

Autumn 2026 Class Newsletter



Y5/6 Helen Zughaib Class

Class teacher: Shahana Tasnim and Anum Shafi

Teaching Assistant: Omeka



We are a GOLD Rights Respecting School

Our Class



Our Class Name



Helen Zughaib is a Lebanese-American artist and painter. Helen uses art to tell stories about people. Some of her artwork is about families who have had to leave their homes because of war or difficult situations. She wants people looking at her pictures to think about how other people might feel and to encourage empathy and understanding. Helen's artwork can be found in important places and

collections, including the White House and the Library of Congress. She has also exhibited her work in museums and galleries in the United States and around the world.

Welcome Message from the Class Teacher

Dear Families,

Welcome back!

I hope you had a wonderful summer break and enjoyed spending some quality time together. I'm really looking forward to being your child's class teacher this year and to all the learning and experiences we have ahead of us.

Throughout the year, there will be lots to look forward to, including exciting learning, workshops, school trips, special events and after-school clubs. Let's make the most of every opportunity by working together – keeping communication open, prioritising excellent attendance and punctuality, and encouraging every child to take part in at least one club or enrichment opportunity this year.

A Little About Me

I have been working at Bangabandhu Primary School for over 10 years and feel very proud to be part of our school community. I am a class teacher and also lead PE across the school. I organise

and support children in taking part in the many sporting events across Tower Hamlets, as well as our own annual Sports Day, which is always a fantastic opportunity for children to have fun, challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements. Alongside PE, I particularly enjoy teaching History and Art. I love History because it helps children understand the world around them, explore the past and discover how people, places and events have shaped the world we live in today. Art is another subject I am very passionate about. I believe Art gives children the opportunity to develop their imagination, confidence and individuality while appreciating the work and cultures of artists from around the world.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you and your child and to a happy and successful year together!

Shahana Tasnim

Important Reminders

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality are vital in giving your child the best possible chance to achieve and succeed. Our school day begins at 8.55am, with classroom doors opening at 8.50am. Please ensure your child arrives by 8.50am so they have time to come into class, settle and be ready for registration and learning at 8.55am.

Children arriving at 8.56am or later will be marked as late. Learning begins straight away, so even arriving a few minutes late can mean missing key teaching. When this happens regularly, those missed minutes quickly add up and can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning. Every day and every minute of learning matters – thank you for helping your child arrive every day, on time and ready to learn.

Working Together – Communication with Families

We want families to feel welcome, know what is happening in school and feel comfortable talking to us. Please **come into the playground in the morning and say hello**. These regular, informal opportunities help us get to know you and build positive relationships. You can pass on a quick message, but teachers need to focus on welcoming children and getting learning started promptly. If you need a longer or more private conversation, please let us know and we will arrange a suitable time to speak with you.

At the end of the day, please collect your child promptly and wait patiently while children are dismissed safely. If you would like to speak to the class teacher, please wait until all children have been dismissed so that their attention can remain on keeping children safe.

Please check Arbor regularly and keep notifications switched on. Arbor is one of our main ways of communicating with families and is used to share important school information, trips, clubs, events and other updates. We don't want you to miss anything!

Please ensure the School Office always has your up-to-date contact and medical information. Any medication must be taken directly to the office and should not be handed to the class teacher at the classroom door.

What to Bring to School Each Day

Please help your child come to school ready and organised for learning each day.

All children should bring their book bag to school every day, with their reading book and reading record inside. Due to limited storage space, children should not bring rucksacks to school. Please do not attach charms or keyrings to book bags, as these can become lost, cause upset and create unnecessary distractions. Please check your child's book bag regularly and support them to develop good habits by keeping it tidy and organised.

Children should also bring a named, reusable water bottle filled with fresh water each day. Staying well hydrated supports concentration and helps children remain alert and ready to learn. Children should have their PE kit in school, ready for their PE lessons. Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to children with potentially serious allergies. Any birthday cakes brought into school must have a full ingredients list. Sweets and chocolates should not be brought into school. Thank you for helping your child develop the independence and routines they need to arrive ready to learn each day.

Classroom routines and organisation

PE information

Our PE Day will be on **Thursday**.

Please ensure children are equipped with the correct kit for PE:

- black shorts, tracksuits or leggings
- red t-shirt
- trainers or plimsoles for outdoor PE (school black trainers worn in the day can be used)
- Children can come into school wearing their PE Kit on PE days.

Spellings

The spellings that the children are learning in class will be sent home for them to practice on a **Friday** – more information below.

Book Bags

The children must bring their book bag to school **every day** so that books can be changed when needed and that children can access their books in the school day. More information below.

Home learning

Home learning is designed to reinforce and practise what children are learning in school and to help them develop positive, independent learning habits.

Reading

Reading is our most important home-learning expectation. Children should read every day for at least **15 minutes** and regularly enjoy their Must Reads. Please listen to your child read, read to them and talk together about the books they are enjoying. Reading Records will be checked regularly so that we can work together to support consistent reading at home. Please sign your child's reading record to support with this.

