



BRICKLANE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2025 - 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of our first term, I am proud of how well our pupils have settled into the school year. For many children, this term has involved changes of class, staff or routines, and in some cases joining a new school. We know that change can be challenging, and it has been wonderful to see how pupils have been supported to feel valued and understood.

It has been particularly heartening to see positive relationships develop across the school. Taking time to listen, build trust and support emotional wellbeing is central to our trauma-informed approach and reflects one of our core values. These strong, caring relationships help our pupils feel ready to learn and thrive.

Thank you to our staff for their compassion and consistency, and to our families for your continued partnership and support. Together, we have built strong foundations for the rest of the year.

Index

1. Green Class
2. Brockwell Class
3. Olympic Class
4. Richmond Class
5. Regents Class
6. Shoreditch Class
7. Hyde Class
8. Holland class
9. Clissold Class
10. Greenwich Class
11. Gardening Class
12. Phonics
13. Work experience
14. Personal development
15. Expressive Arts
16. Winter Fair
16. Clinical team
17. Thank you for reading!



BRICK LANE
SCHOOL

OptionsAutism

Green Class

Autumn term Two in Green class!

Green class have had such a busy second half term at Brick Lane School!

In English, we have been focusing on the topic of celebrations. Students have explored different world events via songs and stories. For example, students developed their understanding of bonfire night, Remembrance Day and the start of winter. Students in Green class explored these topics by engaging in messy play and exploring objects related to these themes. When thinking about winter, Green class made their own sensory snow and also tried on clothes to keep them warm. Green class have now moved onto celebrating the festive period. Green class are choosing their favourite Christmas songs to listen to, making Christmas decorations and Christmas themed messy play.

In Math's Green class have been exploring the topic of numbers. Students have chosen their favourite number nursery rhymes to listen to. Students have practised matching objects to the same object; some have sequenced numbers to 5 and 10. Some students have matched objects and pictures to the numerals to 10. We love exploring different ways to count!

Another highlight of this half term has been Food Tech and making winter festive themed foods. The children have made delicious hot chocolates with whipped cream and marshmallows. The students also enjoyed making 'Father Christmas' themed fruit kebabs. We hope you enjoy lots of tasty foods over the winter holidays.

The Green Class team and I want to wish you all a lovely holiday. We want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – see you in 2026!!



LEA DOWNHAM
TEACHER

Brockwell Class

Maths

Mr. Seb has been working incredibly hard with the class, going through the key topics. From ratios to fractions (and everything in between), the students have been sharpening their skills every lesson.

English

In English, Ms. Alexandra has been exploring a range of language techniques with the students. They've also been doing focused exam practice to prepare for their English paper. After the gothic novel 'Cirque Du Freak', we are now exploring a literary classic, 'A Christmas Carol', by Charles Dickens, and getting ready to welcome Christmas, bah, Humbug!

Humanities

In Geography, we learned how volcanoes form and erupt, then created our own mini versions in class - some of them are on our marvelous display of Humanities in school. Thanks to Miss Alexandra for bringing in the creative kit... we truly had a blast (pun absolutely intended). In History, we are learning about Ancient Greece, and we are also visiting the British Museum to consolidate our learning.

Morning Rota Fun

We've added a new, very entertaining tradition to our mornings: Cringe of the Day. Miss Tanzila and Miss Brett are on a mission to find the cringiest video possible, and it's become a hilarious and energizing way to start each day! Go Brockwell, go!

Sports / PE

PE continues to be lively and competitive, with students giving their best in football, basketball, and everything else thrown their way. Most importantly, Brockwell class consistently shows fantastic sportsmanship, especially when playing against other classes.

Careers

Led by Mr. Manning, our students attended an event where they met colleges and apprenticeship providers, giving them a valuable chance to explore future pathways and gain key encounters with further education. A massive well done to Brockwell class. We call ourselves Brilliant Brockwell for a reason. Keep up the amazing work!



ALEXANDRA MYROTI
TEACHER

Olympic Class

This Autumn Term, Olympic Class has focused on getting to know one another and building strong, positive relationships within the classroom. Students have enjoyed engaging in social games, taking part in various clubs, and working together during our hands-on lessons such as Food Technology, Gardening, and PE. It has been wonderful to see new friendships blossom and existing ones grow even stronger as the term has progressed.

