

# **FAITH, FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP**

## **Celebratory news from across the Koinonia Federation**

July 2023

### ***A message from the Executive Co-Headteachers***

As we come to the end of 2022-23 academic year, we are also at the end of our journey of expansion for St Mary Magdalene. For many staff and Governors who have been with us along the way, you will understand what momentous time this is. As we said farewell to our Year 13 students, we were able to reflect on how some of them have been with us since Nursery or Reception at Christ Church or our Woolwich Campus. Spending 15 years of your school career in the same institution is definitely unique! To be in the position of shaping someone's development both academically, personally and spiritually is truly an amazing privilege. We wait in anticipation alongside the students for results day in August. To be able to send them off to their chosen universities will be a successful ending to their school career with us.

This Summer term we held many events including end of year services, sports days, Year 6 plays, our secondary cultural evening and Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form taster days. We held our very first Art Exhibition on 29<sup>th</sup> June, showcasing art works from Year 11 & 13s. It was a truly inspirational experience that parents, students (including primary) and community members enjoyed.

As we look forwards to the summer break, we would like to thank all of the staff and families for making this year so successful. Without the dedication of our staff team, the students would not have so many opportunities to flourish. We hope everyone across our federation family have an enjoyable Summer break.

With best wishes as always,

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Wainwright

### **A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW VICAR OF CHRIST CHURCH**

On Thursday 22nd June, St Alban's Day, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark and The Ven. Alastair Cutting, Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich led the installation of our new vicar, for Christ Church, The Revd John Pout.

It was a night of joy, music and prayer where John and his family were welcomed to Christ Church. Mrs Reid and Mrs Harrison spoke at the service – welcoming Rev John to our Federation community. We look forward to working with Rev John at the start of a new and exciting era for the parish and our schools.



# Primary

## Christ Church - Y6 Production

At Christ Church, our Year 6 production was Matilda. It was a fantastic performance, and the children really enjoyed all the songs and were great at remembering all their lines. We have some very talented children, keep your eyes peeled in the future as you may see some of them on stage or screen!

Mrs Gibbs



## St Mary Magdalene Woolwich Campus

At Woolwich Campus the Year 6 performed Fagin's Boys. Their singing and acting were amazing and they had worked so hard and learnt all the lines. We thoroughly enjoyed watching them and were so pleased to see how they have grown in confidence throughout their time in the school. We will miss all the Year 6 children and wish them the best in their future.

Mrs Badesha



## St Mary Magdalene Peninsula Campus

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Year 6 at Peninsula had their production. This really was special, as the Year 6 children contributed to writing it themselves! The production was a celebration of their school lives from Reception to Year 6, and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Year 6 at Peninsula had their Leavers' Service. It was wonderful to share our memories of our lives at St Mary Magdalene and there were only a few tears! We shared a poem that we thought would be lovely to share with everyone at home.

Ms John



## **Broadstairs Trip - Across the Federation**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June all the children across the Federation were very excited. Why? Because they were going to Broadstairs. The Children at Christ Church, St Mary Magdalene Peninsula and St Mary Magdalene Woolwich boarded their respective coaches to head out. The day was calm and cool but the sun was out. The journey was long but we enjoyed the scenery.

When we got there it did not take us long before we had our shoes off and were paddling in the sea. Then we made sandcastles. It was not easy! Then we then had lunch and we were treated to chips. Everyone had an ice cream or lolly.

It was an absolutely fantastic day and we thank all the parents who joined us including those who travelled down in cars and by train to enjoy the day.

Ms Kristensen



## **St Mary Magdalene Woolwich**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> June some of the children from Woolwich Campus who are part of Dynamix dance club took part in the Get Together 2023 at Charlton Park. They performed different dance routines on stage for about 20 minutes. Well done to the Dynamix Team!

Ms Thomas



## Economics Lessons at Primary School

The Business Studies and Economics team from St Mary Magdalene Sixth Form visited the primary phase pupils at Peninsula and Woolwich Campuses pupils to deliver a lesson on economic wellbeing to the year 6 pupils.

