

Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



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Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

International Week and Curriculum Cafes are being planned for during the week of the 21st October. The theme for International Week is the Olympics. Please look out for the date of your child's curriculum cafe.

Please regularly check the dates for your diary box for upcoming events please note the half term dates are followed by two INSET days on 4th and 5th November.

Children who read regularly and have their reading record/journal signed by a parent (at least three times a week) will be entered into the weekly reading raffle. You can see the weekly winners on page 6 of the newsletter. Please support your child to read regularly at home.

Have a lovely weekend. The gates are open at 8:45am.

Parents of year 6 children will have seen that Secondary Schools are currently running open day events. Please make sure you visit as many schools as you can. The deadline for submitting your application is 31/10/24 which is in half term. Please speak to school staff if you need support with the application as soon as possible. Please find the link to make the online application: [Applying for a secondary school place - Southwark Council](#)

MAGNA EXTENDED SCHOOLS

As you know, The Magna Groups are now running the after school club facility for Snowsfields and Tower Bridge pupils. Should you wish to register your child please follow the link below for more information. [Magna Group](#)



Dates For Your Diary



Tower Bridge

Monday 21st - Friday 25th October - INTERNATIONAL WEEK & Curriculum Cafes for parents

Wednesday 23rd October - INTERNATIONAL WEEK PERFORMANCE to parents 3.00pm and Cake Sale

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November - HALF TERM WEEK - SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 31st October - Secondary School Application Deadline

Monday 4th November - INSET Day - School Closed

Tuesday 5th November - INSET Day - School Closed

Wednesday 13th November - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings- school closed

Friday 20th December - Break Up

Robert Browning

Monday 21st - Friday 25th October - INTERNATIONAL WEEK

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November - Half Term Week

Monday 4th November - INSET DAY- School Closed

Tuesday 5th November - INSET DAY- School Closed

Wednesday 13th November - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings- school closed

Friday 20th December - Break Up

Snowsfields

Monday 21st - Friday 25th October - INTERNATIONAL WEEK & curriculum cafes for parents - see school page

Friday 25th October - 3:15pm Performance to parents

28th October - 1st November - HALF TERM

Thursday 31st October - Secondary School Application Deadline

Monday 4th November - INSET Day - School Closed

Tuesday 5th November - INSET Day - School Closed

Wednesday 13th November - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings- School Closed

Term Dates for 2024-2025 are on the Federation website

[Term Dates – The Bridges Federation](#)

Term time holidays will not be authorised.

Other important dates for this year can also be found on the school website here:

[Diary – The Bridges Federation](#)

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ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. We want to work with you to ensure that attendance for pupils at the Bridges Federation is the best it can be.

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable fulltime education. This means making sure your child is in school every day except when

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend. You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances. Generally, a holiday will not be classed as an exceptional circumstance.
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact us as early as possible (no later than 10am) on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, we will contact you to find out where they are.

My child is ill. What should I do?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. Contact us as soon as possible to let us know that they will be absent.

Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?

We may ask for medical evidence when your child is absent due to illness. This may be in cases where:

- Your child is regularly absent due to illness, to assess how we can help by putting support in place.
- We have reason to believe your child was not too ill to attend and a conversation has not resolved the issue.

If you are asked to provide evidence this does not need to be a letter from your doctor or consultant, and doctors will not usually provide such letters. It can, instead, be appointment cards, prescriptions, or notes of previous consultations (including from the NHS App.)

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible.

My child is struggling to attend school. What can I do?

The first step is to talk to your us about why your child is missing school, and what help we can give. You should still do everything you can to help your child attend as much as possible whilst waiting for help and support to be put into place. Information on who you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in our attendance policy on the website. We follow the expectations laid out in the DfE guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance.'

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2024/07/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance-19th-Aug-version.pdf>

<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/attendance/>



[value of the week]
TOWER BRIDGE
Uniform Reminders

Please make sure you have **written your child's name in their jumpers and coats.** Also, please make sure your child can **fasten their shoes independently.** If they cannot tie shoelaces on their own, please provide velcro fastening or elastic laces on shoes for them to wear at school.



Knitting and Crochet Club is going well this term. Some children have been attending for a while and are really improving in their skills.

CAKE SALE AND RAFFLE

As many of you know, Chris retired last term after dedicating over 40 years to Tower Bridge Primary School. Recently, she was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and, to show our support, the staff are organising a cake sale and raffle to raise funds for her. The cake sale will follow our International Week performance on Wednesday 23rd October at 3:30 pm. Raffle tickets will be available at the gate starting next week, with the draw taking place on Friday 25th October.



