JULIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

West Norwood site - Gabriel House, 16, Wolfington Road, West Norwood, London SE27 0JF
Streatham site - 21 Cunliffe Street, Streatham SW16 6DS
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Executive Headteacher
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23rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,



As the first half term draws to a close, I wanted to write and thank you **all** for your support. The way that everyone in our school community - from staff to parents/carers to children - has pulled together over the past few weeks has been truly remarkable and has demonstrated a willingness to help one another in the most challenging of circumstances.

Throughout this term, we have been constantly reminded that our school community is so much more than a set of buildings. We hope that focusing on managing the here and now, whilst preparing for what is known and inevitable, rather than speculating the what ifs, has helped to make this journey a bit easier for everyone. We are proud of the way in which, as a whole school community, we have come together and embraced a new "normal".

West Norwood started the year as we would expect. Children settled very quickly and we welcomed new faces into our Reception and Nursery classes. Life on the West Norwood site has continued as normal, led by Jonny and his team. We have also welcomed new starters into Reception at our temporary Streatham site led by Becky and her team. They have settled beautifully into our new "home from home" and are enjoying the interconnected classrooms and outside play areas to the full. We have also welcomed two new teachers - Adam Lakhani into our Year 1 team and Fran Byrne who has returned to our Reception team. We look forward to working with them over the coming year.

We are very grateful to our PTFA who have offered the school their incredible support and to parents/carers who have stepped in and shared their expertise to help us through the challenges we have faced. The PTFA set up a

crowdfund campaign and thus far have raised £12,865 + gift aid (which is an additional 25%) on top of this. In addition, they have received a donation of £5k from a local music company to support music teaching. Thanks to Emma McCormack for sourcing this. The PTFA have also arranged for five large boxes of quality books to be delivered to STR. To welcome the Streatham children and staff to the Goldfinch site and to reward their resilience, the PTFA had JPS medals created for every child and staff member which included a clever riff on our Julian's motto, "Opening doors, even in new places".



Now for an update on our return to the Streatham site. We are unable to share a definite timeline with you, but in the interests of being open and transparent, we can share what we are working towards. Originally, we were told that the school would need to temporarily relocate for a period of 3-6 months. However, building projects often overrun and a 3-month turn around has always felt overly optimistic and quite unrealistic. We can therefore say with a degree of certainty that it is unlikely we will be able to return to the Leigham Court Road site by Christmas.

Over the past few weeks we have met with the Local Authority and loss adjusters to focus on the remediation works, now that the move to the Goldfinch site has taken place and the children are settled in school. The major and complex loss team have started the process of identifying and disposing of beyond economic restoration (BER) items on all levels of the school this week. They will also be cleaning and storing items which are retrievable. Once the team has completed the work, and pending further approvals for disposal, they will begin to strip out and start any other remedial works. Stripping out includes the removal of all carpets and flooring, ceilings - including all tiles - and removing plaster board so that the stud walls are exposed. The water-damaged plasterboard will then be replaced to prevent long-term issues like mould and structural damage.

Given the extent of the works proposed, it is difficult for anyone to say with absolute certainty how long this will take, but we anticipate that we will not be returning to the Leigham Court Road site until Easter at the earliest and probably later. This means that we will be staying at the Goldfinch site for at least the next three half terms.

We realise that this news may be disheartening for many of you and recognise that given the additional distance to the new site, parents/carers may not feel they have the same connection with the school as they would normally. However, we are always available on Etherstone Road and at the school site, so if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss, please let us know. We will be holding our termly parent carer consultation evenings as planned on 18th and 20th November 2025. The Tuesday will be in person and the Thursday online, with the booking links sent out after the half term break. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We will also be holding two EYFS workshops in the first and second week after half term. These workshops are open to families from both our sites:

- *How we learn in Reception,* Tuesday 4th November at 5pm, WN

- *Phonics and Reading in the EYFS*, Tuesday 11th November at 5pm, WN

In other news, we are liaising with the Lambeth parking and traffic order team to improve the situation on Etherstone Road. They are proposing to implement "Waiting Restrictions" on the highlighted parts of the image below (please excuse the quick drawing). This would take approximately 3 weeks to implement.



These restrictions would be on waiting between 7.15-9.15am and 2.45-5pm. Lambeth will follow up with letters to the residents and parents/carers. Their traffic enforcement team will be in attendance for the first week or two once the changes have gone live. We are also proposing to change the times of the School Street but this will take approximately 5 months!

So let me end on a positive note… 

Through all of the events of the past few weeks our priority has been to ensure the continuity of high-quality education across the school despite the significant disruption caused by the fire. Children continue to benefit from safe and fully-equipped learning environments whether they are at West Norwood or Streatham. We continue to offer tailored support to meet diverse needs, and plans are in place to restore permanent facilities at our Leigham Court Road site. Whilst the transport provision for our Streatham children has meant early starts and later finishes, many parents and carers have commented on the additional benefit of longer school days due to bus runs and the extended childcare this provides. Ultimately, the school community will emerge stronger, with enhanced capacity to support all pupils and staff in a nurturing and inspiring environment.

We hope that you all have a very restful half term. I know that I, and all of the staff, will do just that!!

Warm regards,

Alison Moller
Executive Headteacher