

# Friars, Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@FriarsSE1](#) [@PrimaryRobert](#) [@SNSPrimary](#) [@TBPrimary](#)

Find us at: [www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk)

## Newsletter 9th December 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas performances this week, you have more to enjoy next week.

On the information pages at the end of the newsletter there is information about [Southwark's Winter of Food and Fun](#) activities for children and families during the Christmas holidays (pg 10).

Also there is information from [Public Health Southwark regarding Group A Streptococcus](#) which we know many of you have shared concerns about (pg 8-9).

We hope you have a restful weekend.

### NURSERY PARENTS

If your child was born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 they are due to start in Reception class in September 2023. You must complete the online application process by midnight on Sunday 15th January 2023. [Please speak to a member of the leadership team if you require any support with this. Here is the link to the eadmissions website](#)

<https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>

Parents, please add the 2022-2023 term dates to your diaries. Term time holidays will not be authorised.

### Term Dates - 2022 - 2023

#### **Autumn term**

Monday 5 September 2022 - Friday 21 October 2022

[Half Term Monday 24 October 2022 - Friday 28 October 2022](#)

Monday 31 October 2022 - Friday 16 December 2022

#### **Spring term**

Wednesday 4 January 2023 - Friday 10 February 2023

[Half Term Monday 13 February 2023 - Friday 17 February 2023](#)

Monday 20 February 2023 - Friday 31 March 2023

#### **Summer term**

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - Friday 26 May 2023

[Half Term Monday 29 May 2023 - Friday 2 June 2023](#)

Monday 5 June 2023 - Friday 21 July 2023

### Dates For Your Diary

#### **Tower Bridge**

**13th Dec** - EYFS Winter Show (9.30am) - no ticket required

**13th Dec** - Class Parties pm (wear your own clothes with shoes you can run in)

**14th Dec** - Christmas Dinner

**16th Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day - break up at 1pm

#### **Robert Browning**

**13th Dec** - EYFS Performance - 9.30am

**13th Dec** - Class Parties

**14th Dec** - Christmas Dinner, KS2 Talent Show, Raffle

**16th Dec** - Christmas Jumper Day - break up at 1pm

#### **Snowsfields**

**12th December** - Nursery and Reception Winter Concert 2pm (two adult places per child)

**13th December** - Class parties - wear your own clothes

**14th December** - Christmas Dinner & KS2 Talent Show

**16th December** - Wear a Christmas Jumper Day - 1pm break up

#### **Friars**

**13th December** at 9:30am Winter Performance EYFS & KS1

**14th December** at 2pm KS2 Winter Performance

**15th December** Class parties pm

**16th December** last day of term- 1pm finish

### Changes to First Aid Procedures

As of the 4th of January 2023, we will no longer be making phone calls to parents for minor bumps to the head. We will send you a Scholar Pack App message instead. We will continue to call you for any illnesses and injuries we need to discuss with you.





## Lantern Parade

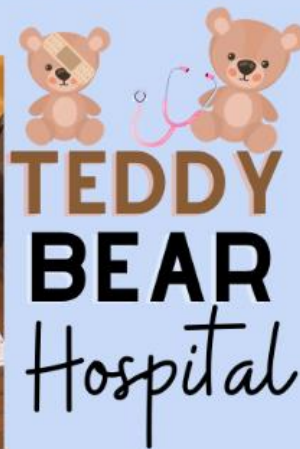


Blue Class and the choir joined Snowfields, Robert Browning, the Mayor and other community members in the Lantern Parade this week.

Thank you for all who were able to come and support the children.

"I learned that we need to eat healthily before we have a treat" - Meral

"We learned that in operations you are asleep and wear an oxygen mask" - Joel



Tower Bridge has not won a sporting title since the legendary 2018 PESSN Virtual Athletics where Year 2 were the winners. This week, that all changed when our amazing Year 6 Bowling Team bought back this trophy! We couldn't be more proud of them! Champions!



Well done to Red and Orange Classes for their wonderful performance today of "A Jolly Christmas Postman". The staff and the children have worked so hard to put the show together. Thank you to all the parents who were able to come and watch.



Many of the children have been to the Unicorn Theatre this week and enjoyed the 2 shows seen. We are so lucky to have a family ticket as one of our raffle prizes for the show of your choice!



## RAFFLE!



We will continue to sell raffle tickets next week.

Tickets cost £1 a strip.

Prizes include:

**Toys**

**Unicorn Theatre Tickets**

**Chocolates**

**Toiletries**

**Craft Sets**

**The Elder Wand**

(The draw will take place on 16/12/22 in assembly.)



## CLASS PARTIES

Class Parties take place on Tuesday afternoon.

Children can wear their party clothes on this day only, but please make sure they wear sensible shoes, (trainers).

Please bring 1 item of food to share with the other children.

