



Believing in the worth of every individual, we are a nurturing, Christian sanctuary of learning, where all can flourish. We aspire for everyone to achieve heights of success, to deepen courage and to experience breadth of creativity, knowing the joy of God's love.

LIVING OUR VISION

Autumn 2 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term has been filled with fantastic learning opportunities, trips, class assemblies, Christmas lunch and four musical performances of our nativity plays. Thank you to the parents and carers who have supported our children by helping with events and coming to watch them perform. It makes such a difference for the children to know that you are there for them.



The second half of the autumn term kicked off (puns intended) with a very special visit. It's not every day that you are invited to a kick about in the back gardens of 10 Downing Street but that's exactly what children from John Keble Church of England School in Harlesden experienced when they helped the Prime Minister launch the Euro 2028 Finals. The children treated Sir Keir Starmer and UEFA President Alexander Ceferin to a showcase of their football skills in a relocated PE lesson, impressing even England international Tyrone Mings.

Rooted together in love, growing without limits



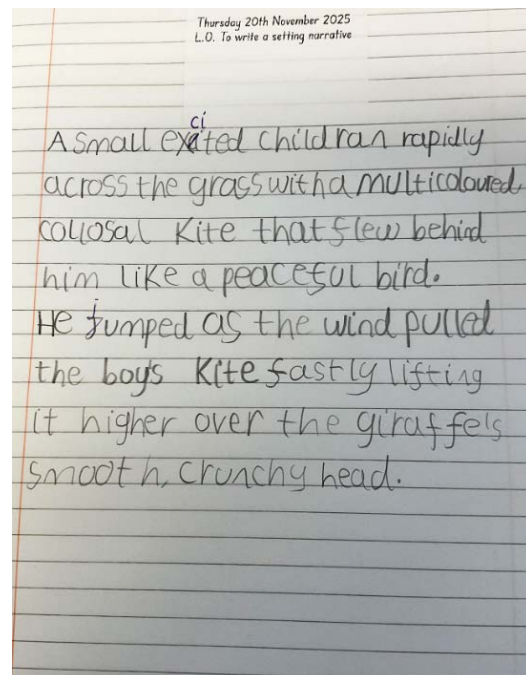
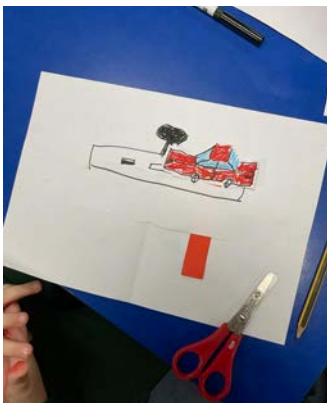
Mr Martin thought he had stepped in it this time when he introduced the school to Poo-etry Slam, (aka Poetry Slam Number 2) at the start of this half-term but despite his toilet humour, the children stole the show with their amazing performances of some of the nation's best-loved poems. Dressed up and armed with props, the children brought plenty of verses to life. Congratulations to 3 Lime and 5 Elm for winning the coveted Toilet Roll Trophy.



The Year 1s have been super-busy this half-term. Below you can see them enjoying a trip to the Science Museum; crafting amazing "Kinetic" artworks using Charcoal and enjoying writing their own versions of the Rapunzel story.



Year 2 have been designing pictures that move, creating their own Christingles and also enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum. Not to mention they have also found time to create their own new adventures for the famous cat Mog as well as write amazing settings based on the book The Night Gardener.





Year 3 spent this half-term learning to cook healthy snacks. Below you can see them preparing delicious parsnip crisps and sweet potato apple bites. They also visited the Kentish Town Farm to get up close to animals as part of their geography studies on the topic of Agriculture and Farming.



Speaking of animals, the school guinea pigs have been on tour this half term. Children in Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 have all had the opportunity to cuddle, care and clean out our furry friends. Nobody has yet managed to convince Miss Auty of their cuddliness but perhaps this will happen in the coming spring term. Look closely, you'll see that they've even been helping to teach mathematics.



