

# Robert Browning, Snowfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



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

## Newsletter 10th March 2023

Dear Parents,

Please see page 2 of the newsletter for Strike Action being taken on 15th and 16th March.

The year 2 assemblies were fabulous this week, thank you so much for coming to support your children, they love you coming to watch their assemblies.

It has been a busy week, we had an action packed Wednesday where we studied inspirational women for International Women's Day. We also competed on athletics for World Maths Day. Please see your school class page for photos of all the fun!

We are planning to hold an Easter Egg event for the children within our schools during the last week of the spring term. If you are able to donate an Easter Egg to support with this event, please can you hand these in to the school office. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday, gates open at 8:45am.

### 100% Attendance and Punctuality

We are halfway through spring 2 and we have many children on track to achieve a green wristband for 100% attendance and punctuality.

Thank you for continuing to support your children to come to school on time each day.

Please speak to a member of staff at the gate or contact the school office if you need any advice or resources to support your child to come to school everyday.



### Dates For Your Diary

#### Tower Bridge

23rd March - Reception Class Assembly (Thursday)

**\*30th March - Year 1 Class Assembly (Thursday) - Date Change\***

31st March - Break Up (1pm)

18th April - Back to school

#### Robert Browning

23rd March - Reception Class Assembly (Thursday)

30th March - Year 1 Class Assembly (Thursday)

31st March - Break Up (1pm)

18th April - Back to school

#### Snowfields

15th & 16th March Strike Action - School closed

22nd March Reception/ Butterfly class assembly 2:55pm

**29th March Year 1/ Red class assembly 2:55pm Date Change**

31st March - Break Up at 1pm

18th April - Back to school

#### Term Dates - 2022 - 2023

##### Spring term

Wednesday 4 January - Friday 10 February 2023

**Half Term Monday 13 February - Friday 17 February 2023**

Monday 20 February - Friday 31 March 2023

##### Summer term

Tuesday 18 April - Friday 26 May 2023

**Half Term Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June 2023**

Monday 5 June - Friday 21 July 2023

Term Dates for 2023-2024 are now on the school website

<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/term-dates/>

### NSPCC PANTS GUIDES

Please see the NSPCC Pants information on pages 8 & 9 of the newsletter, we use this information at school to teach the children that your privates are covered by your pants. Please find more information you can share with your children [here](#).

## Strike Information

Dear Parents,

Notification of closure on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**

*We have been informed by the NEU Trade Union of its proposal to take strike action both nationally and regionally over a number of days. The next day of strike action by NEU teacher members is planned to take place on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**. The NEU is in dispute with the Secretary of State for Education with regards to their failure to ensure enough money is available to pay a fully-funded increase in pay for teachers which at least matches inflation, and which begins to restore lost pay*

Why have teachers voted to strike?

The cost of living crisis

According to the NEU, members have reported struggling with the cost of living crisis, childcare costs, energy costs and mortgage payments. They explain that, although the government offered a 5% pay increase to teachers, due to increasing levels of inflation, the reality is that the 5% increase is a 7% pay cut.

Teachers leaving the classroom

According to the NEU, 'One in eight teachers leaves the profession after just a year in the classroom – one in three within five'. They state that their polls show that parents support teachers taking action to 'protect education standards' because of the harm caused by teacher shortages.

When will teachers be striking?

Strike action **will take place on:**

- Wednesday 15th March (schools in both England and Wales)
- Thursday 16th March (schools in both England and Wales)

### How will this affect Snowfields, Tower Bridge and Robert Browning Schools?

As Executive Headteacher, I have assessed the impact of the strike action on our schools and after careful consideration have decided that all 3 schools will have to close to pupils on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023**. Due to the numbers of staff involved, there will be serious operational difficulties which could impact the safety and wellbeing of pupils and staff.

**You will receive a voucher for your child's lunch for both days.**

**Please log onto Google Classroom where children can complete a range of homework projects and also access Mathletics, Reading Eggs, and Times Table Rockstars.**

Our sincere apologies for the difficulties that these arrangements will cause parents/carers.

If our situation changes and we are able to remain open we will inform you as soon as possible.

**We will open as normal on Friday 17th March 2023.**

We will keep you informed about the other planned dates when we have more information.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's school.





**tbrectw@towerbridge.southwark.sch.uk** @Butterfly\_TB · Mar 8  
Happy International Women's Day! We had a great discussion this morning about different professions and who can do them. At first some children thought that some jobs, such as being a police officer, a bus driver or a builder, could only be done by a man but then... 1\2



This week children were learning about significant women as part of International Womens Day (8/3/23). Here is some of their learning.