During the session pupils learnt about what money is, the history of money and the function of money. The pupils went back 2000 years ago before the advent of money where they participated in a trade by a barter system of exchange.




Money & Me - Exit Ticket

Lesson: Economics

Name: Joh

Circle the character that best describes how confident you feel about your learning



Explain what you think you have achieved in your learning today. Use your glossary to help you.

I learned about the value of different items and the meaning of the bartering system and how it was used before money was invented.

## Year 6 End of Year Trip to Adventure Island

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July the year 6 children and staff from our three primary campuses enjoyed a great day at Adventure Island in Southend. We travelled by public transport and arrived just as the theme park opened. Children and staff enjoyed the rides, the ice creams and the dry weather!

We had great fun and it was a lovely way to celebrate all the hard work the Year 6 children and staff have put in throughout this academic year.

Mrs McCullough



### A poem from Mrs Ringmo

Mrs Ringmo shared this poem in her special leaving celebration earlier this week. It is based on  
a poem The Magic Box, by Kit Wright

### The special St Mary Magdalene Box

I will put in the special St Mary Magdalene box:

the swish of the pages of Little Rabbit Foo Foo, trips to Woolwich Library, the echoes of laughter  
from the depths of Year 1, the crunch of an expertly iced biscuit from Enrichment Time.

I will put in the box:

Children that are no longer in our school but still in our hearts-Levi, Maria, Abdullahi, Kelsey, Carter  
Jai, Choekyi, to name a few, the sparkling silver shutter in the dining hall, the correct guesses from  
Heads down, Thumbs up.

I will put into the box:

A handful of stars from Greenwich observatory and the giggles and fun that we shared.

I will put into the box:

Confidence, self-esteem and pride, along with strength that can carry you all, as far as you need  
it.

My box is fashioned from voices; shrieks of delight, with happiness on the lid and our hearts in the  
corners. Its hinges are made from God's love.

We shall wade in the box,  
on the great high-rolling waves of the precious memories inside, then wash ashore on a golden  
beach the colour of the Woolwich sun.



# Secondary

## Houses of Parliament Trip – Year 9

On Wednesday 21st of June, 29 Y9's went on a very special trip to the Houses of Parliament with Miss Carver, Miss Woolsey and Mr Lewis. During their visit, they learned all about the history of Parliament and were given the unique opportunity to tour the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They even had a surprise meeting with Drew Hendry, an MP for the Scottish National Party and had the opportunity to ask him questions on what it is like to work for Parliament!

They were also surprised by Matthew Pennycook, our local MP for Greenwich and Woolwich, who had lots of wonderful advice for them and he even asked them for their input on issues in the local area. They were absolutely wonderful and we cannot wait to see some of their faces one day in Parliament as future politicians!

Ms Carver



## Jack Petchey

On 10<sup>th</sup> July, Matilda P represented St Mary Magdalene C of E at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Final at Cambridge Theatre. After winning the regional competition, Matilda went through multiple workshops to train for the big final competition.

The competition was extremely tough and she was up against 15 competitors from schools across London. It took great courage and perseverance from Matilda to stand up on that stage in front of a huge audience to speak about a topic very close to her heart titled 'Gratitude to my mother.' The whole school is extremely proud of her achievement and hope that it encourages students to continue participating for the JPSOC.

Miss Jacobs



## Chloe Festival

## Concert

On Saturday 24th June, our SMM Gospel Choir and two Year 9 students had an exciting opportunity to take part performing alongside the Chloé Piano Trio and upcoming composer, singer-songwriter Hayat Selim at Christ Church in Greenwich. The theme of the event was based on female composers.

The Chloé Piano Trio consists of Maria Gilicel (violin), George Todica (piano) & Jobine Siekman (cello) was formed in 2017 by talented emerging musicians at the Royal College of Music, London. They are based both in the UK and the Netherlands.

