

# Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@robertbrowning.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/robertbrowning.bsky.social) [@towerbridgeschool.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/towerbridgeschool.bsky.social) [@snsprimary.bsky.social](https://www.instagram.com/snsprimary.bsky.social)

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

## Newsletter 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



Thank you for all your support this week with fundraising for the NSPCC the charity chosen by our School Council leaders. The children learnt about the rights of a child, Buddy (the NSPCC mascot) and the number for Childline 08001111. There are follow up activities to do at home: [Activities for kids at home | NSPCC](#)

Please take time during half term to look at the AUP (acceptable online use at home and school) and to talk about the apps and games that your child uses. Regular conversations about staying safe online are essential. There are lots of resources to support you here: [Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#). There is also a Digital Safety online session on Thursday 13th March at 1pm run by the Southwark Early Help on MS Teams. Please register [here](#).

The children also shared their experiences of sleep hygiene, please take a look at the information on page 2 of the newsletter to continue the conversation at home.

Have a restful half term break, we return to school on Monday 24th February. The gates open at 8:45am, many children are still arriving to school after 9am which disrupts their learning. Please support your child to arrive at school on time every day.

### Parent and Pupil Review Meetings (Guardian Consultations)

Guardian Consultation bookings can only be made via the Arbor app, and will be available to book until 20th February at 3.30pm. Parent and Pupil Review day is on 5th March.

You will need to make sure:

- you book a different time for each child attending the school
- you ensure you have enough time to walk to each classroom



Dates For Your Diary



### Tower Bridge

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PUPIL REVIEW MEETING ON ARBOR BY 20/2/25 3.30pm**

Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term

17th - 21st February - Half Term Week

Wednesday 5th March- Parent and Pupil Review Meetings

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Friday 4th April - Break Up 1pm

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd April - INSET Days - School Closed

### Robert Browning

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PUPIL REVIEW MEETING ON ARBOR BY 20/2/25 3.30pm**

Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term

February 17th- 21st - Half Term Week

Wednesday 5th March- Parent and Pupil Review Meetings- school closed

Friday 4th April- Break Up for Easter

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd April- INSET DAYS  
Thursday 24th April- Back to School

### Snowsfields

**DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PUPIL REVIEW MEETING ON ARBOR BY 20/2/25 3.30pm**

Friday 14th February- Break up for Half Term

February 17th- 21st - Half Term Week

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Term Dates 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](#)

# The Sleep Factor



Research shows that only 42% of young people are getting 8.5 hours of sleep on a school night, in addition to this there is also a worrying decline in young people's happiness. There is ongoing research into the relationship between mental health and sleep, highlighting that quality sleep is crucial for good mental health.



**Did you know, 5-11 year olds need 10-11 hours of sleep per night?**

[Sleep Advice](#)

As part of Wellbeing Week, the children have been learning about sleep and it's importance.

## Recommendations

- Children of this age need a regular sleep schedule, waking up and going to sleep at the same time every day (including at the weekends). Bedtime for this age group should be before 9pm.
- Routines before bed should include calming activities such as reading and one-to-one time with a parent/carer. The hour before bedtime should avoid screen use (e.g. TV, phones, tablets etc.) or overly energetic activities.
- Children should avoid caffeinated or high-sugar products such as fizzy drinks, tea or coffee and sweets, particularly during the afternoon and evening.



**NHS advice:** [www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/sleep](http://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/sleep)

**The Sleep Charity:** [www.thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/relaxation-tips/](http://www.thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/relaxation-tips/)

**The Evelina London Children's healthcare:**

[www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/our-services/hospital/sleep-medicine-department/how-to-sleep-well-for-teenagers.aspx](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/our-services/hospital/sleep-medicine-department/how-to-sleep-well-for-teenagers.aspx)



**Attendance raffle**

Well done to all the families with 96% attendance for this half term. We drew the raffle on Monday and Lillie (Y5) and Olivia (Y1) won the hamper with lots of goodies for the half term holiday.