**School Uniform/PE Kits**  
**- a reminder**

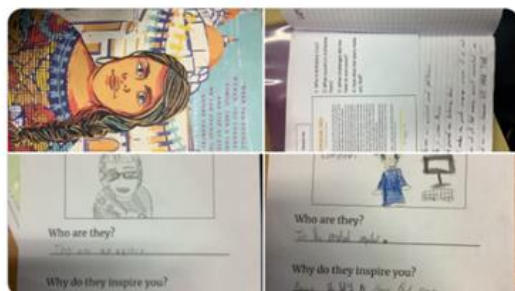
Please ensure children wear their school jumpers everyday. Hoodies and other jumpers are not part of uniform. Please speak to the office if you have lost or need a school jumper. Please make sure bracelets and necklaces are left at home. Children with pierced ears may wear plain stud earrings.



**TB Green class** @TBGreenClassY4 · Mar 8  
Happy International Women's Day!

We have been reading about inspirational women everyday this week and today learnt about Eufrosina Cruz. Y4 felt strongly about her story!

The children also had the chance to share a woman who inspires them!



**TBYellowClass** @TBYellowClassY3 · Mar 8  
Happy World Maths Day #worldmathsday2023 @mathletics3pl +x÷



It was also World Maths Day this week - the children completed challenges online using Mathletics.



**TBBBlueClass** @TBBBlueClassY5 · Mar 8  
Today, for International Women's Day, we learned about Queen Elizabeth I @tbprimary



**TB Orange Class Year 2** @TBOrangeClassY2 · Mar 8  
Today we got to compete against each other and even with other children around the world as part of a Mathletics competition to celebrate #WorldMathsDay @tbprimary



**TBBBlueClass** @TBBBlueClassY5 · Mar 8  
We're working hard on Mathletics for World Maths Day! @tbprimary

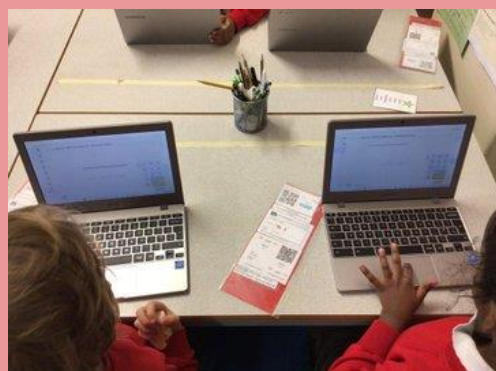




On Wednesday we took part in World Maths Day- the children took part in a range of activities including some special mathematics challenges.



On Wednesday it was **International Women's Day 2023**. The children marked this day by learning about some important women in history.



Take a look on twitter to find out more!

Year 5 took part in an Art Workshop at the South London Gallery. They made their own silver foil hats with artist [@katiesurr ridge](#) and looked at her work in the exhibition!



A group of children took part in a special Wellbeing Workshop Day, organised by PESSN. We took part in yoga, dance and capoeira sessions. We learnt about the origins of capoeira and gained a lot of new skills!



## Coming Soon...

Don't forget we have Class Assemblies coming up. These will take place in the school hall. Please arrive by 2.55pm, so that the assembly can start at 3pm.

**Thursday 23rd March** - Reception, **Thursday 30th March** - Year 1

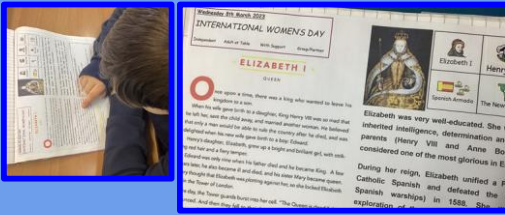
We look forward to welcoming you!

Look out for a photo from Year 2's assembly in next week's newsletter.



# Snowsfields Primary School

For International Women's Day, **Blue class** learnt more about Queen Elizabeth I and how she was sent away at a young age for being born a girl. After becoming Queen of England she defeated the Spanish and made Britain a global power.

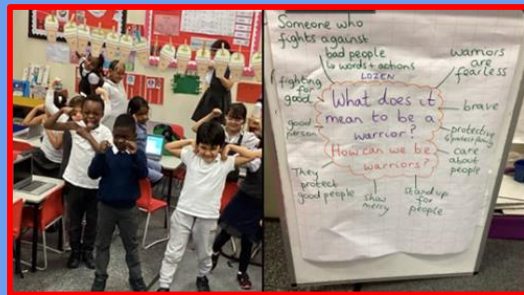


## International Women's Day 2023

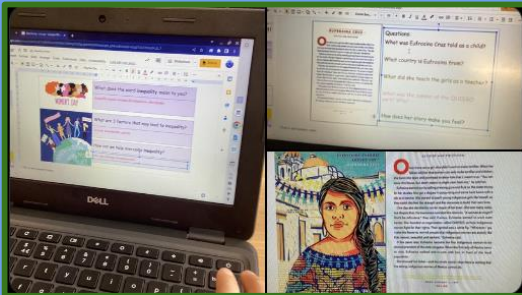
For International Women's Day, **Purple class** studied the work of Merian and compared her life to Charles Darwin's.