There have been squeals galore in Year 4 (no, not from the guinea pigs - they haven't made it there yet) as the children made their own gooey, working models of the human digestive system. There were plenty of squished bananas and wiggly spaghetti that made the journey through their models. It was messy, memorable, and wonderfully educational!

It was a busy half term for the Year 4 team with both classes undertaking educational visits to the Neasden Temple and to view the Year 9 Pantomime at St. Claudine's School. Overleaf you can view some of the fantastic writing they have worked hard on this term - writing as a polar bear lost in an unfamiliar environment.



Above me, rain and thunder started to appear. Suddenly, violent thunder struck my soft fur. Strong winds were whipping my back. As I held my breath, howling winds that were mixed with clouds started to hover above me. Violent waves were surrounding me as I floated away. Jealous rain poured so quickly that it sent chills down my spine. All hope was lost while a bitter wind rushed towards me.

When I woke up, I saw a mountainous region. In the distance, there were snow-capped mountains. Where would I find shelter? As I walked out I became confused and started to see more mountains towering the sky. I started to become hungry.

One day I will find a cozy shelter.

Early in the morning, I decided that I had to leave this place. As I flew, bitter, ice-cold wind lashed me. As I fell, I injured myself. It was very painful. Suddenly, my hand throbbed. I couldn't move. There was no one to help me.

When I woke up, a whole group of eyes were surrounding me. Suddenly, the animals just helped me, they made me a cozy cave with a patchwork of leaves. A beat of hope fluttered in my heart. I was so happy when they made me that.

After many days of rest, because of the

It has been an equally busy time for Year 5. This half-term they have been cooking on gas - literally. They made focaccia to go with their home-made seasonal vegetable soup. If you're interested in making it yourself, Year 5 have posted their recipe below. Both classes also delivered their sensational Class Celebration Assemblies: Pine on the theme of money and Elm on the Apollo moon landings.



Ingredients

2 carrots, chopped
2 celery sticks
chopped
1½ l boiling vegetable bouillon or stock
2 tbsp tomato purée
1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
1 leek
finely sliced
3 garlic cloves
finely chopped

Equipment

1 large saucepan
1 wooden spoon
1 sharp knife

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large pan with a lid. Add the onion, carrots and celery and fry for 10 mins, stirring from time to time until they are starting to colour a little around the edges.
2. Pour in the hot bouillon or stock, add the tomato purée and thyme and stir well. Add garlic and potatoes, bring to the boil, then cover and leave to simmer for 15 mins.
3. Season with pepper, ladle into bowls and serve.

Top-tip

Will keep in the fridge for a couple of days. Freezes well. Thaw, then reheat in a pan until piping hot.



Watch out Versace, Dolce & Gabbana and Primark - there are new fashion designers in town. Our Year 6 students have been diligently sewing and stitching to produce their very own tote bags and pencil cases.



The Christmas Fair was a great success with a real community feel to it. A massive thank you to those who attended, but especially to our Keble Collective, who worked so hard to make it so special. We raised £1,900. We are also very proud of our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) who raised over £50 for GOSH at their stall.



Children in Saplings have enjoyed creating celebration cards this half term. They are developing their fine motor skills and spreading happiness and cheer in equal measure.

To find out more about what is happening in your child's classroom, ensure you've signed in to Class Dojo

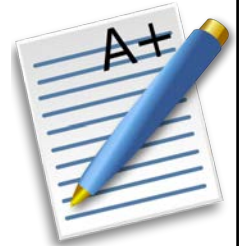




Our second Strong Roots parent wellbeing course brought together over twenty parents for four engaging and practical workshops. Participants explored a variety of topics, shared experiences, and gained valuable tools to support themselves and their relationships with their children. With so much packed into just four sessions, many were eager for more – stay tuned for future opportunities! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the course such a success!