97% of the Parent Pupil Review Meetings have now been booked. Booking closes in half term, on 20th February at 3.30pm.



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 17TH - 21ST FEBRUARY  
Half Term Week - School Closed
- MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY**  
Back to School
- WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH**  
Parent and Pupil Review Meetings
- THURSDAY 6TH MARCH**  
World Book Day
- FRIDAY 4TH APRIL**  
Break Up at 1pm
- TUESDAY 22ND AND WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL**  
INSET Days - School Closed

[ value of the week ]  
**TOWER BRIDGE**



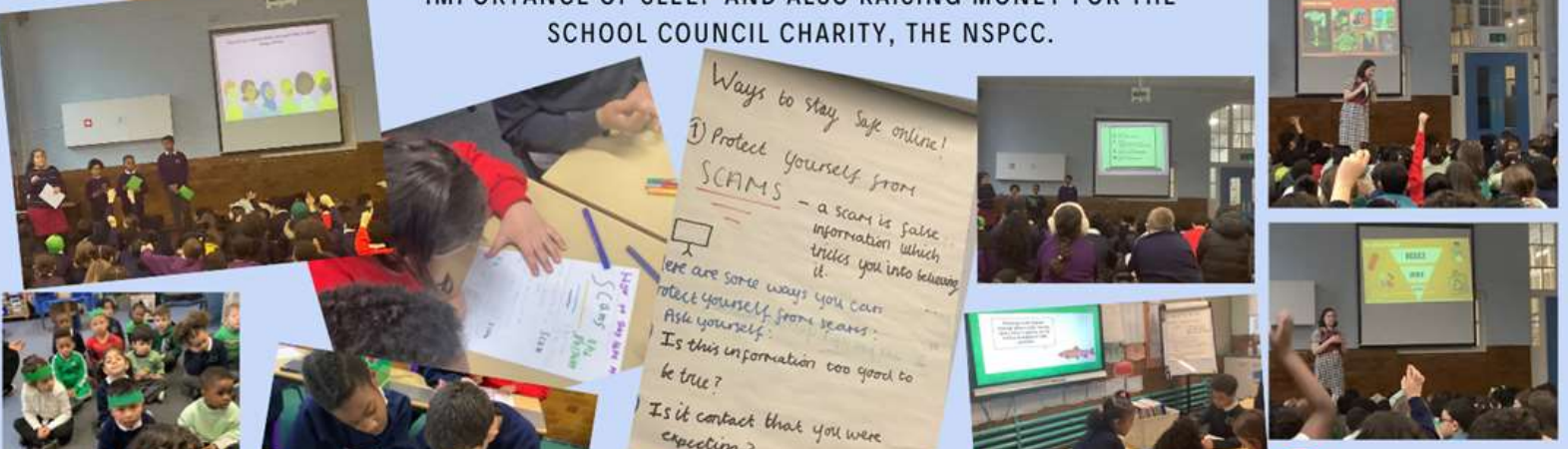
Well done to the winner of the STEAM question this half term. Next half term, our STEAM question is: **100 years from now, what do you hope has been invented?**

You could spend half term designing your answer and hand it in when we come back to school.

**Wellbeing Week**



THIS WEEK THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TAKING PART IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THEIR WELLBEING, INCLUDING SAFER INTERNET DAY, LEARNING THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP AND ALSO RAISING MONEY FOR THE SCHOOL COUNCIL CHARITY, THE NSPCC.



Ways to stay safe online!  
 1) Protect yourself from SCAMS - a scam is false information which tricks you into believing it.  
 Here are some ways you can protect yourself from scams:  
 Ask yourself:  
 Is this information too good to be true?  
 Is it contact that you were expecting?



Michaela from Veolia came in to speak to us about the importance of recycling and explained what happens to our waste when it is collected each week.





