assembly, including singing songs in Spanish. They then created their own European passports, drawing famous landmarks, before finishing the day with a delicious Spanish meal—a fantastic celebration of languages and cultures!



PHONICS WORKSHOP

We were delighted to welcome our Year 1 parents to a Phonics workshop led by our RWI Leader, Ms Als, and Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Hickey. Parents had the opportunity to learn more about how we teach phonics through Read Write Inc. and how they can support their children's reading and phonics development at home. It was a lovely session, with parents engaging enthusiastically and gaining practical ideas to help their children grow in confidence as readers.



NEWS

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGE



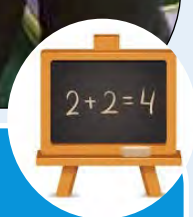
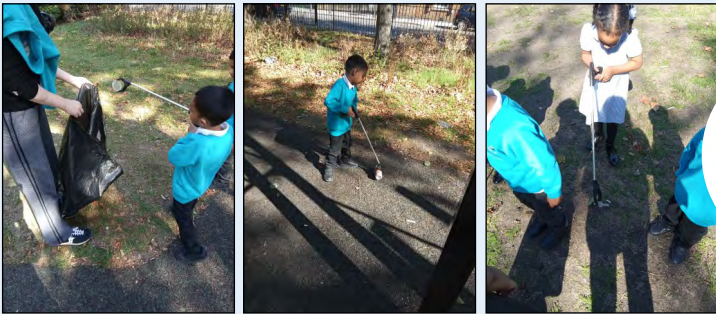


QUALITY OF EDUCATION



WORLD CLEAN UP DAY

Our Reception children have settled beautifully into the new school year and have already enjoyed a range of exciting learning experiences. To support **World Clean Up Day**, the children visited Shandy Park to help pick up litter and learn about the importance of caring for our environment. They worked together enthusiastically, developing a sense of responsibility and showing how even small actions can make a positive difference to our local community. It was wonderful to see the children taking pride in helping to keep their surroundings clean and safe.



NURSERY

Our Nursery children are settling in really well and are becoming more confident with saying goodbye to their grown-ups each morning. We have been exploring the story Owl Babies, which helped the children understand that, just like Mummy Owl, their grown-ups always come back. The children also explored a variety of beautifully patterned eggs, looking closely at their colours and patterns and carefully learning how to handle and care for them. It has been lovely to see their growing confidence, curiosity and care as they settle into Nursery.



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL



STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

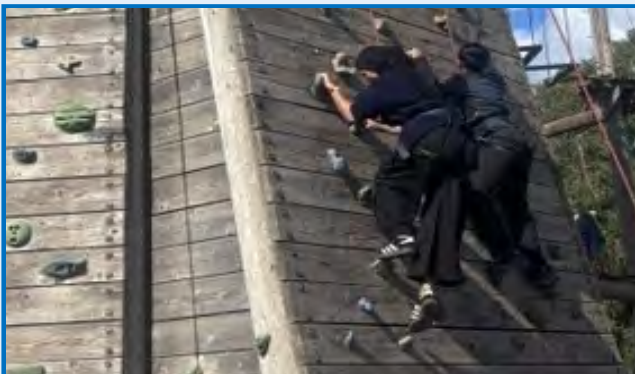
Year 6 have just returned from an absolutely brilliant few days at Stubbers Adventure Centre, and they have definitely brought some tired smiles (and plenty of muddy laundry) home with them! From braving the high ropes to building rafts and kayaking out on the water, everyone threw themselves into every single challenge. It was fantastic to see the children cheering each other on, conquering fears, and showing a real sense of independence away from home. We are so incredibly proud of how well they represented our school.

A massive thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting this trip and allowing the children to go. We know that sending them off on a residential can be a big step, but the confidence and memories they have gained make it so worthwhile.



UNFORGATTABLE ADVENTURES

DAY 1 AT STUBBERS



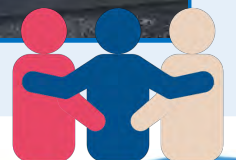
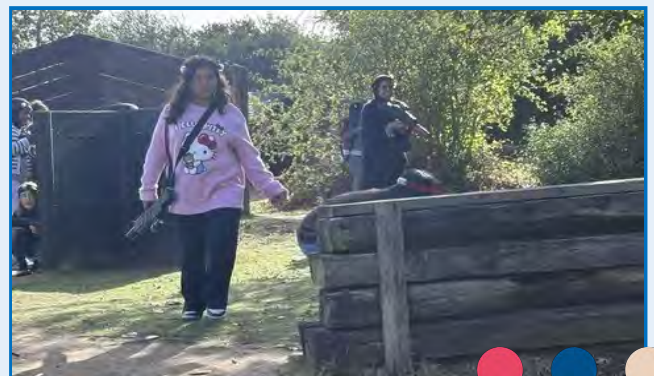
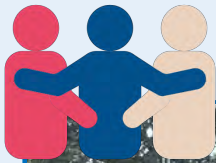
UNFORGATTABLE ADVENTURES

DAY 2 AT STUBBERS



UNFORGATTABLE ADVENTURES

DAY 3 AT STUBBERS



HALF TERM EVENTS



OCTOBER HALF-TERM STEM HOLIDAY CAMP

Week A: Mon 19 to Fri 23 Oct 2026 (5 Days)
Week B: Mon 26 to Fri 30 Oct 2026 (5 Days)

Small, Structured STEM Classes
Safe, Fun, Social, Active and Educational
For All Boys & Girls Aged 5-11 Yrs
The No.1 Holiday Camp - as Voted by You

Ofsted
Registered
Childcare Vouchers Accepted

WINNER
BEST HOLIDAY CAMPS
HOOP AWARDS

Excellent
★★★★★
Trustpilot





FUN, Hands-On, Spooky Science Experiments with Take-Homes In Every Activity Week!

