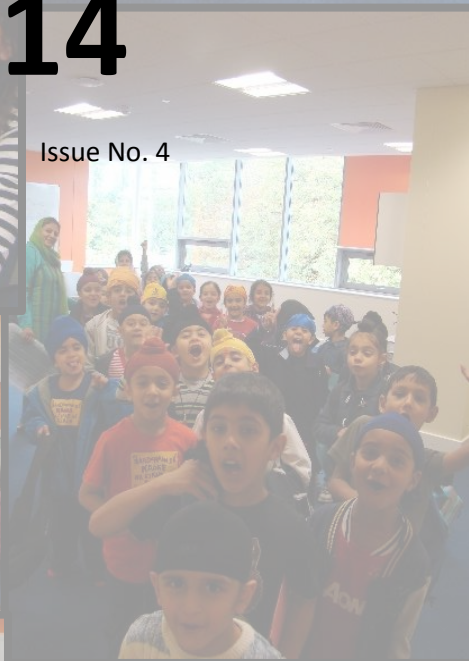
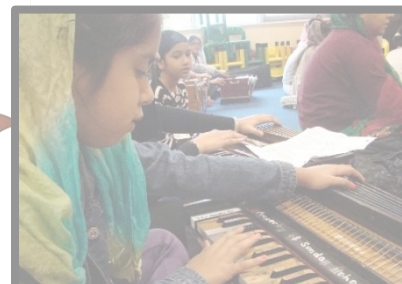
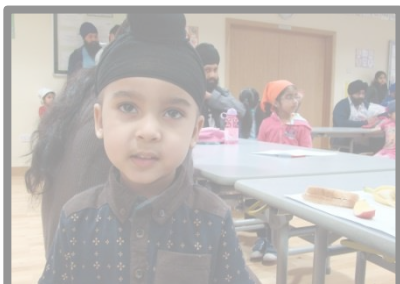




Singh Sabha Southall Education Centre



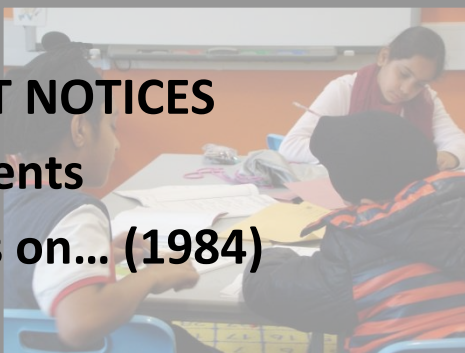
Issue No. 4

P2 & 3 – IMPORTANT NOTICES

P4 & 5 – Summer Events

P6 & 7 – Thirty Years on... (1984)

P8 – Kids' Page



Classes every Sunday held at Khalsa
Primary School, Norwood Green
For more information please contact us:
07941696607 (Sukhraj Kiran Kaur)
sssec@hotmail.co.uk
www.sssec.org
[www.twitter.com/sss_ec](https://twitter.com/sss_ec)

WELCOME BACK to the new academic year at SSSEC. We hope everyone enjoyed their summer and remembered to keep practising their Punjabi and kirtan/tabla lessons!

IMPORTANT NOTICES



Admissions

This year the admissions day was on **7th September**. The day went very **smoothly**, with 4 stations set up to help parents and students through the process **quickly and efficiently**. Almost 100 students registered on this day. However, **many more students** registered in the following weeks...There has been such a **surge** in student numbers that for the first time ever SSSEC has had to **unfortunately close admissions** to some classes, and start adding people to a waiting list. As of Sunday 12th October, there were almost **300 pupils** on roll, and a further 20-30 on the waiting list!



Advanced music classes

Exciting news for music students! Pupils now have the opportunity to learn from **top artists** in a **classical** North Indian musical instrument of **their choice**. Students will be able to choose one discipline to pursue, from **sitar, santoor, tabla, vocal, dilruba, violin and possibly more**. However, the availability of the classes depends on how many people sign up - we hope to start very soon this term, so please **contact us immediately** if you are interested. There will be a **separate registration fee** for these classes.

End of year reports!

Please can those students who were unable to collect their **goody bags** on the last day of term on **please collect them** by asking one of the SSSEC Team members. These are very important as they contain your **certificate, end of year report and exam results** – as well as some **gifts**!

Punctuality and absences

As mentioned in the home-school agreement, it is important for pupils to **arrive on time** and **not miss** any lessons. As classes are weekly, there are **only** around **35 lessons** each year! If missing a class is unavoidable, please inform us via **email or text only** – **and mention your pupil number**. Pupils who regularly miss classes **may be taken off the register**.