School Results

Last week saw the publication of the Department for Education's performance tables. The national figure for children achieving the expected standard in all three subjects is 62%. **We achieved 73%, well above the national average.**



We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and want to see every child flourish in their own way, but are also very proud of our results which you can see in the following link:

[Compare School Performance Service.gov.uk](https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk)

Please check on the next page for information connected with our parent and carer group, The Keble Collective. Coffee mornings are the first Friday of every month. Come and meet other parents and learn more about school life.

Please also remember to check out our news and gallery on our website. <http://www.johnkeble.com>

From the Head Teacher

As we come to the end of term and break up for the Christmas holidays, we take time to reflect on the season of Advent. Through the nativity plays so beautifully performed by our youngest children, we are reminded of the central message of Christmas: God's love for each one of us. Seeing the children take part in the nativity helps us remember that God sent his precious Son into the world out of love for humanity. The shepherds and the magi recognised this and came to worship the child born for us all.

The nativity story also reminds us of the importance of family. Just as each child in the nativity belongs to a family, Jesus himself was born into an earthly family. Families matter, and it is right that we honour and value them. Jesus calls his Church to be a family on Earth, and at John Keble School we strive to reflect this by caring for one another and demonstrating the loving heart of the gospel in our daily life together.

Jesus came as Saviour to reveal the kingdom of God, a kingdom characterised by peace, reconciliation, and hope. Through Jesus, we are offered new hearts and renewed hope.

I would like to thank you for your continued support this term and wish you and your families a peaceful, restful, and joyful Christmas holiday.

Catherine Allard.



Our Nativities



Well done to all of our amazing children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2 for their fabulous performances in this year's Nativities. The children sang beautifully and with such enthusiasm. We were so proud of each and every one of them. Nativities are such a very special moment to share with families and we were delighted to see so many supportive parents.



From The Keble Collective - The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association at John Keble.



Wow! How amazing was the Christmas Fair? A special thank you to the choir who opened it so beautifully with their wonderful voices and set the perfect festive tone for the afternoon.

We were blown away by the creativity, generosity and community spirit on display. We had talented parents selling beautiful handmade Christmas baubles, jewellery, coasters, candles and soaps, making the fair feel extra special and unique. Our Beavers ran a delicious cake stand, featuring Lola's cupcakes alongside amazing homemade cakes lovingly made by the Beavers and their families - they were a huge hit with everyone who visited! The toy sale and tombola were also a great success - we almost sold out!

Thank you to all the teachers who after a long day came to help on all the stalls. Also a huge thank you to all the amazing volunteers and wider PTFA members who helped make the Christmas Fair and coffee mornings such a success this year, and to all the parents and children who came along to support and enjoy the festivities. Special thanks is also owed to our local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes.

We are incredibly grateful to the kitchen staff who worked so hard preparing both the Christmas lunch and the wonderful food for the Christmas Fair - your efforts did not go unnoticed. A special shout-out to the fabulous reception class parents, Sophie, Emily and Sally who created the best Christmas grotto ever - the bar has truly been raised! Also, how convincing was Santa? A big shout out to the wonderful grandfather who gave his time to make it very special.

Thank you as well to our fantastic JLT for their incredible spread of homemade goodies, scrunchies, hairbands and more showing leadership and living our school values - super impressive and inspiring!

We still have a small number of toys and soft toys remaining. If you know of any children who may otherwise go without, please speak to the school office. We would much rather see these enjoyed by children than sitting unused in a cupboard.

Looking ahead, we're excited about the upcoming Eco Spring Social 2026 and would love your help to make it another great success - ideas very welcome!

Finally, a huge thank you to the school leadership team, Catherine and David, for their continued support and for working so closely with us to make the school such a truly magical place. We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful team of teachers who genuinely care and go above and beyond for our children.

Wishing everyone a merry and joyful season.



