



Canary Wharf Primary
EAST FERRY

Canary Wharf Primary **East Ferry** Newsletter

Autumn 1: Friday 9th October 2026

Dear families of East Ferry,

Our International Evenings were a huge success, bringing families together to celebrate the many cultures, languages and traditions that make our school community so special. It was fantastic to see the children perform with such confidence and pride and a huge thank you to our staff and families for helping to make the evenings so memorable.

Our sporting fixtures also began this week, led by Miss Froggett, giving pupils further opportunities to represent East Ferry, develop teamwork and enjoy competitive sport.

We were delighted to welcome Howard from Front Row Music, who led an assembly and shared the specialist small-group tuition available in ukulele, guitar and keyboard. It was also lovely to welcome Miss Mellinger back to East Ferry to officially say goodbye to pupils and staff and visit classrooms. We wish her every success in her next chapter, including the launch of her own singing and private tuition work.

Learning beyond the classroom has also been a real feature of the week. Following 2 Donaldson's visit last week, 2 Rosen visited the Garden Museum as part of their science learning, exploring seeds, plant life cycles and practical observation. Reception visited a local food bank as part of their Personal Development learning, helping pupils think about kindness, community and supporting others. Year 1 also took their geography learning outdoors on a local area walk, using their observation and fieldwork skills to identify features and landmarks around our community.

This week, Miss Callaghan, our English Lead and KSI Phase Lead, also led an Early Reading workshop for EYFS and KSI parents, supporting families with how we teach phonics and early reading in school. Slides from this session, alongside those from Ms Preston's recent Emotional Wellbeing workshop, were shared with parents this week.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have already expressed an interest in becoming Parent Ambassadors. We are still looking for more representatives across classes. From next half term, meetings will take place on the penultimate Friday of each half term, providing another regular opportunity for parents to share feedback and help us continue strengthening communication between home and school.

Mrs Melisa Akis: Principal



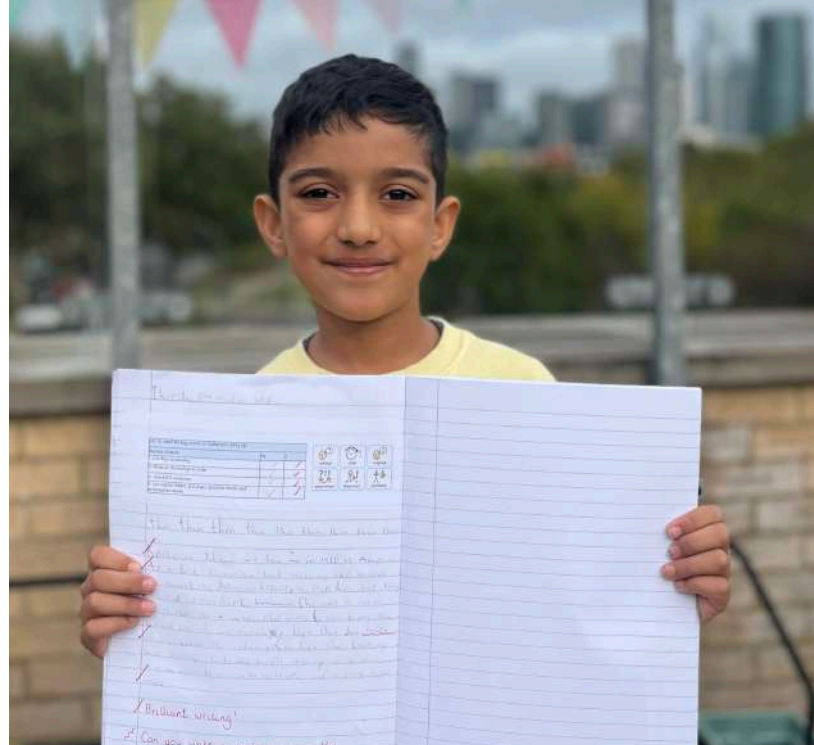
BHM: WINDRUSH & MIGRATION

Building on last week's launch of Black History Month, this week our whole-school learning focused on the Windrush generation and migration to Britain, with a particular connection to East London. Pupils explored why people travelled from the Caribbean to Britain after the Second World War; the opportunities they hoped to find and the important role Caribbean communities played in helping to rebuild and shape modern Britain. We also explored the mixed welcome experienced by many arrivals. Alongside new opportunities, people faced racism, discrimination and unfair barriers, yet showed remarkable courage, resilience and determination as they built new lives and communities. Children learnt about the lasting contributions of the Windrush generation and their descendants to the NHS, transport, industry, music, food, culture and community life. Importantly for our pupils, we brought this history closer to home by exploring how migration has helped shape East London and Tower Hamlets into the vibrant and diverse community we know today. Through discussion, pupils reflected on belonging, fairness and the importance of welcoming others – making strong connections with our East Ferry values of Respect, Kindness, Belonging and Resilience.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Friday, our school came together to mark World Mental Health Day and raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing across our school community. Children and staff wore yellow as a reminder of the importance of being kind, being supportive and looking out for one another. It was wonderful to see our school filled with different shades of yellow and our children coming together around such an important message: mental health matters. A huge thank you to all our families for supporting the day and helping us to promote kindness, wellbeing and a strong sense of community across East Ferry.



Y2 WRITING

This week, Year 2 have been learning about the inspiring life of Katherine Johnson, the pioneering Black mathematician whose calculations helped NASA send astronauts into space. This learning has also provided a meaningful link to Black History Month, as the children have explored her remarkable achievements and the barriers she faced growing up during racial segregation in America. As part of their English curriculum, the children have been writing biographies, focusing on key events from Katherine's early life, career and lasting legacy. They have also been developing their grammar skills by using conjunctions to join clauses and create more detailed and informative sentences.

“Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in America. As a child, Katherine loved counting and maths. She counted the dishes and spoons, the steps at her house and the steps up to Church. By the time she turned ten years old she was ready to start high school, but due to segregation she could not go to high school. Luckily her family had enough money to move town where there was a high school she could go to.”

Rudra, 2 Donaldson





EYFS VISIT LOCAL FOOD BANK

Last week, Reception Cooke enjoyed a visit to our local food bank at Docklands Settlement Centre, followed by Reception Waddell this week, as part of their learning about **'People Who Help Us'**. The food bank provides vital support to families across the Isle of Dogs and Stratford, and the children were excited to discover how it helps our local community and learn about the important role of its volunteers. During their visits, pupils asked thoughtful questions about how the food bank operates, what types of food can be donated and how many families it supports. They also had the opportunity to see the food bank in action, observing how donations are organised, how volunteers work together and how food is distributed to families. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see kindness and community spirit in action, bringing their classroom learning to life and helping them understand the importance of supporting others. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who generously gave their time to support both visits. Your help is greatly appreciated!



CROSS COUNTRY FIXTURE

On Monday, a group of our KS2 pupils proudly represented East Ferry at a cross-country competition involving schools from across Tower Hamlets. Our runners demonstrated fantastic resilience, determination and sportsmanship throughout, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part! A special congratulations to **Tommaso**, who achieved an impressive 3rd place among all Year 3 boys! Well done also to **Oliver, Briel, Veronica, Abdulrahman and Katie**, who all secured fantastic top-10 finishes in their respective year groups. A huge thank you to Miss Froggett for organising and leading the fixture, and to Ms Elsley for her support on the day.

"I felt nervous at first, but when I started running, I felt confident. I was really proud of myself at the end. I enjoyed watching everybody else run their race."

Veronica, 3 Lewis



Y1 GEOGRAPHY WALK

This week, our Year 1 geographers stepped outside the classroom to explore the Isle of Dogs! During their local area walk, pupils put their Geography learning into practice by identifying human and physical features, spotting familiar landmarks and appreciating the wonderful surroundings right on our doorstep. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, encouraging pupils to observe, ask questions and develop a greater understanding of their local environment. Well done, Year 1 geographers!

"We saw lots of London landmarks across the River Thames like the Greenwich Maritime Museum, which we visited in Reception. We then drew the river and the boats. It was so fun!"

Auden and Flora, 1 Ahlberg



STARS OF THE WEEK

Class	Name	Reason
RCooke	Miguel	For showing lots of confidence during the international evening performance and making Cooke class proud!
RWaddell	Mia	For a fabulous job in Maths, confidently creating and continuing repeating patterns.
IAhlberg	Shaurya	For a wonderful performance at international evening and demonstrating our school values.
IMurphy	Okan	For demonstrating our East Ferry values and being a fantastic role model during our Geography trip.
2Donaldson	Vinnie	For always demonstrating our East Ferry Values and being a wonderful role model to his peers.
2Rosen	Michael	For showing kindness, supporting others and always being ready to lend a helping hand!
3Zephaniah	Aya	For showing resilience and working incredibly hard on her writing targets.
3Lewis	Tiago	For making an excellent start to his biography on Malala.
4Dahl	Karina	For showing a love for learning in rounding numbers and being so supportive to her friends. She was so brave in the international evening performance!
4Wilson	Isla	For showing kindness, supporting others and always being ready to lend a helping hand!
5Morpurgo	Beatrice	From her performances at International Evening to the smallest interactions in the classroom, Beatrice continues to impress me with her dedication, kindness and enthusiasm.
5Horowitz	Isabella	For consistently demonstrating the 5 Golden rules, especially with showing kindness to everyone.
6Blackman	Emma	For brilliant work learning long division, always giving her best and for lifting up those around her.
6 Shakespeare	Yunus	For always showing our East Ferry values. Yunus is a fantastic role model for those around him. This week he has shown great resilience when faced with challenges.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE 98%

CLASS	%	CLASS	%
RCooke	97	RWaddell	100
IMurphy	97	IAhlberg	99
2Donaldson	97	2Rosen	97
3Zephaniah	98	3Lewis	99
4Dahl	100	4Wilson	100
5Morpurgo	98	5Horowitz	99
6 Shakespeare	94	6 Blackman	98

Dates for Autumn Term 1

Mon 12th Oct	KS2 Road Safety Workshop
Wed 14th - 16th Oct	Y5 Flatford Mills School Residential
Mon 19th Oct	Y6 - Farm for City Children School Residential
Wed 21st Oct	Y3 - Suffragettes Workshop at School
Fri 23rd Oct	Y4 - National Gallery
26th - 30th Oct	HALF TERM
Wed 18th Nov	Y4 - 2 night stay @YHA
Wed 25th Nov	Y1 School Trip - East London Mosque
	Y2 School Trip - Tower of London
Tue 1st Dec	Parents' Evening (1 of 2) 3:20pm - 5:30pm
Wed 2nd Dec	Y5 School Trip - National Art Gallery
Thurs 3rd Dec	Parents' Evening (2 of 2) 3:20pm - 5:30pm
Tue 8th Dec	Co-Production Meetings 3:30pm - 5:30pm
	YR Nativity 2pm - School Hall
Wed 9th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
	Friends of East Ferry: Elfridges Event
	Y1 Nativity 2pm - School Hall
Thurs 10th Dec	YR - School Trip - St Pauls Cathedral
	Y2 Nativity 2pm - School Hall
Wed 16th Dec	KS2 Christingle All Saints Church 2pm
Fri 18th Dec	End of Autumn Term - School closes at 12 noon