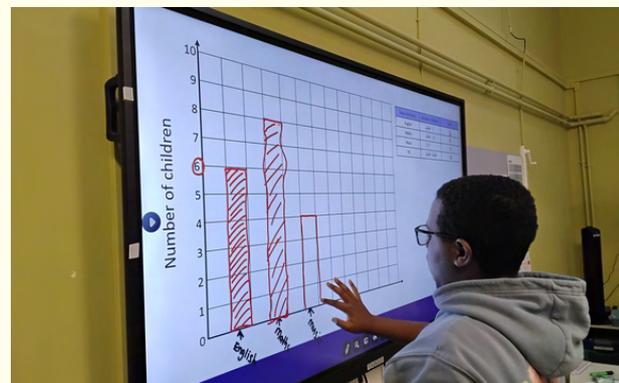
Our Learning This Term

English: We explored narrative writing through the text *How to Train Your Dragon* and practiced creating diary entries, both by reading examples and writing our own.

Students have become confident in their

Maths: Our focus areas included place value, statistics, and fractions. Students enjoyed working in small, targeted groups to deepen their understanding and support areas of need.

A highlight this term has been exploring the *Amazing Autistic Brain Cards* by Gloria Dura-Vilá. Each morning, we read one card together during our Morning Rota and take time to reflect and share our thoughts. The purpose of using these cards is to help students better understand their own autism—both the strengths they can celebrate and the challenges they may experience—while also building connection, empathy, and relatability with their peers. It has been a wonderful way to spark meaningful conversations and support our students' self-awareness and sense of belonging.



MADDISON PIETRAS
TEACHER

Richmond Class

Swimming at Britannia Leisure Centre:

Richmond Class had a fantastic time during their trip to Britannia Leisure Centre for swimming. The children showed great enthusiasm and confidence in the water, and it was lovely to see how much they enjoyed themselves. It was a joyful experience for the whole class.

Visit to Shadwell Fire Station:

We visited Shadwell Fire Station. The children had the opportunity to meet professionals from various emergency services, including firefighters, police officers, and paramedics. They learned about the different roles these people play in keeping our community safe and asked thoughtful questions. It was an educational and memorable trip that helped them understand how different services work together.

English: Reading “Wonder”

In our English lesson, we've been reading Wonder and discussing themes such as kindness and acceptance. The children have also completed comprehension tasks, which helped them explore key events, analyse characters, and think about the author's message.

Visit to the Horniman Museum:

We visited the Horniman Museum as part of their science topic on ocean habitats. They were learning about creatures that live under the sea, including deep-sea animals and those that live closer to the surface. The children enjoyed exploring the museum learning environment and had the opportunity to observe a variety of fascinating artefacts and displays. They were able to see real specimens, learn new facts, and make connections to what they have been studying in class. It was a valuable and engaging experience that helped bring their learning to life.



Regents Class

This autumn term has been a happy and busy one for Regents Class, with a wide range of activities and learning experiences taking place. Below are some examples of the lessons and activities our students have enjoyed this term.

Cooking

In Cooking this term, students enjoyed taking part in food preparation activities such as making pizza, chicken wraps, crepes, and other dishes. These sessions helped students become more independent by learning how to follow simple recipes step by step. They also had the chance to explore different tastes and textures, which supported their confidence and sensory experiences while building important life skills.

Science

In Science, students explored a range of fun and practical activities to help them understand how science works in everyday life. For example, one of the experiments involved using vinegar and baking soda to produce gas and blow up a balloon. Alongside this, students also took part in other simple investigations that encouraged curiosity, observation, and learning through hands-on experience.

Gardening

During Gardening sessions, students enjoyed spending time outdoors, spotting tiny insects, planting cress, and helping to clean and care for the garden. These activities supported teamwork, responsibility, and a growing appreciation for nature, while also developing fine motor skills.

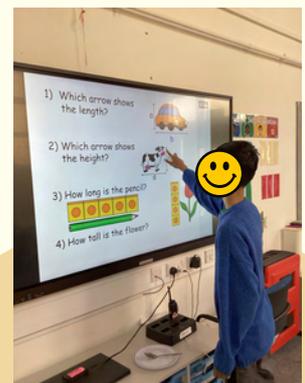
Maths

In Maths, students worked on separating numbers into hundreds, tens, and ones. Using practical and visual activities, they strengthened their understanding of place value and built confidence in their basic number skills.

Celebrating Ms Shirley's Birthday

Celebrating Ms Shirley's birthday was a joyful and special moment for Regents Class. Students enjoyed group games, shared laughter, and spent a happy time together. This celebration helped students learn the importance of enjoying life, sharing happiness, and celebrating positive moments with others. It also supported positive relationships and meaningful social interaction within the class.