Another great event was held at the start of December with over 60 dads and children coming together to share in the fun at the DadsKids club. Children enjoyed racing their radio-controlled cars around the playground, zipping between cones, and flying across ramps and jumps. Families also got stuck into the school's allotment area, giving it a much needed clearing in preparation for the spring planting season. They have their eyes on replenishing the school orchard in the coming months which will restore this under-used area of the school playground. Watching children and dads gardening together embodied the spirit of what we are trying to achieve with this club - wholesome activities away from screens that also give something back to the school community. New skills were passed on and learnt and children and fathers spent some quality time together.

The Nerf gun dinosaur hunt was also a huge hit (pun intended). All plastic dinosaurs were revived and returned safely to the Nursery (jungle) classroom. Below you can see images of the children enjoying traditional table games with their grown-ups. Subbuteo and chess proved to be evergreen and popular in an age of computer games.

A cracking day was enjoyed by all. If you're interested in joining in, get on the What's App group to learn how you can get involved in the next session (due at the end of January).



School starts again on Tuesday 7th January 2025 for the children

Please remember that the morning gate is open from **8.30-8.40am**. Formal lessons start at 8.45am. Children brought to school after 8:40am need to be brought to the front office to ensure they are registered appropriately.

For the latest news, please remember to check out what is happening on our X (formerly Twitter) feed @JohnKebleBrent, we post at least twice a week. You can also read about our latest news and view images in the gallery on our website. <http://www.johnkeble.com>

A reminder that our school office is open from 8am-4.30pm and closes between 1.30pm-2.30pm for lunch. The office will be closed during the holidays.

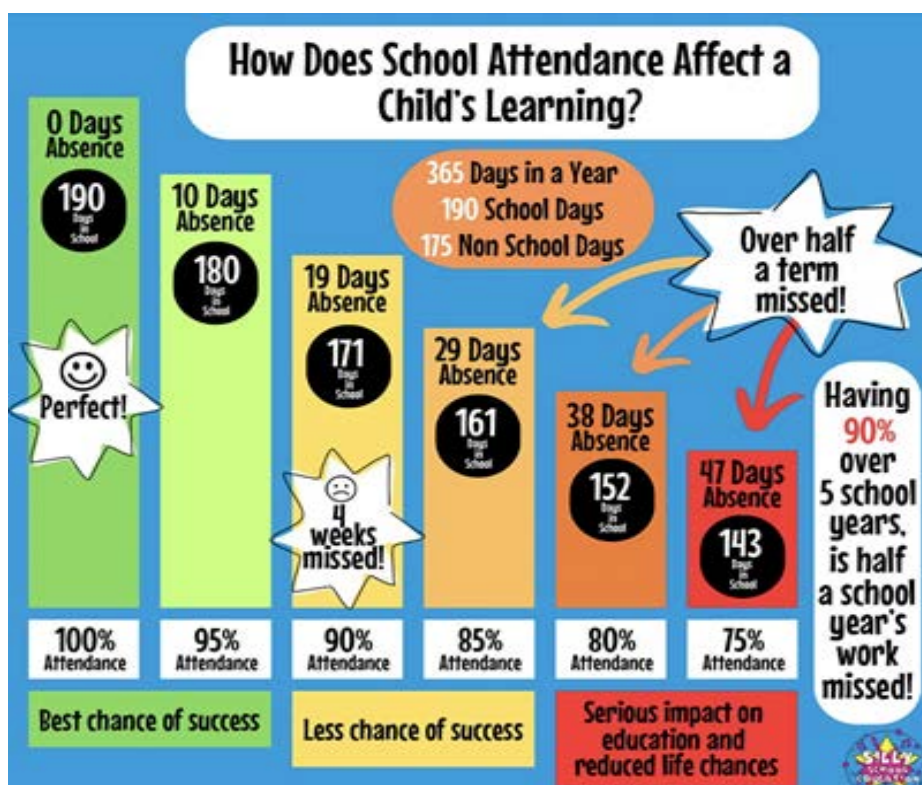


Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025 (73 days + 2 INSET)	
Inset Day	Monday 1st September 2025 and Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Term starts	Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half term	Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025
Term ends	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term 2026 (54 days + 1 INSET)	
Inset Day	Monday 5th January 2026
Term starts	Tuesday 6th January 2026
Half term	Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026
Term ends	Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term 2026 (63 days + 2 INSET)	
Term starts	Monday 13th April 2026
Bank holiday	Monday 4th May 2026
Half term	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026
Term ends	Thursday 16th July 2026
Inset Day	Friday 17th July and Monday 20th July