Jesselyn Yeboah in 9ECO and Cynthia Cheng in 9SJS had replaced the piano and violin players. Jesselyn performed Peggy's Minute Rag on the piano alongside the violin and Cello. Cynthia performed Que Si Que No and Senfer on the violin alongside the piano and cello. The audience were in awe and the response was beyond amazed.

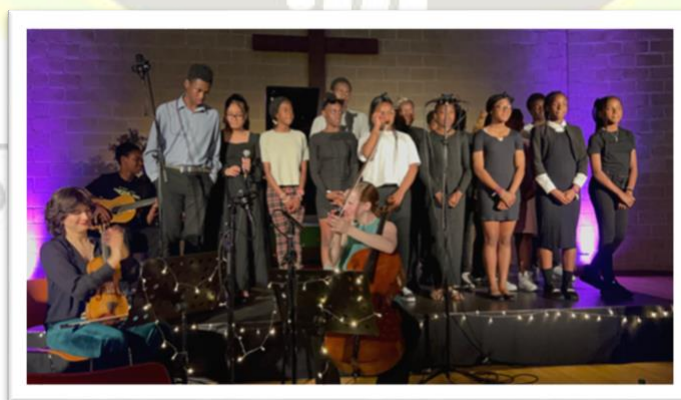
Towards the end of the programme our choir supported Hayat Selim performing her song 'She's all of that' with beautiful layers of harmonies.

Lastly, our choir performed the closing song of the programme, Way Maker by Sinach. As the last notes were sung, there was an uproar of cheering, encouragement and applause.

We heard great feedback about our students from parents, careers, teachers, governors and other audience members.

We are proud as a music department and would like to say a big thank you to Christ Church for allowing us to perform at the Chloe Trio Festival. Also a big thank you to our students, who were faithful coming to rehearsals, before school, during school and after school. We appreciated the opportunity.

Ms Mensah



Following on from the completion of their GCSE examinations the Year 11 cohort celebrated their final days in school:

### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June- Thorpe Park trip**

138 students from Year 11 Spent the day enjoying the rides and entertainment at Thorpe Park, students behaved impeccably throughout the day and on public transport.

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Leavers Service / Shirt signing / Y11 Prefect Lunch**

Year 11 enjoyed a farewell service with signing from Rosettie Kitembo and the school choir. There were addresses from the Principal, Head of Year and Federation Executive Co-Headteachers followed by a blessing from the Rev Hubbuck.

Students were then directed on to the hard court for shirt signing with staff and photos for the year book.

### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June– Year 11 Prom at Woolwich Works**

Year 11 Prom was held at the grade II listed multimillion pound refurbishment of Woolwich Works event space.

Students were welcomed to a Noseco reception from staff, followed by build your own burrito station and nacho stand.

Student and Staff Voted Awards were then announced before the students were invited to the dance space for a set by DJ Rex (aka, Tyree one of our Year 11 cohort).



