

# NEWINGTON GREEN

## NEWSLETTER

16/01/26

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### HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent meetings this week to share our termly topics with you. It was great to see so many parents in attendance.

This year has been named the National Year of Reading (NYR). Yesterday, I was lucky to attend the online launch event and listen to a keynote speech from Professor Teresa Cremin, a leading academic on reading for pleasure. She also advises the Department for Education (DfE) on this topic.

The theme for the **National Year of Reading 2026 is - GO ALL IN.** The aim is to get us to reconnect reading with the things that already inspire us – from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It's reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

Research over the last 20 years has shown that there is a decline in reading, starting in the Early Years and across the generations. There is also a 20% reduction in children and young people reading in their free time and, sadly, only 1 in 5 children are now reading on a daily basis.

At Newington Green, reading is at the heart of our curriculum and we know that reading for pleasure:

- enhances reading comprehension and wider attainment
- enriches our vocabulary
- fosters a wider knowledge of the world
- enhances our writing
- develops empathy and imagination

However, we will be renewing our efforts to get every child engaged in reading for pleasure. One of the ways we will be doing this is by getting our staff team to lead by example and share recommendations of children's books with the children. You will see the first recommendation from James, Y6 teacher, later in the newsletter. We will be sharing further information with you about the NYR in the coming weeks.

We need your help at home too! If you are going to make one resolution for 2026, please make it count and make reading a daily habit with dedicated time and a choice of reading materials.

Happy reading everyone!

Mairead

**Turn what they  
love into a love of  
reading**

### GO ALL IN RESOURCE



National Year of  
Reading 2026

As part of the National Year of Reading, there is a dedicated website for families to explore. It is full of practical ideas, tips and free resources to help children enjoy reading by linking it to what they already love. Click [here](#) to help us all Go All In and make reading part of everyday life.

# SHORT STORY COMPETITION

# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



The Islington  
Reading Road Map  
Short Story Competition



- Write your own original short story for a chance to win!
- Your story can contain characters from a book you have read before, or characters from your imagination.
- We will judge the stories on— Creativity, originality, use of language and imagination

Winners of the short story competition will have their story printed in a book.

That book will appear on next year's Islington Reading Road Map!



- Submit your story to [ES@islington.gov.uk](mailto:ES@islington.gov.uk) OR your teacher can request to have them picked up by us at the Education Library Service.
- No more than 500 words.
- Competition ends Friday 24th of April.
- Winners announced in June.
- Open to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- You can include drawings



## Books Worth Sharing

This week James, Ash Tree's class teacher, is giving us his book recommendation.

**Title:** *The Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkein



**Recommended for children aged:** 10 years or older

**James thinks everyone should read this book because...**

The book is a classic example of a children's story fully brought to life. It contains fantastic, full-of-life characters; wondrous settings and descriptions; daring and dangerous moments and it captures the reader's imagination brilliantly. Tolkein takes everything about a good adventure story and wraps it up in superb writing. It has been a shining example of high-quality storytelling for nearly a century!

**You will enjoy this book if you are a ...**  
confident reader, a reader who enjoys action and adventure stories  
and a reader who enjoys fantasystories, set in imaginative worlds.

**This book is best...** for shared or independent reading.



# HEALTHY PACKED LUNCHES AND FUSSY EATERS WORKSHOPS

This week we ran two parent workshops which were both very well received. Tiago delivered a healthy packed lunch session, focusing on how to provide nutritious lunches while staying within a budget. We also ran a workshop on fussy eaters in Early Years, supported by Janine, which explored common challenges and practical strategies. Both sessions had a lovely, welcoming atmosphere and it was great to hear families share their lived experiences and recommendations. Resources from both workshops will be sent out to everyone soon.





# IMPORTANT DATES

- **Y6 visit to the Islington Junior Citizenship Scheme** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January
- **Y1 Oak @ Forest School** Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January @ 1.15 – 3.30
- **Y3 trip to The Sea Life Centre** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January
- **Y1 Oak trip to Florence Nightingale Museum** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- **Y1 Holly trip to Florence Nightingale Museum** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- **Y5 trip to New North London Synagogue** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 5 Dodgeball at Beacon High School** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January
- **Y1 Holly @ Forest School** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January
- **Y4 Rowan trip to Ragged School Museum** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January
- **Y4 Willow trip to Ragged School Museum** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January
- **Y2 trip to The Horniman Museum** Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January

## STARS OF THE WEEK

- Year 1** - Ava and Amelia-Rose
- Year 2** - Hamide and Paisley
- Year 3** - Lyla-Rae and Sana
- Year 4** - Mohamed and Ka'lay
- Year 5** - Hosna and Shakira
- Year 6** - Richard and Mustafa



## ATTENDANCE STATS

**Whole school attendance this year: 95.3%**  
**Statutory school attendance: 94.5%**  
**This week's average: 93.4%**  
**National average this year: 94.5%**

Mulberry	100.00%
Ash	97.80%
Rowan	97.70%
Palm	96.90%
Cedar	96.10%
Holly	95.30%
Maple	93.30%
Pine	93.20%
Silver birch	92.30%
Willow	89.00%
Elm	88.70%
Oak	87.20%

## 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.