JOSEPH CLARKE SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Issue: 16 **Week Commencing: 19/10//2026**

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers attending our recent transition meetings. We greatly value your involvement in supporting pupils as they prepare for their next steps. Following half term, we look forward to offering further opportunities to meet and discuss pupil accreditation, enrichment activities and the wider curriculum at Joseph Clarke School.

We are also delighted to welcome Joe Minns back to our school community, where he will be teaching District Class.

Overground Class recently enjoyed a fantastic visit to an outdoor activity centre in Harlow, taking part in activities including climbing and archery. These experiences are invaluable in building confidence, independence and resilience, and we look forward to providing more opportunities like this throughout the year.

Finally, a reminder that school finishes for half term on **Friday 23rd October**, with pupils returning on **Monday 2nd November**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards,
Chadia

Menu Week Commencing: 19/10/2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Option 1	Macaroni Cheese GLUTEN (WHEAT) & MILK	Margherita Pizza GLUTEN (WHEAT)	Chilli Con Carne	Chicken Tikka Masala MILK	Fish Fingers FISH & GLUTEN (WHEAT)
Option 2	Tomato & Olive Pasta GLUTEN (WHEAT)	BBQ Chicken Pizza OR Veg Supreme Pizza MILK	Chilli Sin Carne	Chickpea Masala Curry	Vegetable Pakora
Sides	Wholemeal Rosemary Focaccia GLUTEN (WHEAT)	Potato Wedges	Tacos, Coleslaw & Tomato Salsa SULPHITES	Basmati Rice, Kachumber Salad & Mint Raita	Skin on Chips

IMPORTANT: Free School Meal Update

The Government has introduced changes to **Free School Meals eligibility for 2026/27**, meaning more families receiving Universal Credit may now qualify. We strongly encourage **all families receiving Universal Credit to apply, even if you have previously applied and were not eligible**.

Families earning **under £7,400 per year** may also be entitled to additional support, including supermarket vouchers during school holidays and the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Please remember that the **Mayor of London's Universal Free School Meals scheme continues to provide free school meals for primary-aged pupils in Waltham Forest throughout the 2026/27 academic year.**

Applying is quick, confidential and online. You will need your National Insurance number and Universal Credit details.

Apply here:
https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/apply-free-school-meals

Please apply even if your child already receives a free meal at school, as registering your eligibility may provide access to additional support.

EXTERNAL EVENTS:

. St John's College are holding an Open Day on Thursday 22nd October at 11am & 2pm. If you would like to attend, please email

andriannanicolaou@johnsrcschool.co.uk

. Sight Village London
Exhibition for blind/low vision families: Tues 27th Oct 9:30-3:30 & Weds 28th October 9am-3pm ILEC Conference Centre, 47 Lillie Road, SW6 1UD

. BeeZee Families in Waltham Forest are holding a FREE Healthy Lifestyle programme which runs across 12 weeks. If you are interested, or would like more information about this, please click the link below:

https://wlf.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeefamilies/

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE:

Weekly whole school attendance: **86%**

If your child will be absent from school you must report it to us by **9:30am** each day.
You can do this by calling the school office on 0208 523 4833, or leaving a message on the absence line.
Thank you.

Attendance Expectations

TERM DATES 2026-2027

Autumn Term:
3rd September - 17th December 2026
Half Term: 26th - 30th October
Christmas Holidays: 18th Dec - 5th Jan
INSET Days: 1st & 2nd September 2026

Spring Term:
5th January - 24th March 2027
Half Term: 15th - 19th February
Easter Holidays: 25th March - 9th April
INSET Days: 4th January 2027

Summer Term:
12th April - 20th July 2027
Half Term: 28th May - 4th June
Bank Holidays: 3rd May & 31st May
Summer Holidays: 21st July - 2nd Sept
INSET Days: 28th May & 25th June 2027

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRIPS:

Parent Information Sessions:

. Secondary Pathways & Accreditations
Wednesday 4th November
9:30-10:30am (Online)

. Post-16 Pathways & Accreditations
Wednesday 11th November
9:30-10:30am (Online)

. Habilitation
Thurs 12th November
9:30-11:30am (In person)

Children In Need: Friday 13th November
School Photos: Thursday 19th November
Awards Ceremony: Wednesday 25th November

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For Year 6 pupils in Waltham Forest who transitioned to Year 7 this year and were in receipt of The Mayor of London's Free School Meal Scheme last year, you will now have to pay for school meals, unless you qualify for Free School Meals.

UNIFORM POLICY

Nursery - Year 11

Branded Items:
Red Polo shirt
Grey Sweatshirt

Non-Branded Items:
Grey trousers/skirt
Grey/Red Cardigan
Red Summer Dress

P.E. Kit
T-Shirt (any colour)
Tracksuit bottoms/ shorts (any colour)
Trainers/Plimsolls (black)
P.E. bag

Highams Park

Branded Items:
Black blazer with emblem
Tie (also available from Highams Park School Reception)

Non-Branded Items:
White shirt/blouse
Grey skirt/trousers
Grey jumper

Please note we no longer hold uniform stock at school. All uniform purchases need to be made through Speed Stitch. Details are below:

Address:
Unit 32, Walthamstow Business Centre
Clifford Road
Walthamstow
E17 4SX

Contact Details:
T: 0208 531 4800
E: schoolshop@speedstitch.co.uk

To view the items available please scan the QR code:

All items are available to purchase from Speed Stitch! They also deliver!

ANNUAL REVIEWS:

An annual review is a meeting to look at your child's Educational, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) and make sure the support & outcomes remain relevant. The review is person-centred and gives families, schools and professionals the opportunity to discuss progress, identify any changes needed and plan next steps.

For further information on the annual review process, what is involved, transitions, early reviews, local authority decisions and preparing for the annual review please follow the link to Waltham Forests SEND Local Offer or visit your local authorities website.

USEFUL LINKS:

Arbor
Arbor Help Centre
School Cloud
Speed Stitch
School Website
Free School Meals
Uniform Policy

Have a lovely weekend!