### **Art Exhibition Review**

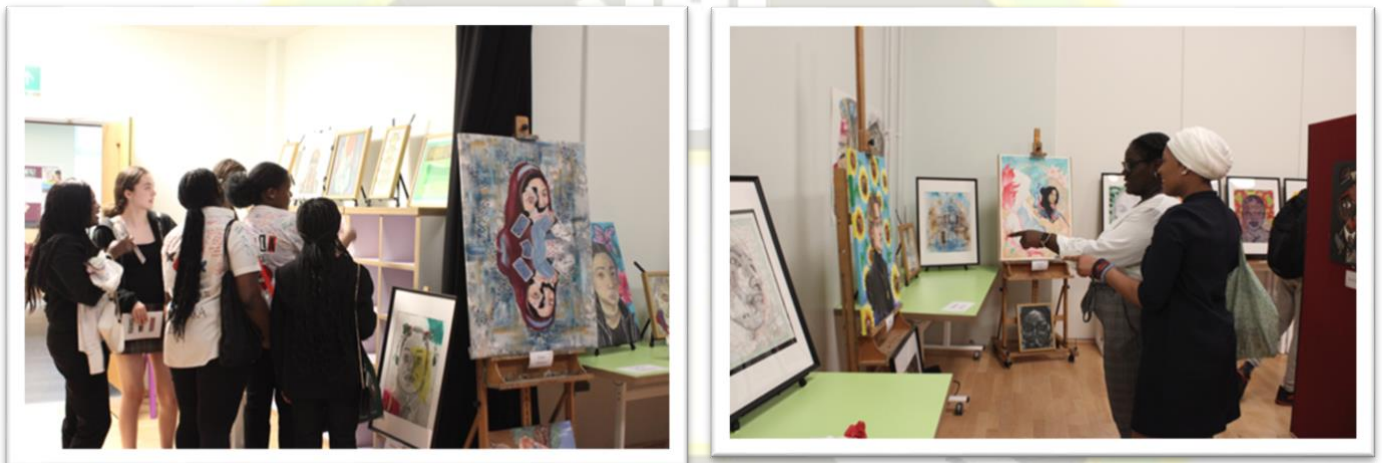


We at SMM had a wonderful evening celebrating the end-of-year art exhibition of our talented year 11 and year 13 students. The celebration kicked off with a stunning violin performance by Cynthia (from 9SJS) and closing remarks from Ms Anderson, the Art Lead.

The temporary gallery space was filled with an amazing turnout of attendees. Witnessing our students' artworks in a professional setting was an impressive and inspiring experience. It was also heart-warming to see our students discussing their pieces with guests.

The exhibition was enjoyed by a diverse group of attendees, including students, parents, school governors, staff, and even primary school students who were visiting a secondary school for the first time. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who came to support the students' accomplishments. Once again, congratulations to our talented art students for their remarkable work!

Ms Anderson



Pre - GCSE trip to SEVILLA

Sevilla is the capital of Andalucía; this proud and elegant city stunned our students with its beauty. Sevilla combines tradition and modernity and seduces the senses with its authentic atmosphere.

Sevilla has been a real experience for all, not just for its hugely popular festivals, but also for strolling along its streets and through the little squares, bustling with people or stopping off at a bar for a cool drink and some delicious tapas. And not to talk about how they really enjoyed the famous 'SIESTA', the Spanish typical nap. After a very hot morning, they always had the chance to rest and recover before the afternoon evening adventures.

Our students had the chance to visit the Cathedral (la Giralda), the Royal Palace (el Alcazar), La Plaza de España, the park of María Luisa, the mushroom (la seta), a Flamenco show, a tour inside the most famous bull ring (la Maestranza) and many more! They also enjoyed the markets and bought plenty of souvenirs for friends and family.

It was a pleasure to travel with such an amazing group of students. I am so proud of all of them.

Miss Tormo





## **Bay of Naples and Amalfi Coast**

### **Exploring the Wonders of the Bay of Naples and Amalfi Coast: A Journey to Remember**

We are excited to share with you the incredible experiences our students had during their recent educational trip to the enchanting Bay of Naples and the picturesque Amalfi Coast. This journey was an opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and cultural treasures of this remarkable region.

