

NEWINGTON GREEN

NEWSLETTER

09/01/26

ADMIN@NEWINGTONGREEN.CO.UK

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very happy to welcome all our Newington Green families back to school as we begin a fresh new term together. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such positivity and enthusiasm, and classrooms once again full of energy and eager learners.

We would like to sincerely thank all families who have made the effort to bring their children to school during a week of extremely cold weather. As winter continues, please remember to send children into school with warm coats, hats and any additional layers they may need. Your commitment makes a real difference to children's learning, wellbeing and sense of routine, and being well prepared helps ensure children can continue to enjoy outdoor learning and play while staying comfortable and healthy throughout the day.

Attendance this week has been more challenging than we would hope, largely due to a high number of term-time leave absences. We would like to gently remind families that term-time leave is not permitted under the law, except in very exceptional circumstances. Further information about this, and about how we support good attendance at Newington Green, can be found in the attendance article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our Spring Term curriculum newsletters will be sent out next week. These will outline the learning planned in each year group, highlight key dates, and suggest ways you can support learning at home.

This month, our Right of the Month is UNCRC Article 12 – the right to be heard. Children will be exploring what it means to express their views respectfully and confidently, and we will continue to strengthen pupil voice across the school. We are committed to ensuring that children at Newington Green have meaningful opportunities to share their ideas,

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JANUARY RIGHT OF THE MONTH: ARTICLE 12 – THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

This month, our school is focusing on Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which highlights the importance of children being listened to and having their views respected.

Article 12 means that children have the right to share their ideas, views, and opinions about matters that affect them, and that adults should listen carefully and take those views seriously, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding.

Throughout January, children will be learning about this right through Rights Assemblies and class discussions. We encourage families to talk with children at home about why being listened to matters, how it helps them feel valued and confident, and how they can express their views respectfully. Developing a strong pupil voice is an important part of our school culture, and we are committed to ensuring that every child feels heard and understood.



KEEPING CHILDREN HEALTHY AND IN SCHOOL THIS WINTER

During the winter months, illness is the most common reason children miss school. While some absences cannot be avoided, many can be reduced through simple steps at home and school. Evidence shows that regular school attendance supports children's learning, wellbeing and friendships.

When should children stay off school?

NHS guidance advises that most mild illnesses, such as a runny nose, sore throat, or a slight cough, do not require time off school unless a child has a temperature. If children are well enough to attend, being in school helps maintain routine and learning.

How families can help reduce illness-related absence:

- Encourage regular handwashing at home and remind children to wash hands thoroughly.
- Follow the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach for coughs and sneezes.
- Ensure children are dressed warmly for cold weather and attend school unless genuinely unwell.
- Book medical appointments outside school hours where possible. If this is not possible, children should attend school before and return after appointments if they are well enough.
- Take up routine vaccinations, including the free school flu vaccination, which helps protect both individual children and the wider school community.

What school is doing:

We continue to promote good hygiene, ventilation, and cleaning routines across the school and remind children regularly about healthy habits. These small actions make a big difference in keeping everyone safe and learning. By working together, families and school can help reduce unnecessary absence and support children to attend regularly throughout the winter.



HEALTHY PACKED LUNCHES WORKSHOP

workshop **HEALTHY PACKED LUNCHES**
That Don't Break the Bank
Thursday, January 15th
9:15am at the Parents Hub
Newington Green Primary School

The poster features the Newington Green Primary School logo at the top left. The text is arranged vertically, with "workshop" written sideways. Below the title, there are illustrations of a sandwich with a tomato slice, a bunch of carrots, and a water bottle.

Brownie with Ice Cream Day
Thursday - 15th January - To all Children

Come enjoy a lovely Roasted Chicken with golden potatoes and all the trimmings!! Dessert will be a delicious school made brownie, topped with vanilla ice cream and a creamy warm chocolate sauce! You'll love it!!

The poster has a red and green background. It features the Growth Learning Collective logo at the top right. The main title "Brownie with Ice Cream Day" is in a large, stylized font. Below it, the date and time are listed. A central illustration shows a stack of brownies on a plate with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on top. The text on the right describes the menu items.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE (ISLINGTON GUIDANCE)

At Newington Green, we work closely with Islington to support good school attendance and ensure every child can thrive. We are pleased to see attendance continuing to improve and would like to thank families who consistently support their children to attend school every day and on time.