Newsletter submissions

All SSSEC students and teachers are encouraged to **submit** their creative work for **publication** in the next newsletter. The deadline for work to be submitted in the January Newsletter is **21st December 2014**. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Parents during lesson-time

Parents are **welcome into assembly**, but to minimise disruption, **no parents** should be present **in classes** unless they have the **consent** of the **class teachers**. If parents wish to stay during lesson time, they are welcome to attend the **parents' Gurmat class**, or help with **preparing lunch** for the pupils. Gurmat classes for parents are available every Sunday after assembly, from **11:00 – 12:00**. Currently, we are discussing the pronunciation and meanings of Japji Sahib, after which we will move on to other banis. All parents are **encouraged** to join.

Instrument usage

Due to the **rapid expansion** of the SSSEC kirtan and tabla classes, it has become **impossible** for all students to be provided with an instrument from the centre! All students are therefore **encouraged** to buy their **own instrument** – this will enable them to **practise** at home and get the most out of the Sunday classes. It is **advised** that you write your **name clearly** on your **instruments** to prevent them being mixed up with another pupil's. We would also like to remind the pupils that all instruments, whether belonging to them, the centre, or someone else, should be treated with **respect** and care as they can be easily **damaged**.



Upcoming Dates:

26th October – centre closed due to Nagar Kirtan

2nd November – centre closed due to half term and teacher training

21st December – end of term programme, newsletter submission
deadline, last day of term

11th January – classes restart



Summer Events

Summer 2014 was the busiest yet for SSSEC! Read on to find out more about what SSSEC students and teachers got up to over the summer term and holidays:

Punjabi GCSE & A level exams

2014 was another successful year for those taking Punjabi GCSE and A level exams. This year **6 pupils** sat Panjabi GCSE, with all **6 gaining A&B grades**. Two pupils took AS Level Panjabi, and both achieved A grades. **Well done** to all of you!



Hemkunt International Symposium

This year two of our students and two teachers qualified for the **international** round of the Hemkunt Symposium. Well done to **Japsimar Singh** and **Avneet Kaur**, who both travelled to Philadelphia to represent West London Zone in the competition!



Trip to Southampton and Bournemouth

Despite fears of wet and cold weather, the day of the **annual SSSEC trip** dawned bright and sunny. (Almost) everyone came prepared with snacks for the journey and **beach** gear ready. But before heading off to the beach, we stopped at Southampton Gurdwara to listen to and participate in **kirtan** – our kirtan **students and teachers** sang and played **beautifully** despite the students being very eager to reach the beach as quickly as possible! After having **langar, cupcakes and a group photo**, we boarded the coach to continue to **Bournemouth beach**. At the beach, some immediately decided to jump into the **waves**, while others chose to relax in the sun or build **sand castles**. As you can see from the selection of photos on these pages, we certainly had **a lot of fun**! (As well as a lot of **spring rolls & samosas** on the way there and back...)



End-of-year programme

The end of year programme 2014 was **bigger than ever**. The day started with assembly, kirtan and **prizes** being awarded to the top kirtan and tabla students. This was followed by a short break, during which parents and teachers helped distribute **tasty snacks**! Every Punjabi class had prepared a **short presentation**, after which prizes were given to those with the **best exam results, best effort, and best attendance** from each class. To finish off the presentations, there was a short skit prepared by the adult class, which left the whole audience in **fits of laughter**. (No one who was there will ever be able to eat a pera – or play golf – without thinking back to the play!) The teachers then handed out the pupils' **goody bags** (containing **their certificates, end of year reports, exam results**, and a small **gift**), followed by **pizza and chips** to end the day.



Picnic & Activities Day

After assembly as normal, the students were split into four teams to complete a **fun quiz** about what they had learnt from 'Sikhs in the **Spotlight**' over the year. It took slightly longer than expected to complete but this just showed how **determined** each team was to win! (Every member of the winning team was awarded **chocolate fingers**.) Everyone then went downstairs for the **picnic and games** that were taking place in the hall. There was a range of activities on offer, from **egg & spoon races** to skipping to **pinning the kakaars** on the picture of a Sikh child. There was even a **drawing competition** run by **Jagmohan Singh**, an artist who came in especially for the event.

