

# St James Post

## HISTORY GIRLS!

*This group of girls become the first ever to take part in the Southwark League.*

Thursday, November 13th 2025 - a date that will go down in history for the girls of St James' Primary School. The PE Network's Southwark-wide football league had, until now, been reserved for the boys. But no more. For the first time ever, the girls entered a team, and yesterday marked their long-awaited debut - fittingly against old rivals, St Joseph's.

You could feel the excitement as fans poured into the stadium. Everyone knew how special the moment was, and perhaps that pressure played a part, as within just 20 seconds St James' found themselves behind. St Joseph's opened with five crisp passes before their striker slotted the ball home with ease. The girls looked stunned - this wasn't going to be the easy win some had hoped for. Still shaken, St James' struggled to settle, and it wasn't long before St Joseph's added a second. A mountain to climb, and barely any time had passed.

The positive? With both goals coming so early, there was still plenty of time to respond. After some words of encouragement and a brief spell of composure, St James' began to find their rhythm. **Heidi** started to dictate play from the back, and with **Emilia** and **Samantha** making clever runs ahead of her, pressure slowly began to mount on the St Joseph's goal.

Having covered nearly every blade of grass, **Hanna** came off for a well-earned rest, allowing **Z'Miyah** to step in as the lone striker. Her job: disrupt the back line. Her impact: instant. As the goalkeeper attempted a clearance, **Z'Miyah** timed her block perfectly, the ball ricocheted goalwards, and nestled into the bottom corner. St James' were back in it - and momentum had shifted.



**All smiles:** The Girls Senior Football team before kick off.

The match grew more physical, and St James' didn't shy away. **Samantha** in particular was a defensive wall, and it was her crunching tackle that set up **Scarlett**, who laced the ball into the top corner. From a disastrous start to a dramatic comeback, the score was suddenly 2-2. St Joseph's responded with attacks of their own, but **Oumou** produced a string of superb saves to keep things level. Coach Brenta also introduced **Sharon** - the only Year 5 selected after impressing in last Friday's training session. She brought calm and control, helping St James' reach half-time on level terms.

At the break, Coach Brenta made a few tactical tweaks. The game was there to be won, and the girls knew it. As the whistle blew for the second half, St James' flew out of the blocks, winning the ball high up the pitch. Sharp passing between **Emilia** and **Sharon** sent the ball to **Z'Miyah**, who buried her second of the match to give St James' the lead.

The improvement in passing was clear, starting right from the back with goalkeeper **Oumou**, who sliced open the St Joseph's defence time and again with pinpoint distribution. Unfortunately, one risky pass was intercepted, allowing St Joseph's to level at 3-3. With time slipping away, the next goal felt decisive. Both teams created chances, but it was the in-form **Z'Miyah** who found the breakthrough. After **Hanna** rolled the ball across midfield, **Z'Miyah** unleashed a rocket from near the halfway line - the strike was so long-range that she turned to ask Coach Brenta, "Did I score?" She had indeed, and St James' were back in front.

There was still time for one final moment of magic. **Heidi**, now pushed into midfield, drove forward, gliding past two defenders before firing home a beautiful finish to seal the win on this historic day.

**Final score:** St James' 5-3 St Joseph's

After the match, Coach Brenta spoke of his pride:

"They were amazing. They didn't let the early setback affect them, and they never gave up!"

**Girl of the Match:** the hat-trick hero, **Z'Miyah**.