- Monday 21st October Blue Class (Year 5)**
- Tuesday 22nd October Orange Class (Year 2)**
- Tuesday 22nd October Yellow Class (Year 3)**
- Wednesday 23rd October Sunshine Class (EYFS)**
- Wednesday 23rd October Purple Class (Year 6)**
- Thursday 24th October Red Class (Year 1)**
- Friday 25th October Green Class (Year 4)**

CURRICULUM CAFES

Just a reminder to put the curriculum cafe dates into your diaries. These sessions will start at 9am and end at 9.30am we would love to see lots of parents attend.

At the beginning of each year the children create their own portraits to display in school with their aspirations for the future. Here are this year's beautiful pieces with some fantastic aspirations from being firefighters, "big", vets, midwives, artists, owning shopping malls, pilots, worship singers to being Prime Minister.

inspirational PORTRAITS



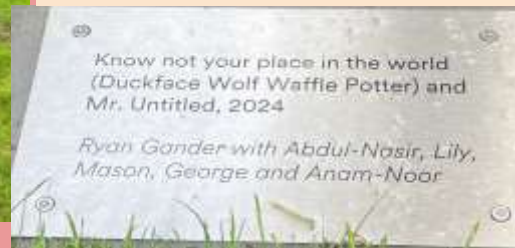


Thank you to Wilson from the PE and School Sports Network, who came to assembly on Monday to talk about the importance of PE and Sport. You can find out about some sports clubs out of school on the Family Fun noticeboard page.

Every week each class pairs up with another class to read. The children love reading with their buddies in another class.



Some of our pupils worked with the artist Ryan Gander over a number of years to produce some sculptures for the Elephant Park. On Tuesday we went to visit them!



Early Years have been busy learning about our senses. They made delicious fruit kebabs. They have been learning how to share and take turns and played party games like 'musical chairs' to learn about rules during games.

Secondary Transfer -Online Application

Please be aware that the deadline for online secondary transfer application is **31/10/2024** so we advise that you submit your application **before 25th October 2024** as the deadline falls within the half term holiday and we may not be able to offer support. If you need support with your application or have any questions before this date, please come and speak with Maureen.

Snowsfields Primary School

MAKING PATTERNS

This week, the children in EYFS learnt to make repeating patterns.

VISIT FROM THE FIRE BRIGADE

This week the London Fire Brigade visited Blue class to teach them about fire safety in the home. They discussed how to keep safe and what to do in the event of a fire.

Anna Hibiscus' Song

Trip to the Unicorn Theatre

Orange class went to The Unicorn Theatre to watch 'Anna Hibiscus' Song'. Children loved joining in with the singing and actions. After the show, they headed to the park as they were so well behaved on the trip. Super effort Orange class!

ROMAN MOSAIC

Rainbow class have been learning about Roman housing in Londinium and made a mosaic floor sample of a fish.

Curriculum Cafes

As part of their topic work, the children in Yellow class debated whether they would rather live in the Stone Age or Modern Day.

Imperial War Museum

Here are some highlights from the year 6 trip this week.

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| EYFS | Wednesday 23/10 |
| Year 1 | Thursday 24/10 |
| Year 2 | Tuesday 22/10 |
| Year 3 | Monday 21/10 |
| Year 4 | Wednesday 23/10 |
| Year 5 | Thursday 24/10 |
| Year 6 | Tuesday 22/10 |
| Rainbow | Friday 25/10 |



Our school value this week is: B - Be The Best
We Can Be - Believe!

Reading Raffle Winners



Reading Raffle
Winners



Our core value this week is:
Independence



Our school value
this week is:
S - Striving to Improve

Times Tables
Rock Stars

Reading Raffle
Winners





| | Absence | Lates | Total |
|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| Year 1 | 2 | 7 | 400 |
| Year 2 | 2 | 4 | 700 |
| Year 3 | 4 | 9 | 175 |
| Year 4 | 3 ½ | 14 | 75 |
| Year 5 | 9 ½ | 15 | 50 |
| Year 6 | 7 | 7 | 450 |