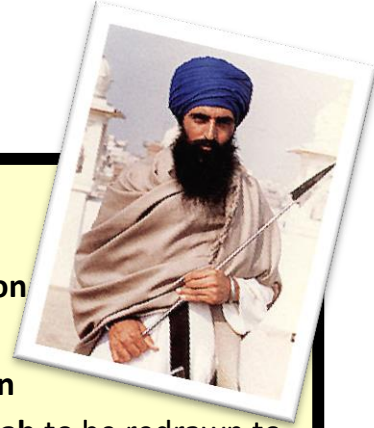
Music Exams

For the second year running, many of our kirtan and tabla students sat the Pracheen Kala Kendra **music exams**. These took place in September, with revision sessions held by our **dedicated music teachers** in the first and last weeks of the summer holidays. **Good luck** to the twenty-five of you who took the exams – we look forward to hearing your results!

6 Thirty Years on...

Background

During the 1970s, Sikh leaders in Punjab wrote the **Anandpur Sahib Resolution**. In this document they asked for all **Indian states** to be allowed **more control** over their own affairs. Among many other things, it also asked for **fair division** of **water** from the rivers running through Punjab, and for the **borders of Punjab** to be redrawn to include other Punjabi-speaking areas. The government felt **threatened**.



Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale was a **Sikh activist** who campaigned for the **implementation** of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution. He was a good **public speaker** and soon became very popular. This made him **dangerous** in the eyes of the Government, so they decided to **get rid of him** and labelled him a **terrorist**. This gave them a **reason to target** Bhindrawale, who decided to move to the **Harimandar Sahib** (Golden Temple).

June

Starting on 1st June, the Indian army launched an **attack on the Harimandar Sahib**. **Thousands** of Sikhs had gathered there to remember the shaheedi of Guru Arjan Dev ji. By 3rd June, Punjab was **cut off** from the rest of the world; all methods of communication and travel were **blocked**, and the electricity supply was **cut off**. **No journalists were allowed** into Punjab, and the entrances and exits of the Harimandar Sahib were **sealed**.

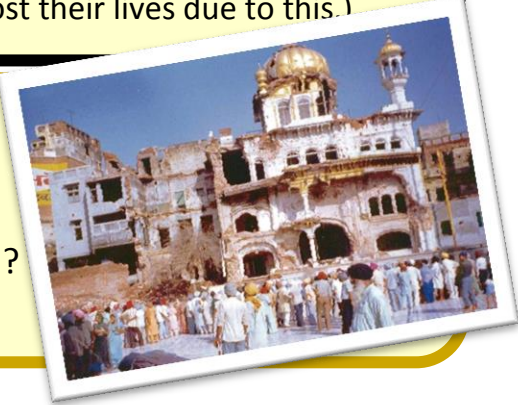
The next day, the army starting **firing** on the Harimandar Sahib, **killing** many people in the gun battles that followed. On 5th June, tanks were brought in for the next stage of **Operation Blue Star**. Over the next few days, **thousands were killed** and there was **great damage** to buildings in the Golden temple Complex, including the **Akal Takht**. Bhindrawale and many of his supporters were **killed** during the attack.

Even **after the attack** had ended, the **Sikh Reference Library** was burned down, resulting in the loss of many **rare artefacts and manuscripts** – some written by the **Gurus** themselves. However, it was looted by the army before being destroyed, and some of the library's contents are thought to still be with the Indian government.

Although **official** figures say **only 493 Sikhs** were killed, other people **estimate** that at **least 5000** were killed during Operation Blue Star. (Operation Woodrose also took place at the same time, where **other** Gurdwaras around Punjab were attacked by the army to **supposedly** draw out any militants and terrorists hiding there. **Hundreds of innocent Sikhs** lost their lives due to this.)

Questions

- 1) What happened in June 1984 in Amritsar?
- 2) What was the Indian government's excuse for what they did?
- 3) What happened in October and November 1984?



Do you know what happened to Sikhs in India thirty years ago, in 1984? Test your knowledge by answering the questions below – you can use the information on these pages to help you! ⁷

October/November

On 31st October, the Indian Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi was shot** and killed by her bodyguards **Beant Singh and Satwant Singh** in **revenge** for the June attack. Over the next few days, **thousands of Sikhs** in Delhi were killed by Hindu mobs in **revenge** for the death of Indira Gandhi.

However, these were **not ordinary riots**. These were **organised** by the **Indian police** and **government**. The mobs were given **the addresses of Sikhs** and **provided with weapons**. Some Sikhs were **burnt alive**, and many families lost their **homes and livelihoods**. Some were lucky to have **good neighbours and friends** who helped to hide them during the riots **despite the danger**.

Over 8000 Sikhs are estimated to have been killed in the Delhi 'riots'.

1984 - 2014

Since 1984, there have been **even more killings** – tens of thousands of Sikhs have '**disappeared**' or been arrested on **false** charges. Although justice has **not been given** to the thousands of Sikhs affected, there are many organisations and individuals trying to make a difference.