Overall, it has been a positive and productive term for Regents Class. We are very proud of the progress our students have made in their learning, independence, and social skills.



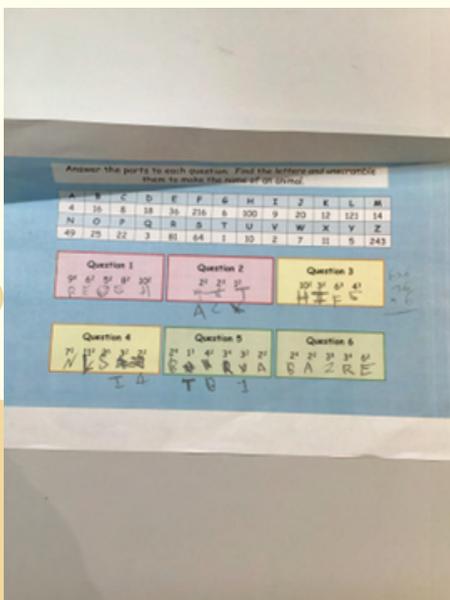
SHAJNA KHANUM
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Shoreditch Class

This term in Shoreditch class, we have been working towards our **function skills** exams in our core subjects. In particular, we have been focusing on the level one content in maths. Topics to highlight include scales on maps and drawings, ratios and proportions, percentages of amounts and converting between fractions and decimals, to name a few. We have been very proud of the determination and dedication of all the students, as the level of maths is very difficult and there is a lot of content to learn.

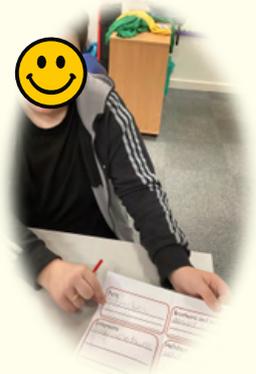
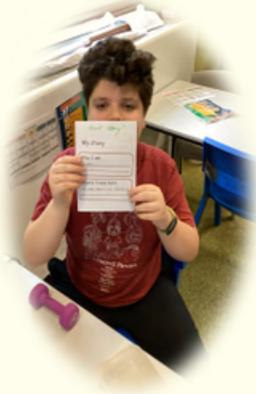
A particularly fun lesson was when we used a scaled map of the school, and we had to work out the distances between locations using this scale. To check our work, we used trundle wheels to measure the actual distance! All of this led up to us completing mock exams, in which everyone tried their absolute best. Mock exams can be very difficult and stressful times; however, the students handled this with real professionalism, which is amazing!

These exams will provide valuable experiences and practice for our students, especially as they move into the later years of their school life. Not only this, but it will also help shape and inform teaching to be effective and engaging. Overall, we have been really proud of everyone in Shoreditch class this term, settling into their new environment well, working really hard and making some lovely progress. We have also had the opportunity to get **out into the community** this term, with trips linked to ASDAN subjects such as Expressive Arts and History, as well as accessing the community regularly to support social interaction and independence.



SEBASTIAN HARTWELL
TEACHER

Hyde Class



For **English** this term, Hyde class's focus has been on storytelling and creating their own stories!

For **Science**, Hyde class had experimented using different food products to make their own fossils!

This term Hyde class has been going swimming, which all the pupils have really enjoyed!



Holland Class

After our summer holidays, we returned to school with a wonderful surprise waiting in the playground – a big swing! This new addition quickly became the heart of our outdoor time. It has helped us make new friends, learn the importance of taking turns, and discover how relaxing it can be to enjoy the fresh air together.

English Adventures

Our English lessons have been full of imagination and laughter. We explored different stories, such as Brown Bear, What Do You See?, The Three Little Pigs, and even Peppa Pig's Christmas.

With props in hand and plenty of creativity, we brought these tales to life. The highlight was creating our board using only plates, tissue paper, and endless fantasy – a truly fantastic work from all our pupils!

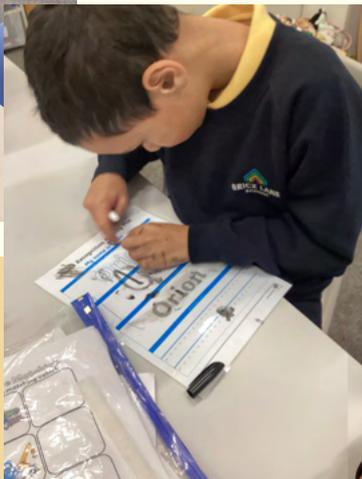
Maths Discoveries

In maths, we've been busy learning to recognise small and big, tall and short. Using animals and real objects from our classroom, we compared sizes and shapes, making learning practical and fun.

