

# St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

## October 2018

Welcome to our October edition!

### Black History week and international food fair – we need your help!

We will be celebrating Black History Week next week with a range of events both in the classroom and beyond. Children will be exploring a range of black authors and artists and we have a number of visitors coming in to school to work with the children. We will be holding an **International Food Fair** after school in the hall next Thursday and would love parents to bring in their favourite foods. It can be any type of food that you and your family enjoy eating. We are asking children to pay £2.50 for a plate which they can then fill with 5 different types of food. **Please complete the slip on the Black History letter that was sent out earlier in the week or if you can't find it, please let the school office know. We need to know by next Monday who can bring along some food to ensure the event can go ahead.**

### Friends parent group

Our Friends group met recently to talk about possible events for the year ahead and to begin thinking about who can take on some of the roles such as chair person, treasurer and clerk. It was great to see some new faces there and to hear peoples ideas. They meet every Tuesday morning and would love as many parents as possible to come along. They are also considering having some of the meetings after school for those who can't come in the morning—watch this space for details.

### Contact information

We have tried to contact a few parents recently for emergencies in school only to discover the contact information we have is out of date. It is essential we can call parents and other contacts in an emergency. If we cannot, we may need to contact the police or social services. If the phone number for you or any other contacts has changed recently, please can you let the school know as soon as possible— thank you.

### Harvest thanks

Thank you to everyone who gave such kind donations for the Harvest service. These were distributed to a local charity who work with the homeless and were much appreciated.

### Zebra crossing update!

We recently heard from our local council that after lots of pressure from the school and parents, we may finally be getting a zebra crossing in front of the main school gate. Thank you to those parents who spoke with the people in the playground during the consultation process. We are crossing our fingers and hoping that we will have confirmation soon.

### Hair today...

One of our Reception children, Laura-Jean, recently appeared in the local paper for donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that makes wigs from real hair for children with cancer and other illnesses. We think it's a wonderful idea and shows what kind and thoughtful children we have at St John's. Well done Laura-Jean.



## Attendance and punctuality

Last year, we almost met our attendance target of 96%, with 95.7%. However, this is still one of the lowest figures in the borough and we would like to improve it further this year. We understand that children do fall ill from time to time but will be monitoring everyone's attendance figures at the end of half term and sending out a note to all those parents whose children have attendance below 95%. This is just to keep you informed as parents are often unaware of what their child's attendance is. The attendance and lateness figures for the term so far are:



	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Attendance %</b>	93.8	97.8	98.2	98.0	95.4	96.1	96.3	97.2
<b>Lates</b>	1	14	7	24	15	22	11	30

As you can see, it's been a great start with six of our classes achieving above 96%! Now we just need to work on punctuality to ensure all children are in on time to start promptly at 9:00am.

## School Foyer squeeze

Despite the reminder last month, some parents are still using the foyer at the start and end of the day as a cut through to the playground or as a place to sit while they are waiting to collect their children. It becomes extremely squashed and noisy and can be dangerous if the office staff can't see the door clearly. Please can I ask that parents use the side entrance unless you need to speak with someone in the school office. Thank you.

## Lunchtime providers

A number of parents have asked recently if the meat we use in school is halal. The catering contract was reviewed and updated recently and I can confirm that this will not include serving halal meat. However, there are daily vegetarian options should children wish to choose these.

## Bringing cards and other small games to school

We sent a text out this week to ask parents not to send their children to school with cards or other small games and collectables. Unfortunately they often cause arguments and disagreements which then spill in to the classroom. It can also be upsetting if they are lost. If your child's teacher has asked them to bring something in for show and tell or as part of a 'toy day' this is of course fine.

We break up for half term next Friday, the 19th. The second half of term begins on Monday 29th October.

Best wishes

Mr Welsh