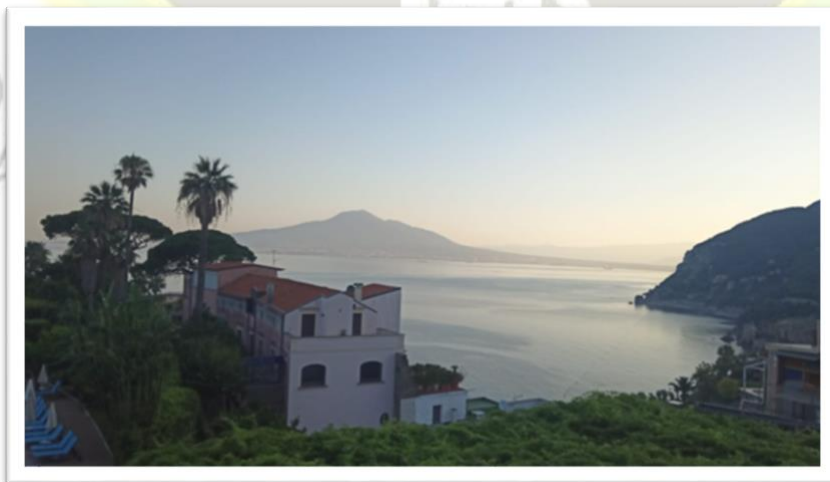
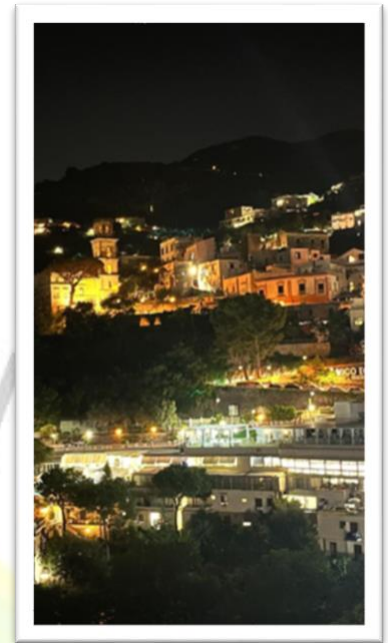
### **Discovering the Charms of our first destination - Vico Equense: A Coastal Gem**

Nestled along the stunning coastline, the charming Italian gem of Vico Equense was a perfect place to begin our stay in the Amalfi Coast. Vico Equense has a delightful blend of history, culture and natural beauty.

As our students wandered through the quaint streets they were greeted by colourful buildings adorned with vibrant flowers, creating a postcard-perfect setting. The town's rich history and authentic atmosphere offered a unique window into the traditional Italian way of life, where locals embraced their cultural heritage with pride.

With its close proximity to the Tyrrhenian Sea, Vico Equense provided our students with magnificent views of the azure waters and the rugged cliffs that define the Amalfi Coast. They marvelled at the breathtaking vistas from scenic viewpoints, capturing the beauty of the coastline and the allure of the Mediterranean, and of course ate some outstanding local cuisine.

Mr Freeburn



## **Cultural Evening**



St Mary Magdalene hosted its first Cultural Evening for Key Stage 4 on the 14<sup>th</sup> July and it was an honour to organise such an incredible event. Through continuous determination and optimism, the entire event was truly an evening to remember. From the very beginning, our priority was to embrace the diversity and culture within our school, and after extensive planning, I could not be prouder of the respect shown and the knowledge gained by everyone who attended. It was fantastic to see over 250 students arrive proudly in their cultural dress! In preparation for the day we asked staff to provide food for the day, we asked our young people to show off their talents supported by the music and drama department and we were lucky enough to have a guest speaker who came to speak with us.

The evening began with a meal which was enjoyed by all, kindly provide by our kitchen staff. Staff and students generously brought in foods from around the world for us all to taste. We indulged in Jamaican coconut drops, Romanian sweets, Spanish tortilla and Scouse stew to name a few. This was received well by students who fully took the opportunity to try the variety of dishes on offer and to speak to the staff and students that prepared the food. This generated a real buzz around the event and brought staff and students closer together.

The main event was led by Matilda Pham and Chevrington Odoh and our resident DJ, Linfred, created an electric buzz with the music selection.

The showcase was kicked off with a grand performance from our guest Steel Pan Performers.

We were entertained by our talented students with international dances from Afrobeats to tap dance and musical performances including rap and the Nigerian talking drum.

Additionally, we had the fantastic opportunity to learn from students about their home countries namely, Ghana Poland, Albania and an entertaining poem from Jamaica.

We ended the evening with special guest, TikTokker John Wick, who shared his thoughts about the importance of celebrating culture and identity.

The vibrant colours and happy faces were a delight to see on the evening with staff and students alike showing off their finest cultural wears, foods and traditions. This again created a wonderful community feel around the school and made for some truly lovely conversations between staff and students on the evening. It also showed connections between members of our school community that many may not have been aware off. Overall, the event was a huge success with staff and students eager to have the next cultural event which will hopefully be even bigger and better!