Our New Routine

As the term has passed by, we've settled into a new routine that makes each day feel special. Everyone in Holland Class contributes in their own way – from helping friends, to setting up the table for snacks, to getting ready for our activities – and together we create a classroom that is welcoming, lively, and full of joy.

We're so proud of the way our children are growing, learning, and making every day unique!
Can't wait to see what adventures we will have next term!



MARIA NICOLO
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Clissold Class

This half term, Clissold Class has been reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* in English. Pupils have explored the story through multi-sensory tuff-tray activities using artificial snow, mud, and twigs to bring each setting to life in a fun and meaningful way.

During the **Morning and Afternoon rota**, pupils have been developing their communication skills and taking part in a sensory circuit. They can choose a staff member or peer to greet with a handshake, high five, wave, or fist bump. In the sensory circuit, pupils take turns selecting activities for 'Move', 'Think', and 'Relax' to support sensory input and regulation. Class favorites include 'balance beam' walking, blowing bubbles, and practicing deep breathing.



RACHEL JUDT
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Greenwich Class

Bowling

For last term's Dojo reward, Greenwich class headed out for an exciting bowling session to All Stars Bowling. Students had a fantastic time celebrating their hard work and positive behavior. It was a great opportunity to relax, have fun, and enjoy some friendly competition.

Everyone is already looking forward to the next Dojo reward!

Getting Ready for the Festive Season in Food Technology

We're getting into the festive spirit! The children have been busy making their own "Grinch" hats and decorating fruit-stick treats, filling the classroom with holiday cheer. It's wonderful to watch their creativity shine as they craft and prepare for the celebrations ahead. Everyone is excited to share their creations at our upcoming festive event – what a fun way to welcome the season!



HONUFA RAHMAN
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Gardening

This term in **Gardening**, the pupils centred on exploring the natural world and making purposeful use of the resources within our outdoor environment. As the colder weather set in, I shaped the lessons to blend creativity, sensory exploration, and environmental responsibility.

We opened the Autumn term with creating leaf printing and nature wands, encouraging pupils to use leaves, flowers, twigs, petals and branches to construct textured prints and natural designs introducing them to seasonal changes and allowing them to experiment with patterns and composition using real materials.

In the following weeks, the pupils and I used sensory-based educational games to broaden our understanding of Gardening beyond the traditional planting and sowing, pupils were given adjective cards with adjectives like bumpy, wet, bristly, and scratchy and challenged to locate items around the garden that matched, this helped pupils recognise that horticulture includes observation, inquiry, and exploration. As the term progressed, pupils took responsibility for the care and upkeep of our garden. They engaged in weeding, targeted watering, clearing soil debris, and cleaning the greenhouse. In the final weeks, our attention returned to planting. Pupils planted cress in the greenhouse, and we are now preparing to harvest our autumn crops before the holidays.

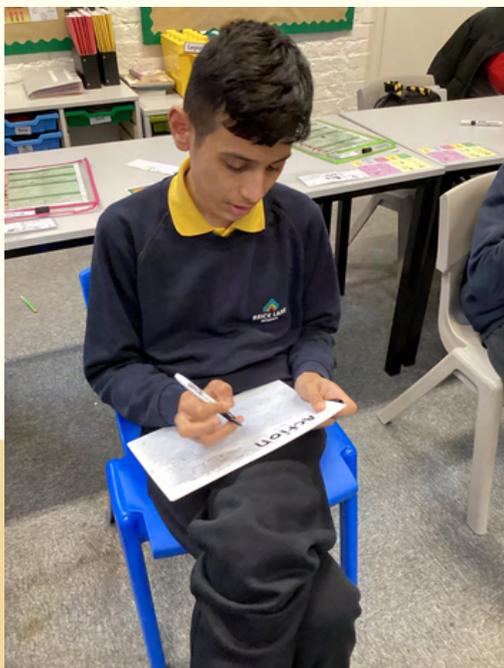
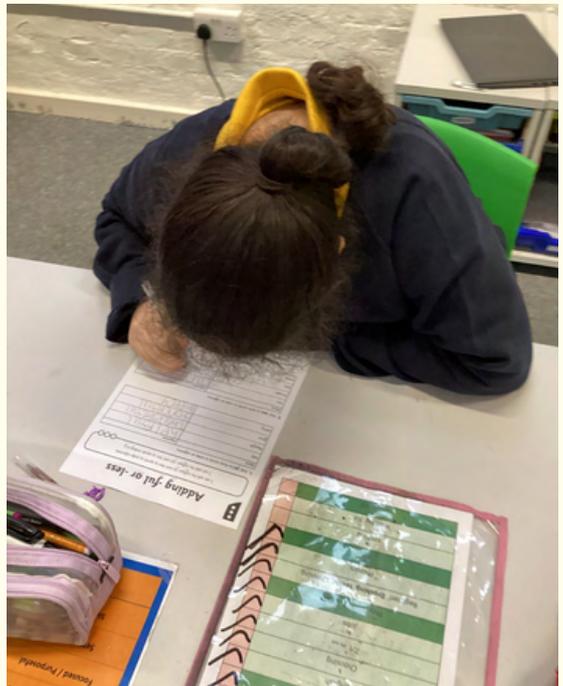