Book Online:
mnature.co.uk
Or Call:
020 8863 8832

Information: Autumn Half-term October 2026
In this spooky 5-day Holiday Science Activity Camp, your children enjoy lots of premium fun, hands-on, chemistry, biology and physics STEAM activities and special demonstrations with take home experiments (see below).

*** Dates*:**
Week A: Mon 19-Fri 23 Oct 2026 (5 days)
Week B: Mon 26-Fri 30 Oct 2026 (5 days)
***Check online for which weeks are running at your Location**

*** Times:** 9am - 3:30pm (6.5hrs)
Extended Hours: 8:30am; latest collection 4pm
- simply add when booking online

*** Open to Children:** aged 5-12 years
*** Locations:** across Greater London (look right>)

Halloween Science! - New 2026 Activities

Day 1> Atomic Monsters!
Getting To Know You!
Viral Viruses!
Pumpkin Life Cycle!
Haunted House!
Day 2: Gory Genius!
Eerie Eruptions!
Spooky Slime!
Witch's Cauldron!
Day 3: Trick or Treat!
Blood Making!
Skelly, the 3D Skeleton!
Witchcraft Illusions!

Day 4: Witchcraft Science!
Flying Bats!
Spooky Spider Webs!
Broom Zoom!
Day 5: Toli & Trouble!
Brain Building!
Manic Bone Hand!
Dancing Franken-Worms!

and many, many more cool science demonstrations, experiments, games and quizzes!...

Haunted School Venues this Halloween Serving:

NW London

- Barnet
- Brent
- Camden
- Ealing
- Harrow
- Hillingdon
- Westminster

NE London

- City of London
- Enfield
- Haringey
- Islington
- Tower Hamlets
- Waltham Forest

SW London

- Kensington
- Hammersmith and Fulham
- Hounslow
- Kingston
- Merton
- Richmond
- Sutton
- Wandsworth

See online for full list...

Book online at:
www.mnature.co.uk
Or call us today:
020 8863 8832

Parent Testimonial:
"Science camp has inspired my child to learn more and he adores it, which says a lot about the teaching. It was incredibly reassuring to know he was in good hands. Highly recommend it. We will definitely be back for more!"

Did You Know?
we also do
THE BEST BIRTHDAY PARTY EVER!

Early Bird and Multi-Book DISCOUNT!

HALF TERM EVENTS



THE Art IMAGINARIUM

ART + CIRCUS + CREATIVITY + CONFIDENCE

October Half Term Holiday Camp

THEME: THE ENCHANTED FOREST

26TH – 30TH OCTOBER 2026
9.00AM – 3.30PM
EARLY DROP OFF @ 8.30AM & LATE PICK UP @ 5.30PM

Create + Explore + Move + Imagine + Belong

Your child will enjoy:

- Ambitious & unique arts & crafts
- Cultivate creativity & confidence
- Professional Circus workshops, Circus show & Friday Party!
- Safe & supportive environment
- Encourage playfulness & self expression

Our Locations:

- Holy Trinity Primary School**
Beechwood Road
London E8 3DY
- Columbia Primary School**
Columbia Road
London E2 7RH

BOOK NOW



A brighter childhood through creativity

Imagination grows here

10% New Parent Discounts
5% Early Bird Discounts
10% Sibling Discounts
Childcare Vouchers
OFSTED Registered
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DBS Enhanced Staff

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HALF TERM EVENTS



Inclusive October Half-term Activity

Muay Thai

Monday, 26 October, 11 am - 12.30 pm
The Feldy, 18 Aberfeldy Street, E14 OXA

SEND Football

Wednesday, 28 October, 11 am - 12.30 pm
Wilmer House MUGA, Driffield Road, E3 5NE

SEND Basketball

Friday, 30 October, 11 am - 12.30 pm
Wilmer House MUGA, Driffield Road, E3 5NE

Access Sport are hosting October Half-Term provision for children and young people aged 8-16 who have a disability and their siblings.

Sign up now to book your spot!

<https://tinyurl.com/InclusiveOctoberHT>



Event funded by:



www.AccessSport.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1156819



HALF TERM EVENTS



JUST SPORT

Multi-Activity HALF TERM CAMP

**Tuesday 27th -
Friday 30th October**

9.30 - 3.30*

Join us for some *spooktacular* fun & exciting
multi-activity for boys & girls aged 4-13 years
old

Halloween Party Thursday 29th
Prizes for best costumes

**Early drop off and late pick up is available*

Activities include:

- ✓ Football
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Movie afternoon
- ✓ Laser tag
- ✓ Special Halloween day & more!

Malmesbury Primary School
Coborn Street
E3 2AB

Scan here to book