Some examples:

- 6 pack of crisps
- 1 litre carton of juice
- 1 pack of biscuits

Please do not bring more than 1 shareable item.





Blue Class took part in the lantern Parade on Wednesday after school, along with the year 5 classes at Tower Bridge and Snowfields. It was wonderful to see the lanterns light up the South Bank!

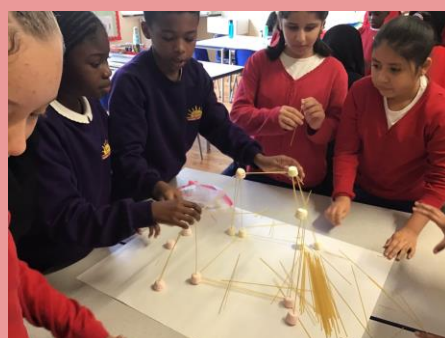


Last week 'The Nest' visited us- they ran an assembly and workshops in each class with the theme of 'resilience'- one of our core values.



## Raffle

We will be selling raffle tickets in the playground or office after school. The draw will take place in school on Wednesday 14th December.







# Snowsfields Primary School



**Blue Class** @SNSBlue5 · 25 Nov

This week we got to make lanterns and it was so much fun! Look how amazing they turned out 😊



**Blue** class, with the help of Team London Bridge made lanterns to showcase at the Annual Lantern Parade. On Wednesday they, along with the other schools in our federation, paraded their lanterns around the local community.



**Butterfly** class, **Yellow** class, **Green** class, **Blue** class and **Purple** class were invited to the Unicorn theatre to see Pinocchio and Christmas in the Sunshine. They had so much fun!



Classes across Snowsfields took part in Garden Workshops with The Royal Forestry Society on Thursday. They planted trees and played games in the garden. Here are **Red** class and **Purple** class planting trees.



**Green Class** @SNSgreen\_4 · 1h

Lovely trip to London Mithraeum, brought fantastically to life thanks to @Bloomberg. really great to see what the temple would have been like thanks to the immersive show







# Friars Primary School



The Year 1 class had an amazing time at the London Aquarium! There were many awe and wonder moments while they explored the wonderful world of marine life!



Thank you Beatriz for a fantastic Christmas Dinner!



In nursery, we have been learning about light and dark. Look at the beautiful lanterns we have made!





E - Engaging Everyone Everyday



Reading Raffle Winners



Our Value  
this week is:  
resilience

Reading  
Raffle  
Winners



S - Supporting children  
to succeed!

Reading Raffle  
Winners!



Times Table  
Rockstar Winners!



Our value this  
week is  
creativity.





	Absence	Lates	Total Points
Year 1	13	16	325
Year 2	39	21	100
Year 3	14	22	550
Year 4	15	20	1000
Year 5	4	6	1575
Year 6	17	15	1050

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 28/11/2022: 92.7%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y5**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y5**



**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 28/11/2022: 90.26%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y4**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y5 and Y1**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	29	4	90.33%
Year 2	32	13	83.16%
Year 3	26	8	90.71%
Year 4	8	8	97.04%
Year 5	18	4	91.82%
Year 6	39	7	87.00%



	Absence	Lates	Total Points
Year 1	14	3	750
Year 2	12	7	175
Year 3	26	9	1150
Year 4	12	11	575
Year 5	10	0	800
Year 6	6	6	1250

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 28/11/2022: 93.06%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y6**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y5**



**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 28/11/2022 95.60%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y3**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y6**

	Absence	Lates	Total Points
Year 1	9	20	200
Year 2	8	13	125
Year 3	2	12	125
Year 4	19	14	150
Year 5	8	7	675
Year 6	16	3	550



**Sangeeta Leahy**  
Director of Public Health  
Southwark Council  
London SE1P 5LX  
[PublicHealth@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealth@southwark.gov.uk)

6 December 2022

**To: Parents and carers in Southwark**

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware from the media that the UK is seeing a high number of Group A Streptococcus cases this year.

**What is Group A Streptococcus (GAS)?**

GAS is a bacteria that usually cause a mild infection which can lead to sore (strep) throats, impetigo or scarlet fever. It can be easily treated with antibiotics.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is very infectious. Symptoms to look out for include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

In very rare circumstances, these bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness – called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). Whilst iGAS infections are still uncommon, there has been an increase in cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and sadly, a small number of deaths.

**What should I do if my child is ill?**

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake



Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

Here are some links to further information:

UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

UKHSA Blog post – Group A Strep – what you need to know

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

5 ways to protect your under 5s this winter

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/25/5-ways-to-protect-your-under-5s-this-winter/>

Yours faithfully,



**Sangeeta Leahy**  
Director of Public Health  
Southwark Council

# Is it Strep A?

## Look for the rash

It has a 'sandpaper' texture. On pale skin it may appear red and have a rough texture. On dark skin it may not appear red, but it will have a rough texture.