DAVINA KIMPIOKA
HLTA

Phonics

Some of our students have had a great time this term exploring lots of **Phase 1 sounds** in their fun group sessions. They've tried out different phonetic letters using a variety of resources and hands-on materials. From sound games to sensory activities, to matching pictures, they really enjoyed getting involved and trying new things.

The students have shown lots of enthusiasm and have done really well in building their early listening and sound recognition skills. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow each week! Keep up with the amazing work!



JEBINA ISLAM
PHONICS LEAD

Work Experience

During this term, our students have been taking part in a brand-new work experience role called **The School Supplier Job**. In this job, students collect a form from reception, gather the supplies that teachers need, and deliver them around the school. They even have their own trolley, jacket, and ID card, which makes the job feel very real and professional!

Our focus has been on helping students learn important skills such as being independent, following instructions, exploring new places in school, and building confidence when talking to others. It has been wonderful to watch them grow in these areas.

One of the highlights of the term was the job application and interview process. Students applied for the role and took part in real interviews. I had a fantastic time interviewing alongside Ms. Jebina—we were honestly amazed by their thoughtful answers! Their confidence and enthusiasm truly impressed us.

So far, we have had great support from 4 students from 2 classes!

They have all done an excellent job, and it has been lovely to see how this role helps them stay regulated, manage their routines, and feel proud of their responsibilities.

The School Supplier has been a huge success, and we can't wait to continue!



Personal Development

Students from across the school have been engaging in a wide variety of Personal Development opportunities in school and the community this term!

Regents, Clissold, Richmond and Olympic have progressed through their **AQA Unit Awards** in 'The Work of a Gardner' and 'Retail' units, including opportunities like role play and identifying specialist equipment. Richmond and Hyde classes took part in a **TFL Citizenship and Safety programme at the Fire Station**, and students from all classes have been developing their **enterprising skills** in preparing for their stalls for the Winter Fair, which takes place from 11.30 am to 2.30 pm on 17th December.

KS4 students, in addition to meeting with Careers Advisors, have been **volunteering at the Food Bank** regularly, and also attended a **Post 16 event** at the Town Hall, where they experienced meaningful encounters with further education providers. Brockwell students have engaged with employers on Brick Lane and charmed them into giving us raffle prizes! They can also be seen **interviewing a volunteer** from the Crisis charity shop for their ASDAN in Volunteering, and sampling what the shop has to offer! Students, staff and parents all had the opportunity to participate in a special day of **African Drumming** to mark Black History Month, with lots of engagement and lots of smiles to be seen, all around!



RICKY MANNING
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
LEAD

Expressive Arts

This term, our Expressive Arts groups have been exploring creativity through festivals, celebrations, and imaginative storytelling.

Green, Clissold and Holland Classes focused on **celebrations and fireworks**, creating bright, colourful artworks inspired by global festivals. They experimented with colour, texture, and movement to capture the excitement of fireworks and celebrations around the world.

Regents, Greenwich, and Richmond Classes **explored puppets, characters, and expression**. Students discovered how faces and body shapes can convey different feelings, creating their own expressive characters using mixed media and simple puppetry techniques.

Hyde, Brockwell, Shoreditch and Olympic Classes worked on **comics, story-making, and imagination**. Students developed characters, settings, and short comic strips, learning how images can communicate action, emotion, and narrative.

Hyde and Olympic Classes have also been **exploring mark-making through movement**, experimenting with creative ways to produce visual pieces using their bodies. Sometimes these pieces tell a story or convey a message; other times, they are completely abstract. Students used their bodies to create line, pattern, shape, texture, and other elements of art, combining movement and imagination.