Finally, to sign off we would like to give special thanks to the following:

MCs- Matilda P and Chevrington O

DJ – Linfred B

Dancers –

Hannah L

Maryam J

Hayath

Daniella H-K

Lily-Ella Y

Chidinma A

Ferrari T

Edith U

Angel N

Stories from Home speeches –

Elona A

Marvella A

Max S

Tevez M

Year 10 Band –

Peter H



Zephan M  
Charlie T

Musical Performers -  
Segun Alli B  
Anisa M-G  
Henry S  
Jethro P

And we look forward to doing it all again next year!

Siobhan Douglas Head of Year 10

Mr J Gayle Assistant Principal for Disadvantage and Equalities



## Sixth Form



We had mixed feelings seeing off our current year 13 cohort: sadness to be losing a wonderful group of students, some of whom had been with us from the primary phase, but also immense pride and happiness knowing that these young people are taking their first tentative steps into adult life.

The focus at the beginning of the academic year was UCAS and destinations: we were proud to offer our newly introduced, bespoke programme which is specifically designed to help our students select and then apply for a destination that will suit their future dreams. The process went smoothly and in total we had 61 applications with five choices each. 52 of our students received an offer from their first choice, all students received first or second choice. We were proud that 20 of our students received offers from Russel Group institutions. It was nice to see a wide range of subjects being applied for, and in total we had 54 separate subjects applied for, from Journalism to Film Studies, Law, Medicine, and Veterinary Science. The most popular courses include Computer Science (25 separate applications), Biology/Biological Sciences (27), Business related courses (29) and Psychology (45).

With all of our students having a clear offer and pathway to the next destination in their journey, we look forward to receiving the A level results. Although the exam period was understandably stressful, especially as this group of students missed out on their GCSE exams due to the impact of lockdown, they dealt with the challenge with poise and dignity. Many of the staff involved in the exams spoke of how well organised and behaved the students were, and we feel confident that the hard work and preparation that we all put in place in the run up to the exams set them in good stead.

We celebrated these successes with a collective worship followed by a wonderful evening at The Tower Hotel where we were treated to dinner and dancing. The students (and staff) were able to let their hair down and enjoy themselves after all of the hard work they had put in over the past two years.

The Sixth Form Team

### Farewell to Year 13 2023

Before completing their celebration week of St Mary Magdalene, Year 13 students completed their A-Level exams. A-Level exams ran from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May till the final exam on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, we said a sad farewell to our Year 13 students in our celebration service, led by staff and students. Throughout the week the students were involved in a number of activities:

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June:

- Final Exam

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

- INSET DAY

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June:

- Some of our students celebrated Eid

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June:

- Celebration Service and Worship at school
- Art Exhibition
- Celebration event -Tower Hotel (pictures below)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July:

- Thorpe Park trip



## General News



At the start of this month, Mrs Harrison and Rev Hubbuck were invited to the Archbishop of Canterbury's annual keynote address on reconciliation at King's House in London.

In his speech, the Archbishop stressed the importance of empowering young people to become leaders who can build peace in their communities. Young people have the power to be agents of peace, the Archbishop of Canterbury told a gathering of educators, youth workers, Christian leaders and others working directly with young people. Archbishop Justin emphasised that peace and reconciliation are at the heart of the Christian story and mission, and stressed the importance of empowering young people to become leaders who can build peace in their communities.

To read the archbishop Justin's keynote speech in full please use this link  
<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-writing/archbishop-justins-annual-keynote-lecture-reconciliation>

We are very pleased to have been chosen to pilot the archbishop's project called 'The Difference' with our young people. Rev Hubbuck Mr Gayle will be leading on this in the Autumn term.

Mus Harrison



## Some ideas for the Summer

The summer holidays can feel quite long with children.  
Here are some tips on helping you get through the weeks before school re-starts.

