

SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 12th May, 2017

A voluntary aided Church of England primary school in the heart of the City of London



Well done, Class 6

It's certainly been a busy week in school. Well done to the children and teaching team in Class 6 who have worked so hard over the course of the week, term and year in relation to their national assessments. They were so focused this week and conducted themselves throughout the tests impeccably.

It's been excellent to see the children so engaged in their learning and taking the time to brush up their knowledge and skills. We expect a lot from children aged 11 these days, but I think it's important to reflect on the benefits of Standardised Assessment Tests.

National assessments help all primary schools to focus on the development of key skills. It's vital that children know how to solve mathematics problems, read fluently and write for different purposes by the time they leave us. Without this emphasis on English and Mathematics, the primary curriculum would lose focus of its primary aim.

Sometimes people comment that the SATs are more important for the school than they are for the child. It's true to say they are not an 11+. You don't pass or fail a SATs test. However, national tests are as important as any other exam children undertake- we never stop learning! Striving to do our best is something we hold dear at Cass. Individuals don't just arrive in their A'Level examination hall and ace the exam without building the skills, dispositions, knowledge and character which helps them to do well. Children and adults don't stop being tested throughout their educational life. It's important to have the right mindset and see assessment as an opportunity for growth.

That's not to say our examinations in primary school are without fault. They don't always measure what's important, there is probably an over emphasis on the technical over the creative. It's in the spirit of possible improvement that I wanted to draw attention to the fact that the Government are conducting a consultation on primary assessments at the moment. What's being proposed is quite radical and I strongly encourage you to give your views. You can answer the consultation questions by visiting: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/assessment-policy-and-development/primary-assessment/>

Finally, thanks also to parents and carers for supporting children's learning not just in Year 6 but across the school. We believe passionately that education is a partnership between home and school. Thanks for helping to make that a reality.

With thanks,

Mr T Wilson | Headteacher

Half Term Bookings

We've extended the booking deadline for Play Centre and the Children's Centre for the Half term holiday. You have until Friday 19th May, 2017 to get your booking forms back to the office. Both childcare facilities are open from Tuesday to Friday. You can see the play plan for the Play Centre [here](#):

We've also changed the times of holiday provision. This means that we're open for the same time 7.45 until 5.55pm across the site.



What should you do with a *generositree*? Give it away!
Thanks to everyone who has taken a tree for planting from the Woodland Trust. Let's help keep London one of the greenest cities in the world!

Dates for your diary

Mon 15 May	All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6
Tue 16 May	All day All day 10:30am – 12:30pm 3:30pm – 4:30pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Fluoride visit 📅 🟡 Sculpture in the City-Y6 - the City 📅 Nussy Meeting
Wed 17 May	All day All day 8:00am – 9:00am 10:00am – 3:00pm 2:00pm – 3:00pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Poetry Workshops Y4-6 - Poetry Workshops 📅 Action Tutoring- Year 5 📅 Tennis competition - Bethnal Green Garden, London E2, UK 📅 Drumming Performance Reception to Y2
Thu 18 May	All day All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Poetry Workshops Y4-6 - Poetry Workshops
Fri 19 May	All day All day 2:40pm – 3:10pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Poetry Workshops Y4-6 - Poetry Workshops 📅 Inventors Assembly
Sat 20 May	All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6
Sun 21 May	All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6
Mon 22 May	All day 2:15pm – 3:00pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 PTA Meeting
Tue 23 May	All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6
Wed 24 May	All day 8:00am – 9:00am 1:00pm – 1:30pm 4:00pm – 8:00pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Action Tutoring- Year 5 📅 Cello Recital 📅 Governing Body Meeting: Finance and GP
Thu 25 May	All day	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6
Fri 26 May	All day 9:00am – 10:30am 2:40pm – 3:10pm	📅 Bikeability Cycle Skills Training Y6 📅 Open Morning 📅 Class 6 Assembly
Mon 29 May	All day	📅 School Closed- Half Term



Welcome Beth and Craig

Please extend a very warm welcome to Beth and Craig—our new Early Years Practitioners. Both are working in the Investigators room. Both are experienced Early Years professionals and we look forward to working with them over the coming years.

Be Safe

There have been a number of alerts recently about online games which are unsafe or fake. We'll be holding some more sessions on the safe use of technology later in the term. In the meantime, take a look at the Safer Internet website. It's full of advice, guidance and tips for parents to help them keep the family safe online.
www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We're proud to be taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge this year in association with the City libraries. There will be more information shortly about how you can sign up. In the meantime check out the Summer Reading Website: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

For the beauty of the Earth

We're thinking about the natural world in all it's wonder this term in Church assemblies. Children will be exploring ideas relating to the wonder of creation and thinking about how to conserve and protect what is precious in our world.