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 30/09/2024: 95.37%

1st Place Attendance: Year 1 and Year 2
2
1st Place Punctuality: Year 2



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 30/09/2024: 94.62%

1st Place Attendance: Y5
1st Place Punctuality: Y5

| | Absence | Lates | Total |
|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| Year 1 | 30 | 7 | 87.39% |
| Year 2 | 14 | 5 | 94.40% |
| Year 3 | 13 | 6 | 95.52% |
| Year 4 | 10 | 5 | 96.15% |
| Year 5 | 8 | 4 | 97.14% |
| Year 6 | 12 | 6 | 96.00% |



| | Absence | Lates | Total |
|--------|---------|-------|------------|
| Year 1 | 10 | 12 | 275 |
| Year 2 | 29 | 15 | 25 |
| Year 3 | 8 | 4 | 450 |
| Year 4 | 9 | 13 | 225 |
| Year 5 | 21 | 16 | 125 |
| Year 6 | 24 | 12 | 350 |

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 30/09/2024: 93.83%

1st Place Attendance: Y3
1st Place Punctuality: Y3

family support

The Nest - Wellbeing Hub

The Nest operates a drop-in service every **Saturday between 10:30 and 14:30**. Therapeutic practitioners and support workers can offer 1:1 emotional support, information & advice and signpost you to the appropriate services.

[Drop-In Service | The Nest](#)

FITNESS & WELLNESS FOR WOMEN

- BREATHING
- STRETCHING
- DANCING
- YOGA TECHNIQUES
- AND MORE

Venue
The Lewington Community centre
9 Eugenia road
Rotherhithe SE16 2RU

TUESDAYS STARTING 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 10AM -11:30AM

crèche will be provided

For more information
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
Parentskills2go.org

Connect with Us
@parentskills2go

Parent Skills 2Go Community Interest Company

Impact on Urban Health

To get involved, you can refer via our website www.imago.community or scan the QR Code.

For further information, please contact our Hub:
youngcarers@imago.community
0300 111 1110

We support young people living in Southwark aged 6-24, who provide unpaid care or support to a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health condition or a substance misuse issue.

Southwark Young Carers is a service of Imago Community. Registered charity number 109388.

Southwark **IMAGO** Head Start charity Building Resilience, Facilitating Change Since 1987

MY CHILD & ME

A 10 WEEK INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

for parents and carers providing understanding, supporting and prevention of behaviour & mental health issues in children through cultural lenses

crèche will be provided

Date:
Thursday 19th September -
Thursday 21st November 2024
10am -12pm

Venue
The Lewington Community centre
9 Eugenia road Rotherhithe SE16 2RU

For details and to register:
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
Parentskills2go.org

Parent feedback
"This program taught me that I am not alone..."

Impact on Urban Health **DISTINCT** FAMILY SERVICES LTD

BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF AUTISM

(5 WEEKS ONLINE PROGRAM)

Understanding Autism & How to support Your Children At Home or Early Years Setting

Starts Monday 16th September, 2024 6:00pm-7:30pm

For more information
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
Parentskills2go.org

ZOOM DETAILS WILL BE SENT AFTER REGISTRATION

Connect with Us
@parentskills2go

Parent Skills 2Go Community Interest Company

Impact on Urban Health **DISTINCT** FAMILY SERVICES LTD

Family info



Starting secondary school in Southwark 2025/26

Applications close 31 October 2024

Apply online at www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions



[Applying for a secondary school place - Southwark Council](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



Wednesday, 16 October

Restart a Heart 2024

Learn life-saving CPR skills and techniques at Restart a Heart 2024 at Holmswood Pharmacy!

Free

Get tickets

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/restart-a-heart-2024-tickets-957091044077?utm_experim_t=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

Information for parents: Reception baseline assessment



[Reception baseline assessment: information for parents - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment)



Parent Skills2Go
Community Interest Company

SEWING SKILLS

10 WEEKS DRESSMAKING COURSE FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS

FREE SEWING MENDING STATION
(SUPPORT ON HOW TO MEND CLOTHES)

DATE:
FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
10AM - 12PM
(EVERY FRIDAY)

Venue
The Lewington Community centre
9 Eugenia road
Rotherhithe SE16 2RU

For details and to register:
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
ParentSkills2go.org

crèche will be provided

COST MAY APPLY



Impact on Urban Health



Enjoy **FREE** access to classes

Sign in or **download the Southwark Leisure App** and click on the 'free online classes' button.

Over 20-adult class programs, Kids Born To Move classes, 2000 plus workouts, plans and challenges. Stream from the web, your mobile and TV.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College