

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to begin our Winter Celebrations with our annual food bank collection, starting next week. Following today's meeting, the Student Council voted for all donations to once again support the City Hope Church Foodbank, part of the wider Southwark network working with the Trussell Trust. If you are able to contribute, please leave any donations in the boxes provided at reception.



Highlights from this week

Men's Mental Health Month

A big thank-you to all the dads who attended the Southwark Parenting Team workshops. There were many thoughtful conversations about parenting and autism, digital safety, and emotional wellbeing. Most importantly, the sessions offered dads a friendly and supportive space to share experiences with one another. We hope to offer similar opportunities later in the year—watch this space!



Family training – Makaton

On Monday, we invited parents to a Makaton training session. Makaton is widely used across our school because it supports language development, reduces frustration, enhances social interaction, and promotes independence. A consistent approach between home and school makes a meaningful difference, so please keep an eye out for future training opportunities.



Governor Trustee Development Day

Trustees and Governors visited the school on Tuesday. They met with Steph and Erin to review school development. They looked at how all staff work together to develop consistent best practice across the school. They also visited classes to see the effects of this approach to school development in practice. They were impressed with the quality of the teaching and the learning they saw.



Key Stage 2 Family Assembly

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined us for the Key Stage 2 family assembly for Brenchley and Mint Classes. These assemblies are an important part of our enrichment programme, giving pupils opportunities to learn together, build a sense of belonging and celebrate achievements in a supportive environment. Today's topic was an extension of the fantastic learning the pupils have been doing in reading and art.



Support for families - "Let's Talk About Autism"

The Autism Support Team is offering a new training programme for parents and carers of autistic children aged 5–18 years. This course is designed for parents, carers, and close family members and is delivered by professionals with specialist expertise.

The programme includes seven pre-recorded weekly sessions, each accompanied by additional resources. Participants are also invited to a weekly live online group meeting to discuss the content.

Session topics include:

1. Neurodiversity, autism and core features
2. Communication and interaction differences
3. Sensory processing differences
4. Social imagination, flexibility and transitions
5. Anxiety, including masking
6. Behaviour and emotional regulation
7. Talking about autism with your child and supporting self-advocacy

You can register your interest and sign up using the link [Let's Talk About Autism](https://www.spa-education.org/letstalkaboutautism)



Looking Ahead

- **Wednesday, 3rd December** – Secondary Coffee Morning: 9:00 am
 - **Thursday, 4th December** – Key Stage 1 Coffee Morning: 9:30 am
 - **Friday, 5th December** – Key Stage 2 Coffee Morning: 9:30 am
 - **Monday, 8th December** – Parent Training Workshop: 9:15–10:00 am
 - **Thursday, 11th December** – Key Stage 3 & 4 Family Disco: 5:30–7:00 pm
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- **Last day of school Autumn 2** – Friday, 19 December 2025
 - **First day of school Spring 1** – Tuesday, 6th January 2026
 - **Last day of school Spring 1** – Friday, 13th February 2026
 - **First day of school Spring 2** – Tuesday, 24 February 2026

As always, please get in touch if there is anything we can help with.
Wishing you all a calm, happy and restful weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steph Lea'.

Steph Lea
Executive Headteacher