This year's dates and next year's dates are published on this letter and our website. Please do not request leave in term time. It will not be granted. Please ensure that your child/ren are back in London ready to start school at the start of the new half term. Action, including fines, will be taken by Brent Council against families whose children are not back in school. There is a clear correlation between children's attendance at school and their academic performance.

Children with the best attendance have the best results.





Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026 (72 days + 2 INSET)	
Inset Day	Tuesday 1 September 2026 and Wednesday 2 September 2026
Term starts	Thursday 3 September 2026
Half term	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2026
Term ends	Friday 18 December 2026
Spring Term 2027 (54 days)	
Term starts	Monday 4 January 2027
Half term	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027
Term ends	Thursday 25 March 2027
Summer Term 2027 (64 days + 3 INSET)	
Term starts	Monday 12 April 2027
Bank holiday	Monday 3 May 2027
Half term	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027
Term ends	Friday 16 July 2027
Inset Days	Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 July 2027

Upcoming events for Parents in the spring term

= parents invited.

= school trip (may need parental volunteers - please check with the class teacher).

Friday, 9 Jan 2026 (8:45am)		PTFA Coffee Morning
Friday, 16 Jan 2026 (9:00am)		4 Holly Class Celebration
Friday, 23 Jan 2026 (9:00am)		4 Sycamore Class Celebration
Friday, 30 Jan 2026 (9:00am)		3 Lime Class Celebration
Friday, 30 Jan 2026 (9:00am)		4 Holly trip to British Library
Monday, 2 Feb 2026 (9:00am)		4 Sycamore trip to British Library
Friday, 6 Feb 2026 (8:45am)		PTFA Coffee Morning
Friday, 6 Feb 2026 (12:00am)		Brent - Anti-Racism Workshops for Pupils
Tuesday, 10 Feb 2026 (9:00am)		Steel Pan Concert
Thursday, 12 Feb 2026 (2:00pm)		St. Paul's Service (LDBS)
Friday, 13 Feb 2026 (9:00am)		3 Poplar Class Celebration
Friday, 13 Feb 2026 (12:00am)		Yr 2 trip to Kew
Tuesday, 10 Feb 2026 (12:00am)		Yr 5 to Harris Lowe to see Les Miserables
Friday, 27 Feb 2026 (8:45am)		Workshop: What is the phonics screening check?
Friday, 27 Feb 2026 (3:25pm)		Workshop: What is the phonics screening check?
Friday, 6 Mar 2026 (8:45am)		PTFA Coffee Morning
Tuesday, 10 Mar 2026 (3:30pm)		Parents Evening



Thursday, 12 Mar 2026 (3:30pm)		Parents Evening
Friday, 13 Mar 2026 (9:00am)		2 Yew Class Celebration
Friday, 13 Mar 2026 (9:00am)		Year 5 INTO university am / pm
Friday, 13 Mar 2026 (12:00am)		Year 3 Natural History Museum
Tuesday, 17 Mar 2026 (6:00pm)		Prom Praise Musical Celebration
Friday, 20 Mar 2026 (9:00am)		2 Ash Class Celebration
Friday, 20 Mar 2026 (3:15pm)		Spring Eco-Fair
Thursday, 26 Mar 2026 (9:00am)		Year 1 trip to Hampstead Heath
Friday, 27 Mar 2026 (1:30pm)		School closes at 1:30pm for Easter break