



Sir Thomas Abney
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 10th November 2017

NEWSLETTER

Well done everyone for amazing attendance so far this term – Over 97%

Words of the month: Confidence and Democracy

Parents' Open Afternoons

Thank you to all those parents who have booked an appointment with their child's class teacher via the online [Parents Evening System](#). Over 85% of children's parents are booked in. Reminders of your appointments will be texted to you. Please ensure you keep to your appointment.

If you have not booked an appointment as yet please do so by following the above link or contacting the school office.

iDiscover week 13th to 17th Nov

We are excited here at STA for our iDiscover week. iDiscover is an unique, week-long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme which puts children's science and technology learning into a real world context and brings STEM role models into the classroom. The project aims to:

- Increase pupils' awareness of the range of STEM opportunities
- Demonstrate the links between science and ICT learning in school and the working world
- Increase pupils' understanding that race and/or gender are not barriers to a career in STEM
- Increase pupils' STEM-related skills
- Each year group will have a different theme and job link from Forensic Science in Nursery and Reception to Virtual Reality developers in Year 6.

Check out our diary dates to see all of the great STEM trips we are doing next week.

Individual Photos 15th November

Children will have their individual photos taken on **Wednesday 15th November 2017**. We will

endeavour to photograph all siblings (only those attending STA) together. All children must come to school in a full school uniform.

Children in Need Spotacular Dress up Day

Our next **Charity Non-Uniform Day** is on **Friday 17th November**

in support of Children in Need. Children and adults are invited to either dress-up in something spotty or just come in to school in casual clothes. **£1 donation from everyone for this excellent charity.** Cake Sale after school as well.



Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day is on **Monday 20th November** and is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity for children to express themselves and appreciate individuality.

There is no pressure on the children to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school, it couldn't be simpler! Odd Socks Day will help to raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. There will be two special assemblies on that day as well.



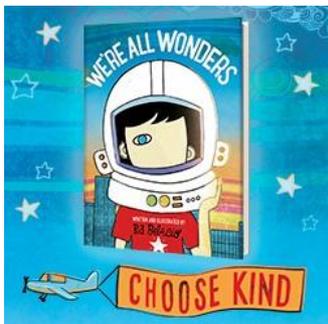
Years 4, 5 & 6:

On Thursday 23rd November there will be an uplifting theatre performance in school for Years 4-6, called **Totally Together** that challenges bullying and celebrates diversity. **Totally Together** encourages cohesion, tackles bullying, challenges discriminatory behaviour and celebrates diversity. The performance's positive messages encourage acceptance and understanding amongst young people and our diverse communities. Teachers will also be doing some anti bullying workshops in class to reinforce the key messages in the show.

Reception, Years 1-3:

The theme for these year groups is Inspiring kindness. They will be reading the story below in class and doing some activities linked to the book.

'We're all Wonders' is an original story in a colourful picture book format featuring the beloved hero from Wonder. It is the perfect springboard for discussions around kindness and acceptance with the younger children.



Music Award

Celebrations are in order as STA won the **Hackney Mayor's Music Award for Excellence in Music Education Practice**.

This is our 3rd Music Award in two years and it is in recognition of the great musical talent in our school. It



also provides opportunities for the development of instrumental music and ensembles, and to support the encouragement of musical excellence in Hackney's schools. The award comes with a £3000 grant. As a lot of children participate in out-of-school music activities, such as the Hackney Training Orchestra and Classical Meets Jazz, we intend to use some of this money to run a primary-secondary transition project, focusing initially on developing our Creative Ensemble so watch this space!

We are very proud of our music provision which provides **free instrumental tuition** during school hours to **59% of children in Years 3-6**. I hope you will join us in congratulating Stuart Wilkinson (Music Co-ordinator) for all his hard work. We would also like to extend our thanks to all the Instrumental Tutors and children for their commitment to instrumental tuition.

Friends of STA (FoSTA) update

Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to our Coffee Morning last Friday. It was a really useful get together, where parents shared their thoughts on why they help out and get involved with FoSTA. We also talked about the money that FoSTA have raised through the events that they hold and came up with some great ideas for spending some of that money. More to follow on this soon.

