



I am pleased to have now taken up my post as Headteacher, and have felt very welcomed by the St Aidan's community. It has been lovely to welcome children back to school after the festive break, and see them settled into school routines and working hard. The Inset day on Tuesday 3rd January provided a good opportunity for me to meet with staff, and since then I have been able to meet and chat with many parents and carers. My day has also been enhanced by the delicious lunches cooked by Sheree and her team.

School value

Each half term, we focus on a different one of the St. Aidan's six values. This half term we will be studying resilience. During the introductory assembly this week, the children watched an inspiring clip called Austin's Butterfly, which shows the results that can be achieved by being resilient and taking on board the feedback of peers. The clip can be viewed [here](#).

This term's composer

Each term we study a composer as part of our wider music curriculum. This term we are studying the work of Ravi Shankar, who was an Indian musician and composer, and the most famous sitar player of all time. We will listen to music by this composer at the start of each assembly, whether this is in person or in class. There are also opportunities for children to learn about his life.

PE kit

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school for each PE lesson. We expect children to wear a white T shirt or polo shirt and blue or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms. At this time of year, tracksuit bottoms are encouraged for outdoor PE lessons. Jewellery should be removed and long hair tied back. Suitable footwear must be worn for outdoor PE lessons; indoor PE is completed in bare feet.

Changes to morning drop off

In the mornings, children will now walk straight into school when the doors open at 8.45am, and will be greeted by their teacher at the classroom door, rather than lining up in the playground.

Reception Admissions September 2023

A reminder that if you have a child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 you will need to apply to the local authority for a reception school place for September 2023. **The deadline to apply is this Sunday, 15 January 2023.** Please complete an application form online at [Haringey Reception Admissions 2023](#)

If you need assistance to do this please speak to the school office. National offer day where you will be notified of your child's school is 17th April 2023. If your child currently attends nursery at St Aidan's, an application for a reception place still needs to be submitted.

Governor vacancy

We currently have vacancies for two parent governors. Further details about the posts will be sent out to all families next week. If you would like further information in the meantime, then please speak to Kate or Michael.

Term Dates

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February –
Half Term (school closed to children)
Friday 31st March 2023 – Last Day of
Spring Term – School closes at 1.30pm
Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April –
Easter Holiday (school closed to children)
Monday 17th April 2023 – Summer Term
begins at 8.45am

Update from the PSA

St Aidan's Christmas Party

Thank you so much for your support for our Christmas party last term, whether you helped to set up and run a stall, donated a bottle to the tombola, stumped up for a disco ticket for your child, or came to enjoy some food and mulled wine. It was such a fun evening, and I'm thrilled to say that together we raised £5,350!

We'd also like to thank Tesco Stroud Green, Sainsbury's and Londis for their support and contributions, and David Andrew for providing a star bottle for the tombola and their sponsorship of our house-board competition. The money will be spent on various core items of the school fabric and curriculum (see our PSA Welcome handbook for details).

Our event for this half-of-term is our....

Midwinter Quiz!

Thursday 2nd February, 7.30pm, in the school hall
This will be very much like the last quiz night – the same excellent quiz master (thanks, Ben Hardy), and the same delicious, warming curries (thanks, David Fotheringham).

We will also be running a little raffle to boost the fun and fundraising.

Tickets will be on sale in advance a week or so before.

Easter Auction

Friday 24th March, 7.30pm

We used to run an auction as part of the summer fair but this year we're going to try running it as a stand-alone event. More details will follow, but if you have anything you'd like to donate to the lot-list, please let me know: Susie.m.may@gmail.com

Attendance and Punctuality

At St Aidan's we take attendance and punctuality very seriously as we want to give all our children the best possible start in life. There is a direct link between the amount of time children spend in school and the progress they make. We will be sending attendance letters out next week to advise parents if their child's attendance has dropped below 90%.

Impact of attendance

100% Attendance	0 Weeks of learning missed	Very Good
95% Attendance	1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Not too bad Attendance officer monitoring
90% Attendance	3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Cause for concern, Educational Welfare officer involvement
85% Attendance	5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Worrying Poor attendance Educational Welfare officer involvement
80% Attendance	7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Poor attendance Cause for concern Educational Welfare officer involvement
75% Attendance	9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Poor attendance Serious cause for concern Educational Welfare officer involvement

It is disruptive to your child and to the rest of the class when children arrive late. Latecomers may miss important information and teaching. If your child arrives after the gate is closed, would you please escort them to the school office and explain the reason for their late arrival.

5 minutes late every day	3 days of learning lost
10 minutes late every day	6 days of learning lost
15 minutes late every day	10 days of learning lost
30 minutes late every day	19 days of learning lost