## Look at the tongue

Bright red with white coating, known as 'strawberry tongue'



## Other symptoms may include:

- Temperature
- Headache
- Body aches
- Feeling sick
- Flushed red cheeks
- Dehydration

It can be difficult to tell the difference between 'Strep A' (invasive Group A strep iGAS) and other infections, such as strep throat and impetigo.

The bacteria that causes these infections can usually be treated with prescribed antibiotics.

Your GP may suggest a phone consultation to avoid spreading the infection.

Call 999 or go to A&E if your child is having difficulty breathing





Southwark's

# WINTER OF FOOD AND FUN



Activity programme for  
children and young people

**19 December –  
30 December 2022**

[www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun)

Funded by



Department  
for Education

Please click on the link to find out more information about what is on offer:

[www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun)



## Being a Parent:

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

<b>Tuesdays</b> 10am-12pm At 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Children's Centre, 12 Chumleigh St, London SE5 0RN (Burgess Park) (Starting 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2023)	<b>Wednesdays</b> 10am-12pm At Crawford Children & Family Centre, 5 Crawford Rd, London SE5 9NF (Starting 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023)	<b>Thursdays</b> 10am-12pm At Rye Oak Children's Centre, Whorlton Rd, London SE15 3PD (Starting 12th January 2023)
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For more information, please contact

Claire Gager at Southwark Family Early  
Help Parenting Team;

07547 659 646

[Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk)

*"I found the EPEC  
parenting course  
amazing. I learnt new  
things and I feel more  
relaxed when I come to a  
challenge with my child."*



Introducing free - funded service for Southwark residents.

## Worried about the rising cost-of-living? Get into work with our support

**Access part-time vacancies, get paid the London Living Wage or above, get trained, and grow in your career while supporting your family during the cost-of-living crisis.**

Find out how by getting in touch with us. Email your full name, phone number, and postcode to [Sahan@stepahead.co.uk](mailto:Sahan@stepahead.co.uk) or call 0745 814 3136





# Winter Family Activities at the Centre for Wildlife Gardening 28 Marsden Road, SE15 4EE

Have fun on these one day courses for dads, mums and children of any age with the London Wildlife Trust. Southwark residents only. Free but £3 refundable deposit required.



## Saturday 10th December 10am till 3pm Evergreens and Wreaths

Get to know your garden evergreens, find out how they are good for wildlife and make a winter wreath and other decorations using natural materials.

## Tuesday 20th December 10am till 3pm Winter Wildlife Helpers

Discover what's living in our garden in winter and how you can help. Make a ladybird hotel, a mouse house, food for birds and plant up a pot for bees.



Funded by

**Southwark**  
Council  
southwark.gov.uk

To find out more and for booking visit [www.wildlondon.org.uk/events](http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/events) or contact Diana [dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk)



## December Holiday Club Activities

### FUN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- Art & Craft
- Music
- Drama
- Fitness
- Story Telling
- Board Games
- Cooking



### Activities Dates

**Christmas Party: Mon, 19th Dec @  
St Giles Parish Hall, 161 Benhill Road, SE5 7LL from 12noon - 3pm**

**Centre-based activities across various centres :  
Thurs 22nd Dec from 10am to 2pm**

**Online-based activities: Weds 28th & Thurs 29th Dec**

### OUR CENTERS

ST GEORGE'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Coleman Rd, SE5 7TF

ST GILES  
St Giles Parish Hall,  
161 Benhill Road. SE5 7LL

SPECIAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND)  
PROGRAMME  
Camberwell College of Arts Foundation -  
Modular Building, 1 Wilson Rd, SE5 8LU

TEENS CENTRE @ UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Love Walk, Camberwell, SE5 8AE

THE CLUB ROOM  
Samuel Lewis Trust Estate,  
Warner Road, SE5 9NE

AMOTT ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
Amott Road, SE15 4HU

ST PAUL'S CHURCH HALL  
Lorimore Square,  
Lorimore Rd, SE17 3QU

DAWSON HEIGHTS ESTATE  
Community Centre  
Overhill Road, SE22 0PW

**FREE FOR  
AGES 0-16**



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**Book your place today!**

[holidayclub@springcommunityhub.org.uk](mailto:holidayclub@springcommunityhub.org.uk)  
WhatsApp/call/text  
07988138997

## Christmas Drop-in Classes Bermondsey - Friday 16th Dec

[www.boppinbunnies.co.uk](http://www.boppinbunnies.co.uk)

**Boppin bunnies**  
Live Music for Little Ones

With Christmas approaching, we have a morning of Christmas music for little ones and their parents in Bermondsey on Friday 16th Dec.

Tickets can be booked here:

<https://www.boppinbunnies.co.uk/shows>



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

### SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

### NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers, enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, sending private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

### NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age. It is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

### INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

### LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

### TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

### BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

### AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

### CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

**NOS**  
**National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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/NationalOnlineSafety



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