As part of this partnership, an Islington officer visits the school weekly to review attendance records. This helps ensure that schools are identifying any emerging concerns early and offering support where needed. As a school, we encourage parents and carers to check their child's attendance regularly via Arbor to make sure everything is on track. Our expectation is that all children aim for attendance above 96%, as this gives them the best chance to succeed.

Islington has asked schools to remind families that term-time leave, including holidays and travel abroad, remains one of the most common reasons for absence and can significantly disrupt children's learning and routines. Please note that taking children out of school during term time without authorisation is against the law. Leave can only be granted in very exceptional circumstances and must always be requested in advance.

Families are strongly advised not to book holidays during term time. Where unauthorised leave is taken, the Local Authority may issue a penalty notice of £80 per parent per child, rising to £160 if unpaid.

Islington has also strengthened guidance around illness-related absence. Absences lasting more than three days cannot be authorised without medical evidence. If you are unable to access medical support, please contact the school so we can offer appropriate help.

Our aim is to work in partnership with families to support attendance and avoid the need for further action. If you have any questions, the school office will be happy to help.

Attendance Update

Working together with Islington

Every day matters
Being in school supports children's learning, wellbeing and friendships.

Term-time leave
Holidays and travel during term time cannot be granted except in very exceptional circumstances.

Penalty notice
£80 per parent per child
Rising to **£160** if unpaid

Illness guidance
Absences over 3 days need medical evidence.
If you need support, contact the school.

Weekly visits: Islington officers review school attendance weekly to identify concerns early and ensure the right support is in place.

96%+ attendance expected. We encourage parents and carers to check their child's attendance via Arbor to help keep everything on track for success.

Islington has asked schools to remind families that term-time leave, including holidays and travel abroad, remains one of the most common reasons for absence and can significantly disrupt children's learning.

Unauthorised leave can result in a penalty notice of **£80** per parent per child, rising to **£160** if unpaid.

FREE SWIMMING SESSIONS

Free Family Swimming Lessons and Fun Family Swim Sessions



We are running free swimming courses for all families, and particularly encouraging applications from black and Asian families. The free eight-week swimming course which will be starting in January 2026.

Lessons are on Saturdays, 1.30-2.30pm at Cally Pool. The offer includes free swimming equipment - a swim

cap, swimming goggles and a kit bag. Families can spend some fun quality time together and to learn and/or improve upon the lifesaving skill of swimming. Spaces are limited, so if you would like to take part in these swimming lessons please complete the application form below.

Family Fun Swim at Archway Leisure Centre. Enjoy the slide, wave machine and other exciting pool features at Family Fun Swims! Sessions take place at weekends and during the school holidays. Book now:

<https://bookings.better.org.uk/location/archway-leisure-centre/family-fun-swim>

TURKISH PARENTING COURSE

Minik Kardes
Community Nursery & Children's Centre

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

Parenting Course in Turkish

TÜRKÇE SFSC (Ebeveynlik Kursu) **free**

Yer:
Minik Kardes @ The Factory
107 Matthias Rd N16 8NP
12 Ocak 2026
(12 hafta Pazartesi)

Saat:
9:30 - 12:30
Islington'da yaşayan çocuğu olan ebeveynlere Türkçe sunulan bu programın bazı konuları:
• Çocuk yetiştirilmede yararlanabileceğiniz yöntemler
• Pozitif disiplin aşamaları
• Çocukluk karakteristik özellikleri ve farklı gelişim süreçleri
• Kimlik, kültür, gelenekler/değerler ve önemi
• Ebeveyn ve çocuk ilişkisini geliştirme ve güçlendirme

Bu kurs İrk Eğitim Birimi'ne (Race Equality Foundation) kayıtlı olup Türkçe verilecektir. Kursu devamlık kopuluyla tamamlayanlar sertifika alacaklardır. Hafif yiyecek, içecek ve kreş sağlanmaktadır. Daha fazla bilgi veya katılmak için lütfen **Toplum Geliştirme Görevlimiz Zeynep** on 020 7923 7226 - 07855129760 z.lokmen@minikkardes.org.uk

Bright Start Islington Every child! Every family
NHS Whittington Health NHS Trust
ISLINGTON Working in partnership