We also had to vote for a new **Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for FoSTA**. Our new joint chairs are **Keli Gibbins and Cynthia Lewis**, our treasurer is **David Yick** and our Secretary is **Kevin Caffarele**. We would like to take this opportunity to wish them luck in these roles.

A big thank you goes out to all those who have helped out at events in the last year and a particularly huge thank you goes to Didi Baldwin for all her hard work and efforts for FoSTA.

Our next event will be our Winter Fair, which will take place after school on Thursday 7th December. There will be planning meetings to organise the event every Friday morning at 9am between now and the event. All parents/carers are welcome to come to these meetings. If you can't make the meetings, but would like to help out either in advance or at the event itself, please let the Office know or email ptsa@hotmail.co.uk.

Book Fair

We would like to thank parents and children for supporting the Book Fair and showing their love of Reading. The Book Fair has been very successful again this term. The school receives a small commission which will go towards refreshing the library stock.

Be Bright Stay in Sight & Road Safety Week

With the days getting darker we would like to remind parents and children about ensuring you

wear either **brighter coloured coats/hats** or have some form of **reflective panelling on your coats/hats that can be seen.**

We will be endorsing this theme during the forthcoming **Road Safety Week starting on Monday 20th November.** There will be further information in the next newsletter about what we as a school are planning to do during that week.

We are also holding a **Bikers' Breakfast and Dr Bike Session on Friday 24th November at 8.30am.** Come along with your bike and pick up a healthy breakfast. The first 20 bikes will receive a basic bike check carried out by qualified mechanics FREE of charge!

East London Housing Partnership

We would like to make families aware of the East London Partnership who provide support for families who are at risk of becoming homeless through a scheme call New Leaf New Routes. They aim to focus on those in the private rented sector who may be having problems which could lead to eviction such as disrepair, rent arrears, relationship breakdown or anything else which may arise. They can help tenants to gain access to benefits which they may not be claiming and help to repair tenant/landlord relationships through mediation, all with the aim of keeping tenants securely in their home rather than go through the stress of making a homeless application or finding another private rented property. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service please contact Newleaf@elhp.org.uk or pick up a leaflet from the school office.

Applying for Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium

All parents are encouraged to apply for Free School Meals and the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). Please note that the school receives the Pupil Premium Grant for any child who has been authorised for Free School Meals at any time during primary school and this grant is used by the school to provide extra staff, pay for resources and subsidise activities. A detailed breakdown of how the school uses the PPG is on the school's website. For instance, you would pay less for your child to attend an after-school club if your child was eligible for the grant. It is, therefore, very important to both you and the school that all parents complete the registration and application:

<https://ems.learningtrust.co.uk/CitizenPortalLIVE/Account/Register>

Please go to:

<https://www.learningtrust.co.uk/schools/Pages/PupilBenefits.aspx> for further information.

The government funded Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is a separate scheme and has nothing to do with eligibility for Free School Meals. So please register and see if you would be eligible for this fund. **If you would like any assistance with registering online or would prefer a paper application form please contact the school office.**

Changes to School Office Opening Hours

Please note that the school office is open from **8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.**

A Gentle Request

We would like to ask adults NOT to smoke too near the school gates, especially during the start and end of the school day.