## Wellbeing Week

This week the children have been taking part in Wellbeing Week. They participated in Safer Internet Day by learning about online scams. They learned all about the importance of sleep- see page 2 of this newsletter. They also raised money for the NSPCC and took part in the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme.



# NSPCC



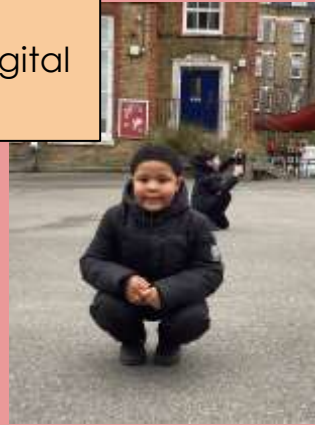
## Groundwork Update

This week, the children participated in assemblies with the Groundwork Team on the theme of 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. We were really impressed by the children's understanding and thoughtful contributions. Our next workshop for parents takes place on Tuesday 25th February and will focus on calming/relaxation techniques.



## Orange Class Digital Photography

Orange Class have been learning about digital photography



## Orange Class Fundraiser!

Thank you to all the parents and children who came along to support Orange Class on Thursday and help them raise money for their trip.

## Early Years Learning

Early Years have been having a lot of fun learning about Mr Gumpy's Motor Car!





# Snowsfields Primary School

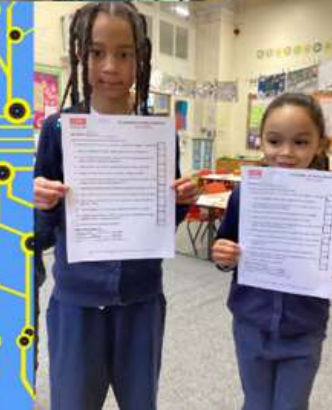
## Well Being Week 2025



The children have been busy with lots of fun activities for Wellbeing Week! For Safer Internet Day, they learned how to spot online scams and keep themselves safe. They also found out why sleep is so important—check out page 2 to learn more! Not only that, but they also helped raise money for the NSPCC and took part in the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme.



## Safer Internet Day



## Cake Sale

A huge thank you to all the parents for your generous cake donations and for baking such delicious treats! Thanks to your support, we've raised an incredible £395.45 for the NSPCC charity!




Some of our Year 2 and Year 3 children had an unforgettable experience at the Unicorn Theatre, where they had the wonderful opportunity to meet Queen Camilla. As part of the celebration, our students proudly performed a selection of poems for the Queen Consort, showcasing their confidence and creativity.







 Our school value this week is:  
B - Be the Best You Can Be - Believe!

Reading Raffle Winners



Our core value this week is: Kindness

Reading Raffle Winners



Times Tables Rock Stars

Our school value this week is:  
E - Empowering Everyone

Reading Raffle Winners





	% present	Lates	Total
Year 1	84.6%	4	250
Year 2	87.5%	2	450
Year 3	96.1%	14	200
Year 4	93.3%	5	200
Year 5	90.7%	5	225
Year 6	95.2%	4	425

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 3/2/2025: 91.54%**

**1st Place Attendance: Year 3  
1st Place Punctuality: Year 2**



**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 3/2/2025: 94.11%**

**1st Place Attendance: Y4  
1st Place Punctuality: Y1**

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	18	2	91.67%
Year 2	9	5	94.58%
Year 3	8	5	94.26%
Year 4	10	5	96.00%
Year 5	4	4	94.29%
Year 6	27	4	83.33%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	21	4	225
Year 2	10	10	<b>150</b>
Year 3	2	1	<b>750</b>
Year 4	20	11	<b>0</b>
Year 5	15	7	<b>275</b>
Year 6	7	10	<b>250</b>

**Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 3/2/2025:**

**93.15%**

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

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

## 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 full time 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 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/>



On **January 6th 2025** all 3 schools are moving to Arbor.

We will no longer be using Scholarpack.

Parents please see below guidance explaining what you need to do. From **January 6th** you will no longer be able to send or receive messages with the school via Scholarpack.

