

St John's Upper Holloway Newsletter December 2014



Welcome to the December newsletter, This term has rushed by and we are now at the time of year which is a flurry of nativity performances, carol singing and mince pies! As the Christmas holidays are nearly upon us, here are some updates as to some of the exciting things that have happened this term and some useful information for the final days of term ahead...

Trips and visits (Autumn term)

Many classes have been on trips and visits this term to support and deepen their knowledge of class topics (it's a pleasure to be able to say there are so many we can't include all of them in this letter!) but here are some highlights...



Y3 on a dig at the Jorvik Centre in York!



Y4 at RAF Hendon!



Y2 at the Tower of London!



Y6 at the National History museum!

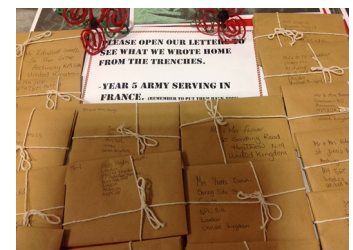


Y1 at the Florence Nightingale museum!



World War I themed week (November)

The whole school enjoyed a week of special lessons, events and activities, in remembrance of the 100 year anniversary of World War 1. Watching a play, the "build a bi-plane" competition, a themed mufti day, creating special art work and having a celebration gallery for parents at the end of the week, were just a few of the many engaging activities that happened. Please do take a look at the display in the school foyer for further examples of the children's work. Here is just a taster...



Updates and thank you!

- * Thank you to the Friends for a super Christmas disco last Friday and for organising a wonderful pantomime trip/visit for the whole school—the children enjoyed all events so much.
- * Thank you to the Playground Group and Friends (and all other parents involved!) for a wonderful Christmas Fair, raising yet more money for our school playground re-developments.
- * Thank you to everyone for supporting the Christmas Jumper Day last Friday (nice Elf costume Miss Eden!), you have helped raise money for children who have severe medical conditions.
- * Selling poppies in school raised £172 for the British Legion.
- * The Christmas shoe box appeal final total was 98 boxes made!! Thank you for your contributions towards these and towards the postage costs involved. Rev Karowei will be showing the whole school a video clip after Christmas of children receiving the boxes, so we can see how our school efforts are so appreciated by children in other parts of the world.
- * It has been delightful to see an increase in the number of parents who have volunteered to come into school and help out in classes. If this is something you would like to do too, please speak to Miss Leeb (Y2 teacher).



Christmas church service

This will be on the last day of this term, **Friday 19th December, at 10.00 in St John's Church**. All parents and carers are very welcome to join us and help with the carol singing! Please note that the gallery upstairs in the church is specially reserved for parents, friends and family to use in order for you to get a good view of the children, rather than the side pews next to the children. Thank you.

Important dates coming up

- Monday 15th December 10.00—EY/KS1 nativity dress rehearsal
- Tuesday 16th December 10.00—EY/KS1 nativity performance (tickets available at the office)
- Wednesday 17th December 10.00—EY/KS1 nativity performance (tickets available at the office)
- Wednesday 17th December 2.30—KS2 performance (tickets available at the office)
- Thursday 18th December 4.00—KS2 performance (tickets available at the office)

Please see your child's class teacher directly as to dates for class Christmas parties—thank you.

SCHOOL FINISHES FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ON FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER AT 2.00PM. THE CHILDREN COME BACK TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY (Mon 5th is a staff INSET day)



School uniform

Most children are looking very smart in the correct uniform at the moment. If your child is not wearing the correct uniform, please ensure that this is rectified ready for the new year. If you have any queries regarding the uniform requirements, please speak to Sue in the office.

Punctuality and attendance

Unfortunately, there are still a small number of families who take holidays in term time or who are persistently late bringing their children into school. Please ensure your child is in school ready to start the day at 9.00 so that their learning is not affected. **Please note that, in line with advice from Islington, we will be enforcing penalty fines to those families who take holidays during term time. We will also be issuing fines where a child is late (ie more than 5 minutes) 12 times or more in a 6 week period.**

As always, both myself and Miss Hughes are available to meet with you if you have any queries or suggestions. Please either come and speak to us in the playground at the start of the day or see Sue or Michelle in the office to make an appointment.

I wish you a very happy and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year—Merry Christmas!

Brian Welsh