JOSEPH CLARKE SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Issue: 17 **Week Commencing: 02/11//2026**

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the half-term break, it is lovely to reflect on what a fantastic start to the school year we have had! We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements this term. It has been wonderful to see them settling into their routines, growing in confidence and making such positive progress.

We also say a fond farewell and Happy Retirement to Karen, our school cook, as we welcome our new school cook Adelina, who will be starting after half term. We would like to thank Karen for all her hard work, dedication and care during her time with us. She will certainly be missed, and we wish her all the very best for the future!

We are already looking forward to the exciting trips, activities and events planned for next month, with lots of wonderful opportunities and experiences for our pupils to enjoy. Please refer to the events section to see what's coming up.

Thank you, as always, to our families for your continued support and partnership. We wish everyone a happy, restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Monday 2nd November**!

Kind regards,
Chadia

Menu Week Commencing: 02/11/2026

	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:

. **Pitchtone Music Family Adventure** in St John's Church Leytonstone, an interactive concert for the whole family. On the 24th October from 1pm with free admissions. If interested , or would like more information, please click the link below:

https://www.pitchstonemusic.com/events-1/pitchstone-music-family-adventures-1

. **Sight Village London** are holding an 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: **88%**

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 REMINDERS:

. Reminder to check and clear any outstanding balances on Abor before December.

. All pupils return on the 2nd November as normal.

. We are a NUT and COCONUT FREE school

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!