If you need any help please contact your child's school.



## We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

### We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

### How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log In

Forgotten password?

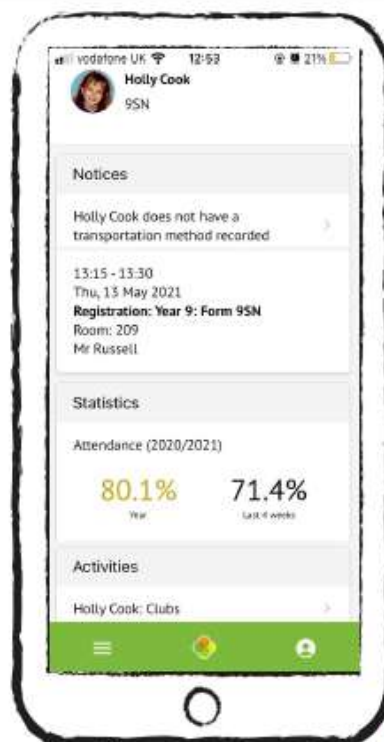
### Need help using Arbor?

**Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal.** Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

#### Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.





# Family support

## FATHER'S GROUP



Join a 12-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:** 1st Place Family Hub  
12 Charnleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0NF

**BOOK A PLACE**  
Email: [ben.compbell@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:ben.compbell@southwark.gov.uk)  
Phone: 07738 860 768

## SAFETY IN THE HOME

A ONE DAY COURSE

ACCIDENT PREVENTION & AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

**DATE:** TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY, 2025  
**TIME:** 10AM - 12:00PM

**VENUE:** THE LEMINGTON CENTRE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
9 EUGENIA ROAD ROTHERHITHE SE16 2RU

**FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER:**  
02033539869, 07294082902  
[Admin@parentskills2go.com](mailto:Admin@parentskills2go.com)  
[parentskills2go.org](http://parentskills2go.org)

## 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

Voces for Autism Charity presents

## AUTISM AWARENESS COMMUNITY DAY

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 | 11am-3pm  
Nunhead Green Community Centre, London SE15 3QQ

Come and join us to celebrate Autism Awareness month. There will be lots on offer, for the whole family including:

- Arts & Crafts
- Information Stalls
- Guest speakers

FREE Entry | Tickets available on website | [www.vocesforautism.co.uk](http://www.vocesforautism.co.uk)

**Southwark Young Carers**

To get involved, you can refer via our website [www.imago.community](http://www.imago.community) or scan the QR Code

For further information, please contact our Hub  
[youngcarers@imago.community](mailto:youngcarers@imago.community)  
**0300 111 110**

Southwark Young Carers is a service of Imago Community. Registered charity number: 2538 008

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.

## Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

Do you want more guidance on how to talk to your children, teens and young people about vaping, alcohol or drugs? Do you want to be informed on the current themes and trends we come across working with young people in the borough?

Substances are more accessible today than ever before. For parents, carers or anyone responsible for children and young people, it can feel overwhelming and difficult to know how to respond.

We're offering FREE online workshops for parents and carers in Southwark, to give advice and guidance to help you navigate this quickly changing landscape.

**Who it covers:**

- Current trends amongst young people
- Strategies for talking to young people about substances in an open and supportive way
- Practical advice on how to keep your children safe from the dangers of substance misuse

For further information contact:

- Email: [Southwark.YoungPeople@gl.org.uk](mailto:Southwark.YoungPeople@gl.org.uk) or scan the QR code for a direct link to the eventbrite page.
- You can call us on: 020 3404 7699

**Parent Skills**

## PARENT SPACE

A QUARTERLY ONLINE & IN PERSON PROGRAM

A QUARTERLY COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS WITH A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO MANAGE THEIR ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AS WELL AS HOW TO LEARN HOW THEY SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN

**DATES:**  
WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025 10AM - 11AM  
WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2025 10AM - 11AM  
WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 10AM - 11AM

**FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER:**  
[Admin@parentskills2go.com](mailto:Admin@parentskills2go.com)  
[parentskills2go.org](http://parentskills2go.org)

**DR CALL:**  
07870744377  
07292818333  
02033539869  
07784661382

PLEASE NOTE: 1:1 SUPPORT SESSIONS ARE PROVIDED UNDER OUR SERVICE!