Ensure that your child looks after their 3 sets of books; reads them every evening and brings them to school daily:

- RWI and book bag book or two Oxford Reading Tree books (depending on your child's English group).
- Must Read Book.
- Class library book.

Spellings

The children are taught new spellings each week. Spellings will be sent home every Friday for the children to continue to practice at home. The children will be assessed on the spellings the following Friday.

Maths

Children will also receive maths activities linked to their learning in school. Maths home learning may include interactive board games, short booklet activities and practical maths tasks. We encourage children to complete these little and often, rather than all at once.

In line with our Healthy Minds approach, home learning will not be set on screens. We want home learning to be purposeful and manageable while still leaving children plenty of time for family life, play, creativity, physical activity and rest.

Thank you for supporting your child with their home learning – your interest, encouragement and praise make a real difference.

Ways to Help Your Child at Home

There are lots of simple ways you can support and take an interest in your child's learning at home:

- Talk about the school day. Ask your child what they learned, what they enjoyed, what they found challenging or an interesting fact they discovered. Talking about learning helps children recall, reflect on and strengthen what they have learned.
- Learn through everyday experiences. Cooking, making, building, drawing, shopping and visiting local places all provide opportunities to develop language, maths, creativity and problem-solving. Talk together about what you are doing and why.
- Encourage curiosity. Ask questions, explore your child's interests together and encourage them to explain their thinking and ideas.
- Use trusted learning resources, such as BBC Bitesize, where appropriate to revisit or explore learning.

You do not need to recreate school at home – talking, reading, exploring and showing an interest in what your child is learning can make a real difference.

Must Reads – Books Every Child Should Experience

At Bangabandhu, we want every child to develop a love of reading and experience a rich and varied range of high-quality books. Our Must Reads are a carefully selected collection of books that we believe every child should have the opportunity to enjoy during their time with us.

The books have been chosen to broaden children's reading experiences, introduce them to authors, characters, ideas and styles of writing they may not otherwise encounter, and gradually expose them to increasingly rich and challenging texts. Our Must Reads progress from Nursery through to Year 6, growing in complexity as children develop as readers.

Children do not always have to read these books independently. Reading together and being read to are just as valuable. Please enjoy the books with your child, talk about the characters and events, discuss unfamiliar words and ideas, and share your thoughts and opinions. We want children to discover that reading is not simply something they do at school – books can make us laugh, wonder, imagine, question, learn and see the world in different ways.

The Must Read book titles for Year 6:

Point Blank: The Graphic Novel by Anthony Horowitz
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo
The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan
The Watertower by Gary Crew and Steven Woolman
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
Skellig by David Almond
Varmints by Helen Ward and Marc Craste
Town Is by the Sea by Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith
Just William by Richmal Crompton
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Northern Lights by Phillip Pullman
Tin by Pádraig Kenny

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillipa Pearce
Beowulf: Dragonslayer by Rosemary Sutcliff

The Must Read book titles for Year 5

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll
The Pebble in My Pocket by Meredith Hooper
Clockwork or All Wound Up by Philip Pullman
Along Walk to the Water by Linda Sue Park
The Call of the Wind by Jack London
Shackleton's Journey by William Grill
The River by Allesandro Sanna
Hacker by Malorie Blackman
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge
Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr
The Wolves in the Walls by Neil Gaiman
Mega Robo Rumble: Mega Robo Bros 2 by Neil Cameron
The Journey by Francesca Sanna
The borrowers by Mary Norton

Term dates:

Autumn Term

Thursday, 3rd September 2026 to Friday, 23rd October 2026
Half Term: Monday, 26th October 2026 to Friday, 30th October 2026
Tuesday, 3rd November 2026 to Friday, 18th December 2026

Spring Term

Monday, 4th January 2027 to Friday, 12th February 2027
Half Term: Monday, 15th February 2027 to Friday, 19th February 2027
Monday, 22nd February 2027 to Thursday, 25th March 2027

Summer Term

Monday, 12th April 2027 to Friday, 28th May 2027
Half Term: Monday, 31st May 2027 to Friday, 4th June 2027
Monday, 7th June 2027 to Wednesday 21st July 2027

Trips, Workshops and Events

Dates for school trips, workshops and events will be shared through Arbor, our weekly newsletter and the school website calendar. Please check these regularly so you don't miss important dates and opportunities to get involved.

We really value our families being active members of our school community. When you attend workshops, you gain a better understanding of what and how your child is learning and how you can support them at home. Coming along to school events gives you the opportunity to share in your child's experiences, celebrate their achievements and strengthen the important relationship between home and school.

We also really appreciate parents and carers volunteering on school trips. Sharing these experiences with your child can spark conversations at home and give you a valuable insight into their school life.

Your support makes a real difference and helps us to provide more opportunities and experiences for our children.

Please come along and get involved whenever you can – we would love to see you!

- Y5/6 Helen Zughaib Class Welcome Meeting – Wednesday 23rd September at 9am.