Across all groups, students also crafted winter decorations for the season and our Winter Fair!

This term included exciting trips:

- Victoria Miro Gallery - Students studying ASDAN Expressive Arts visited the Victoria Miro Gallery, where they were able to interview staff at a commercial gallery and learn about different roles in the art world, from gallery management and curation to working directly with artists. This real-world insight gave students a clearer understanding of careers in the arts.
- Point Blank Music Studio - We visited Point Blank Music Studio to explore music production and creative technology. Students explored various pathways in the music industry, including sound engineering, beat-making and digital composition. This was especially valuable for students interested in music and opened up conversations about the industry and future opportunities.
- Local galleries - giving students opportunities to see and respond to real artworks in the community.

It has been a creative and inspiring term for all students. I am incredibly proud of every one of them, and excited for what's to come!

Happy holidays, everybody!



KIZZY RYALL
EXPRESSIVE ARTS TUTOR

Winter Fair

It was all the fun of the fair at Brick Lane School on Wednesday 17th December! The school also hosted special guest, the First Citizen and Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, **Councillor Suluk Ahmed.**

The Winter Fair was a jolly occasion for students' families to come together and celebrate the festive season. There was an **opportunity for parents and carers** to purchase delicious food and beautiful gifts, hand made by students, including freshly baked cookies and decorated gingerbread men. Hand crafted creations, such as calendars, snow globes and bookmarks, were snapped up by parents, carers, and indeed, staff!

Head Teacher, Ms Franssen said, "The most glorious thing about our events is that they are genuinely student led. Our amazing children and young people engage meaningfully with the process from start to finish, from developing their social skills, by successfully approaching local businesses for raffle prizes, in doing so strengthening our community partnerships, through to enhancing independent living skills, such as selling to customers and handling money". Ms Franssen continued, "We are extremely proud of each and every one of our students and were thrilled with such an incredible turn out from families and to see so many smiling faces throughout the day!" Families were invited to peruse a gallery of student's beautiful artwork, be entertained with musical performances on the talent stage, and take part in fun and games, including sporting activities and a DJ workshop! To top it all, students from year 8 and 9 ran their own café, serving hot and cold food and drinks, which they branded, '**East End Riddim Bites**'! The Speaker, Councillor Ahmed, gave an address on the day, after an inspirational **Beethoven performance** by a talented year 8 student. He told Brick Lane School afterwards, "It was great seeing your school performance. It was wonderful to see how happy and excited the children were during the event. Thank you very much for the invitation".



RICKY MANNING
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
LEAD



Supporting you this this Holiday Season

The Winter season can be a magical time of the year; however, we understand that.

Changes in routine and new experiences can be difficult for families and the autistic

Young people.

To help us all make the most of the season, here are some autism-friendly ideas. That can be used to create a safe and fun environment for everyone!

SENSORY SUPPORT

- Be mindful of your environment. Try to avoid bright lights or strong smells, such as candles, to help prevent overstimulation.
- Plan your day ahead to avoid busy crowds and loud noises when leaving the home.
- Practice regulatory exercises with your child, such as stretching, box breathing or movement breaks. It might be useful to have a Holiday sensory toolkit (e.g., ear defenders, fidgets) packed and ready to use on the go!

MANAGING ROUTINE

- Create a social story to help your child understand what to expect during Winter break!
- On the busier days, remember to include breaks and downtime, including things of interest (for everyone!)
- Returning back to school can be difficult, try to include aspects of the school routine the week before break is over to help with transitioning. A countdown calendar will also support with transitioning back to school

FAMILY TIME AND VISITS

Holidays are a brilliant time to connect as a family. We recognise that sometimes the day-to-day demands can be hard on everyone.

- Offer family time and group activities to reconnect and enjoy time together (e.g., playing a game as a family, watching a movie together)
- Inform your child of which guests will be coming and how long their stay may be
- Pre-plan an exit signal (e.g., hand squeeze, sign language) when visiting others so your young person can communicate when they may need to leave.

THANK YOU FOR
READING!



SCHOOL UNIFORM

[HTTPS://KHALASCHOOLWEAR.CO.UK/](https://khalaschoolwear.co.uk/)

020 7729 3286

388-390 BETHNAL GREEN RD, LONDON E2 0A

SCHOOL CONTACT INFO FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

BRICKLANEOFFICE@BRICKLANESCHOOL.CO.UK

0207 186 0156

BRICK LANE SCHOOL, BACON STREET, TOWER
HAMLETS, E2 6DY