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

For parents of children aged 6 - 24 years

This 12-week course helps parents and carers to:

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Develop effective communication
- Meet others and share ideas

**JOIN NOW**

WHEN IS IT ON?  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan - 12<sup>th</sup> Feb  
12 weeks, 1 hour per week  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
12 Charnleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0NF

**START FOR LIFE**

## EPEC BEING A PARENT 1-3

For parents of children aged 1 - 3 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

**JOIN NOW**

Contact: Claire Gager  
Email: [Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.gager@southwark.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07547 858 846

**WHEN IS IT ON?**  
STARTING 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2025

TUESDAY MORNING  
1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE CHILDREN & FAMILY HUB  
12 CHARNLEIGH STREET  
LONDON  
SE16 0NF

**What time?**  
10am-12pm

Free and stand alone information sessions for parents and carers on a range of topics - 'TAP-IN' to the support you need or complete the course.

Sessions include:

- Digital Safety - how to support children to be safe online
- Ages and Stages - how to support different developmental stages
- Parental Wellbeing - how to communicate our needs
- Parenting and Autism
- Parenting and ADHD
- More to come...

**JOIN NOW**

Beth Gilbey  
07394 865 980  
[bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk)  
[EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK](mailto:EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK)

We hold in person sessions throughout the year. Contact the team for the next available session.



# Family info

**SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS' INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

Southwark Council is proud to be leading a range of projects to improve the air quality in schools, and the air you breathe.

**Kathexa - Air Quality Monitoring & Engagement Project for students in Year 6 and above**

This project will see an quality sensor placed in classrooms and the houses of local children, offering a new insight into the air quality they experience.

Teachers and students will participate in a specially designed curriculum to design their understanding of air quality's effects on health and discover strategies to mitigate harmful emissions.

This initiative builds on existing air quality efforts and provides tools with a dedicated webpage and monitoring device to every school in learning a clearer, healthier educational atmosphere.

School staff and parents can register interest by filling out the form on this QR code or by emailing: [info@kathexaoftheco.com](mailto:info@kathexaoftheco.com) or [www.kathexaoftheco.com](mailto:www.kathexaoftheco.com)

Domestic School Action Plan  
Check out the Domestic School Action Plan Card which provides advice on how to improve air quality.

**TAP - IN SESSIONS**

Thinking About PARENTING

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....

<b>Digital Safety</b> Thursday 13th March 1pm Online via MS Team	<b>Parenting and Autism</b> Wednesday 5th February 1 - 2.30pm Friday 14th March 11 - 12.30 Both online via MS Teams
<b>Parent Emotional Wellbeing</b> Friday 31st January 10.30am - 12	<b>Parenting and ADHD</b> Monday 10th Feb 12 - 1.30 Thursday 20th March 10 - 11.30 Both online via MS Teams
<b>Ages and Stages</b> Monday 10th March 10am - 11.30 Both online via MS Teams	<b>Parenting and ADHD</b> Monday 10th Feb 12 - 1.30 Thursday 20th March 10 - 11.30 Both online via MS Teams
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN NOW**

Beth Gilbey  
07394 865 980  
[bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk)  
[earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@southwark.gov.uk)

Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC

NSPCC

**PANTS**

- Privates are private
- Always remember your body belongs to you
- No means no
- Talk about secrets that upset you
- Speak up, someone can help



Parent Skills 2020

**SEWING SKILLS**

10 WEEKS DRESSMAKING COURSE FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS

FREE SEWING MENDING STATION (limited to one per household)