Conover Hall October 2017



Kids Fit Workshop October 2017



Sir Thomas Abney Primary School – Newsletter

Diary Dates for Autumn Term 2017				
Class Trip – 3 Maple	Mon 13 th Nov 2017	Billingsgate Fish Market		
Class Trip – 6 Apple	Mon 13 th Nov 2017	The Ecology Centre		
Class Trip – 4 Rowan	Tue 14 th Nov 2017	Hoxton Hall		
Class Trip – 5 Ebony	Tue 14 th Nov 2017	Adaptive Lab		
Class Trip – 2 Redwood	Tue 14 th Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Parents' Open Afternoon	Tue 14 th Nov 2017	3.30pm to 7.00pm		
Individual Photographs	Wed 15 th Nov 2017	All children must wear a full uniform		
Class Trip – 2 Sycamore	Wed 15 th Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Class Trip – 3 Oak	Wed 15 th Nov 2017	Green Lab		
Class Trip – 6 Walnut	Thu 16 th Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Class Trip – 5 Nutmeg	Thu 16 th Nov 2017	Softwire		
Parents' Open Afternoon	Thu 16 th Nov 2017	3.30pm to 6.00pm		
Class Trip – 5 Nutmeg	Fri 17 th Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Class Trip – 6 Walnut	Fri 17 th Nov 2017	Grant Museum		
Class Trip – 4 Aspen	Fri 17 th Nov 2017	Pleasance Theatre		
Children in Need Spotacular Charity Non-Uniform Day	Fri 17 th Nov 2017	Dress in something spotty or just casuals and donate £1 and come to the cake sale after school		
Anti-Bullying Week	20 th -24 th Nov 2017	In-class anti-bullying activities – Wear odd socks on Monday 20 th		
Road Safety Week	20 th -26 th Nov 2017	Activities and Events in school		
Class Trip – Year 4	Mon 20 th Nov 2017	Skinner's Academy PE Session		
Class Trip – Year 1	Wed 22 nd Nov 2017	LSO Schools Concert		
Anti-Bullying Performance	Thu 23 rd Nov 2017	'Totally Together' for Years 4-6		
Class Trip – 6 Apple	Thu 23 rd Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Class Trip – 5 Ebony	Fri 24 th Nov 2017	Hackney Museum – Black History Month Workshop		
Bikers' Breakfast & Dr Bike Session	Fri 24 th Nov 2017	Bring your bike to school, pick up a free healthy breakfast and the first 20 bikes get a free bike check		
6 Apple Class Assembly	Fri 24 th Nov 2017	10.45am – Parents of 6 Apple are invited to attend		
Hackney 5-a-side Football Tournament	Thu 30 th Nov 2017	Queensbridge Sports Hall – Girls Matches		
Class Trip – Year 4	Fri 1 st Dec 2017	Barbican Centre		
5 Ebony Class Assembly	Fri 1 st Dec 2017	10.45am – Parents of 5 Ebony are invited to attend		
Reception to Year 4 Free Flu Vaccines – Re-Scheduled	Wed 6 th Dec 2017	We are still accepting consent forms in the office		
Hackney 5-a-side Football Tournament	Thu 7 th Nov 2017	Queensbridge Sports Hall – Boys Matches		
Winter Fair	Thu 7 th Dec 2017	3.30-5.30pm		
Class Trip – Year 1	Mon 11 th Dec 2017	Museum of Childhood		
Christmas Lunch	Tue 12 th Dec 2017	Whole school extended celebration lunch		
Nativity Performance by Yr2	Wed 13 th Dec 2017	10.00am and 1.30pm		
Class Trip – Year 2	Thu 14 th Dec 2017	Science Museum		
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	Fri 17 th Dec 2017	Another chance to put on those colourful Christmas jumpers and donate £1 per person		
End of Term Class Parties	Thu 21 st Dec 2017	In the afternoon		
<i>Events/Activities for children in school</i>	<i>Events to which parents are invited</i>	<i>Class Assemblies to which parents are invited</i>	<i>Off-site Activities</i>	<i>Closures</i>

Term Dates		
HOLIDAY	BREAK UP ON	RETURN ON
Christmas Holidays	Friday 22 nd December 2017 at 1.00pm <i>PM Nursery & After-school Twilight club are closed</i>	Monday 8 th January 2018 at 8.55am
Spring Half Term Break	Friday 9 th February 2018 at 3.15pm	Monday 19 th February 2018 at 8.55am
Easter Holidays	Thursday 29 th March 2018 at 1.00pm <i>PM Nursery & After-school Twilight club are closed</i>	Monday 16 th April 2018 at 8.55am
Summer Half Term Break	Friday 25 th May 2018 at 3.15pm	Tuesday 5 th June 2018 at 8.55am
Summer Holidays	Wednesday 18 th July 2018 at 1.00pm <i>PM Nursery & After-school Twilight club are closed</i>	Monday 3 rd September 2017 <i>(time to be confirmed)</i>