### Home:

- Remember that a routine is good for everyone. Draw up a calendar for everyone to see.
- Reading, drawing, and storytelling cost very little. Check out local library opening times – some may even have family sessions.
- Think about doing one thing per day and encouraging the children to play or entertain themselves at other times where appropriate.
- Think in advance about how much screen time you think is reasonable and make a plan for what children can do instead of screen time. Simple chores around the house to 'help out' are good too.
- Think about snacks – what can they have, how often, can they help themselves from a limited daily selection or do they need to ask.

### Parks and Playgrounds (free):

- Google local parks and playgrounds...
- Royal Victoria Gardens in North Woolwich (Foot tunnel and turn right on the other side).
- Greenwich Park, Maryon Wilson Park (with animals), Charlton Park (with skate park), Kidbrooke.
- Adventure Playgrounds: Plumstead, Woolwich, Greenwich (Nr Waitrose).
- In the city: Corams Fields (Nr Russell Square), Diana's Playground (Queensway Station), Jubilee Gardens (Waterloo), Diana's Fountain (Hyde Park Corner), Tumbling Bay Playground (Stratford). Most of these have play areas. Remember you can go to parks without play equipment and take a blanket and a picnic. Or buy some rolls and sliced cheese and cartons of juice for a quick lunch.
- Green Park, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, St James' Park - See the palace and the pelicans.

### Things to do out and about (free):

- Natural History Museum or Science Museum (go EARLY to avoid the crowds) (South Kensington)
- Young V&A (Bethnal Green) Museum about childhood and children and toys etc.
- Museum of London, St Katherine's Dock. (Tower Hill)
- Mudchute City Farm (Mudchute DLR) or walk through the Greenwich foot tunnel and follow the signs.
- National Maritime Museum (Greenwich), British Museum (Tottenham Court Road).
- Galleries like National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery (Charing Cross).

### Things to do (Not free):

- Swimming: Greenwich is small but good, Woolwich is big and more expensive, Deptford is lovely and the water is warm.
- [www.kidsweek.co.uk](http://www.kidsweek.co.uk) Buy one get one free on theatre tickets in August if one person is under 18.
- Uber boat down the Thames or the Cable Car from North Greenwich
- Cinema – Children's films or Saver films are cheaper than normal ticket prices. (Buy snacks at the supermarket BEFORE you go!)
- You could get an Annual Family Membership for a museum...Greenwich Museums (£60), Historic Royal Palaces – includes Tower of London (£70), London Zoo (£134). They are pricey but may mean seeing things again and again throughout the year. (prices based on 1 adult family tickets)

### Useful Websites:

[www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk)  
[www.timeout.co.uk](http://www.timeout.co.uk)  
[www.kidsdaysout.co.uk](http://www.kidsdaysout.co.uk)

[www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com)  
[www.visitgreenwich.org.uk](http://www.visitgreenwich.org.uk)  
[www.londonforfree.net](http://www.londonforfree.net)



**KOINONIA**  
C OF E SCHOOLS FEDERATION  
Excellence through innovation,  
founded in faith since 1840.

# Communication

*Please make sure we have an up-to-date email for you!*

Dear parents and carers,

As part of constant improvements to our practice, we have been trialing a number of different types of software to improve communication with families. We have listened to parents' feedback requesting an easier way to communicate and view all their child's information. Therefore, we are excited to announce from this September 2023 all parents and carers across the federation will be able to use one App on a phone, tablet, or computer to access all student information in one place, including communications and payments.

**If you do not currently receive emails** from the school please email our Federation Data Manager, Nick Heal on [NHeal@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:NHeal@koinoniafederation.com) who can update your contact details on our system.



## Next year we'll be using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Arbor App



### Why we've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school.

The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way.

From September 2023, you will need to log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go! The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

### How to get started?

When Arbor is ready towards the end of August 2023, you will receive an email from us with instructions on how to log in. Additionally, you can contact our school offices to help you use the app, and we will be hosting online and in-person information events throughout the year.

**If you don't receive emails from the school, or have any other questions**, please email our Federation Data Manager, Nick Heal, at [NHeal@koinoniafederation.com](mailto:NHeal@koinoniafederation.com). He will be available to help you.