BASIC BEGINNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS WEDNESDAY 21TH JANUARY 2023  
10AM TO 12PM  
COST THE £20 (INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS)

INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2023  
10AM TO 12PM  
COST THE £30 (INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS)

VENUE: THE LEWINGTON CENTRE COMMUNITY CENTRE 8 ELSBERIA ROAD NOTTINGHAM NG20 2BU

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER 0203288608 0738490202 [admin@parentskills20.com](mailto:admin@parentskills20.com) [parentskills20.org](http://parentskills20.org)

Price & Buckland

**NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM WEBSITE LAUNCH**

On the 11th of February we will launch our NEW website. The URL remains: [www.price-buckland.co.uk](http://www.price-buckland.co.uk)

Website QR code. This will take you to the homepage to search for your school

Account

If you have ordered from our website before, go to the Account Section and re-set your password. You can use the same password that you have currently.

Orders

You can then see previous orders and manage your account.

Any Questions? Call us on 01899 540327

**Parent/carer support at Robert Browning**

With Anna and Toni

We offer non-judgemental and confidential support for parent/carers of children with anxiety and challenging behaviour

Tea/ coffee Morning

Time: 9:00- 9:45

Upcoming dates:

- 21st January - Welcome back! Meet and greet/catch-up
- 4th February- Managing strong emotions
- 25th February - Calming/relaxation techniques
- 11th March- Understanding anxiety
- 25th March- Reflection week

For more information please contact: [anna.geissmann@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:anna.geissmann@groundwork.org.uk)

GROUNDWORK CHANGING PLACES CHANGING LIVES

Southwark Council

**LU Learning Unlimited**

**Free! 15 week Learning Unlimited course for adults interested in becoming Teaching Assistants Award in Support Work in Schools**

Wednesdays 9.30am - 12.30pm  
From 26th February to 25th June 2025

We will contact you after you register to arrange an assessment time. This course will be delivered online using Zoom.

What will I get from attending the course?

- The Knowledge and Skills Standard to become an effective teaching assistant
- The City & Guilds Award in Support Work in Schools (Level 2)
- The opportunity to progress to the Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools or to apply for work on a Teaching Assistant
- Final course 100% free - <https://www.cityandguilds.com/en/qualifications/teaching-assistant>

How much does it cost?

\*\*The course is free but there is a non-refundable registration fee of £10.

To apply for a place on the course see the link below to complete the online form: <https://www.cityandguilds.com/en/qualifications/teaching-assistant>

All applicants should have level 2 English.

Please note you will need to complete a portfolio which will require you to do a bit of homework. Please see website for completion of application form and assessment.

Southwark Council

**LU Learning Unlimited**

**Online English (ESOL) Course**

A FREE 15-week Entry level online accredited course for Southwark residents

Classes will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10am-12.30pm  
25th February - 26th June 2025 (seven times only)

plus online Conversation Clubs

This course will take place on Zoom. Applicants should live in Southwark

To apply for a place on the course in advance please use the link: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/online-english-course>

Spaces are limited so book soon. We will contact you to confirm your place on the course.



family  
fun



## NATIONWIDE CRICKET HUBS



We run a network of cricket Hubs that provide free-to-access training and match play to 6,500 state-educated young cricketers at 164 sites across the UK. The Hubs focus on talent: helping promising youngsters who have been engaged through mass participation activities or non-traditional formats to join cricket clubs, develop their hard-ball skills, and access the formal talent pathways. The Hubs also have a transformational impact off the cricket pitch, helping participants to feel happier and more confident, and improving their focus and performance at school.

<https://www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation/mcc-foundation-in-the-uk>



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JustTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JustTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

### SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JustTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call, exclusive stickers, a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber, and exclusive ringines and themes.

### RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (either the app or from their own adult JustTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JustTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

### KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JustTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact; this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

### POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JustTalk and JustTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

### CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

### TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 20% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JustTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

### 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.



### DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JustTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justtalk-kids>