Charities such as **SOPW** help the families of those killed or arrested during this time, and lawyers such as **HS Phoolka** are trying to **gain justice** for the victims of 1984 by fighting their cases and taking up cases against those involved in carrying out the attacks. These people are **very brave** – many have been **threatened, arrested, tortured or killed** for exposing the government's actions. One example is **Jaswant Singh Khaira**, who was **kidnapped and murdered by police** in 1995.

What can I do?

Even if we feel like there isn't much we can do, **we can still help!** We can **donate to charities** and organisations trying to get justice and **make a difference** to those affected by 1984. Most people will **never even have heard** of Operation Bluestar or the **Delhi anti-Sikh riots**, so we can also **raise awareness** of this issue just by **talking to our friends** about it and maybe even doing a short presentation in class or a school assembly. But before doing this we should make sure we have **properly understood** what happened in 1984 by finding out more from books and the internet.

Finally, there is a website where you can **upload videos** of interviews with people who were alive in 1984. This website is creating an **amazing resource** by **preserving their experiences**, and we can easily **become a part of this!** Visit www.1984livinghistoryproject.org for more information.

4) In total how many people died due to these events?

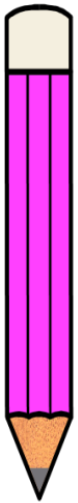
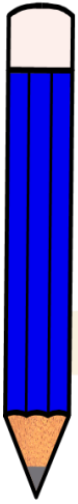
5) What can you do to make sure this isn't forgotten?

BONUS QUESTION

6) How have innocent Sikhs and their families been further affected since 1984?

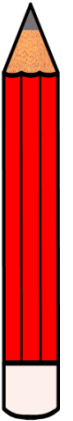
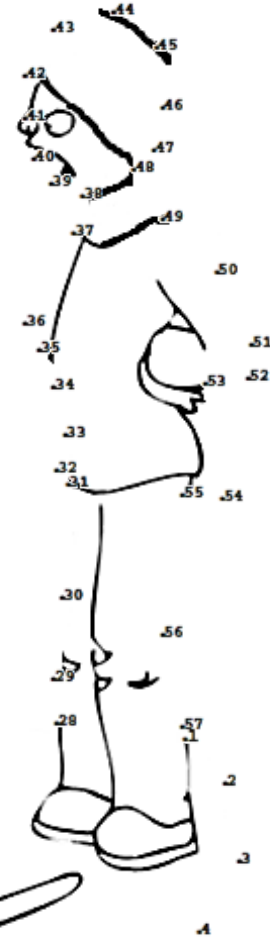
KIDS' PAGE

Connect the dots!



Here is the solution to the Sudoku puzzle in the previous newsletter.
Did you get it right?

੮	੨	੭	੬	੯	੧	੪	੫	੩
੩	੬	੪	੨	੫	੮	੧	੭	੯
੫	੯	੧	੭	੩	੪	੮	੨	੬
੬	੩	੮	੧	੭	੫	੯	੪	੨
੯	੪	੨	੮	੬	੩	੭	੧	੫
੧	੭	੫	੪	੨	੯	੩	੬	੮
੭	੫	੩	੯	੧	੬	੨	੮	੪
੨	੮	੬	੩	੪	੭	੫	੯	੧
੪	੧	੯	੫	੮	੨	੬	੩	੭



Here is a funny poem in Punjabi with an important message.

The **first ten students** to give us the correct English translation will get a **prize**!

ਦੇਖੋ ਮੱਖੀ ਕਿੰਨੀ ਸ਼ੈਤਾਨ, ਨਿੱਕੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਕੱਢੇ ਜਾਨ।

ਜਦ ਗੰਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਬਹਿ ਕੇ ਆਵੇ, ਨਿਰੀ ਬੀਮਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਲਿਆਵੇ।

ਨਿੱਕੀਆਂ ਨਿੱਕੀਆਂ ਲੱਤਾਂ ਉੱਤੇ, ਲੱਖਾਂ ਹੀ ਇਹ ਕੀਤੇ ਚੁੱਕੇ।

ਸਾਡੇ ਭੋਜਨ ਉੱਤੇ ਧਰ, ਕਹਿੰਦੀ 'ਖਾ ਕੇ ਜਾਵੇ ਮਰ!'

ਦੇਖੋ ਮੱਖੀ ਕਿੰਨੀ ਸ਼ੈਤਾਨ, ਨਿੱਕੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਕੱਢੇ ਜਾਨ।



If you want to submit something for the SSSEC newsletter, please email us at sssec@hotmail.co.uk