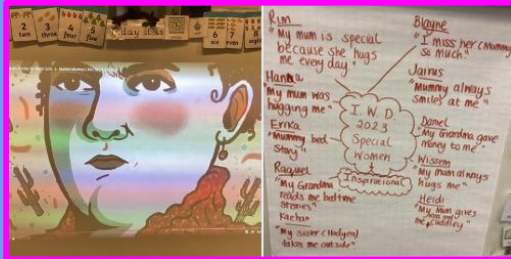
**Red class** celebrated International Women's Day by learning about the Apache warrior Lozen.



**Green class** have been celebrating International Women's Day by looking at Eufrosina Cruz, an inspirational woman who challenged stereotypes to overcome inequality.



**Caterpillar class** learnt about Matilde Montoya who was the first woman to train to be a Doctor in Mexico. They also talked about the special and inspirational women in their lives.



A big well done to **Orange class** for a fantastic assembly! We were all so impressed by how much you knew about explorers and pioneers such as Amelia Earhart, Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary. We also loved your singing and acting. Thank you to the Year 2 team for all their hard work and all the parents who attended the assembly.



## World Maths Day 2023

Across Snowsfields and the World, children competed on mathematics for World Maths Day, using their amazing maths skills the children earned points for Snowsfields!  
+ - × ÷







T - Teamwork



Reading Raffle Winners



Our Value this week is: creativity

Reading Raffle Winners



Reading Raffle Winners



D - Determined to Achieve



Times Tables Rock Stars!





	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	4	12	400
Year 2	9.5	9	75
Year 3	9.5	3	300
Year 4	3	6	450
Year 5	2	7	1050
Year 6	4.5	3	900

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 27/2/2023: 94%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y5**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y3**



**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 27/2/2023: 95.94%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y6**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y6**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	16	5	93.33%
Year 2	8	4	95.00%
Year 3	10	7	95.69%
Year 4	8	7	96.30%
Year 5	8	4	95.83%
Year 6	2	3	99.17%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	7	1	575
Year 2	12	16	225
Year 3	9	3	425
Year 4	8	3	200
Year 5	9	3	850
Year 6	3	2	625

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 27/2/2023: 97.13%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y2**

**1st Place Punctuality: Y1**





TALK

P

A

N

T

S

AND STAY SAFE



**P** RIVATES  
ARE PRIVATE

**A** LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR  
BODY BELONGS TO YOU

**N** O MEANS NO

**T** ALK ABOUT SECRETS  
THAT UPSET YOU

**S** PEAK UP, SOMEONE  
CAN HELP



**NSPCC**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



# LEARN THE PANTS RULES FOR STAYING SAFE



## **P** RIVATES ARE PRIVATE

Parts of your body covered by underwear are private. No one should ask to see or touch them. No one should ask you to touch or look at parts of their body that are covered by underwear.

Sometimes doctors, nurses or family members might have to. But they should always explain why, and ask if it's OK first.



## **A** LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

It's your body, no one else's. No one should make you do things that make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. If anyone tries, tell an adult you trust.



## **N** O MEANS NO

You have the right to say 'no' – even to a family member or someone you love. Remember, you're in control of your body and your feelings are important.



## **S** PEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

Talk about stuff that makes you worried or upset. An adult you trust will listen, and be able to help. It doesn't have to be a family member. It can be a teacher or a friend's parent – you can also call Childline on **0800 1111** and someone will always be there to listen. If you find it difficult to talk about, you could write it down or draw a picture instead.



## **T** ALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

Secrets shouldn't make you feel upset or worried. If they do, tell an adult you trust. You will never get into trouble for sharing a secret that upsets you.



# NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



A space for families to  
meet an artist and  
get drawing!

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SCISSORS

FAMILY



STUDIO

First Sunday of the month  
5<sup>th</sup> March, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
Charlotte Sharman Primary School  
West Square, SE11 4SN

Drop-in  
10.30 – 3.00pm  
All Free!  
All Welcome!

Bus Routes: 12, 53, 148, 344,  
360, 453, C10  
Stations: Elephant & Castle,  
Waterloo or Lambeth North

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**DRAWING ROOM**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

### SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

### APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

### STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny!) It. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

### SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

### TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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