

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

January/February 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. Read on for the latest news plus some of our recent highlights!

Parent governor elections

You should have received a letter earlier this week to let you know that we are looking to appoint a new parent governor. The role is an important one and the person who is elected will work closely with the rest of the governing body to ensure that our children receive the best education we can possibly offer.

GET INVOLVED!

The role does require the successful candidate to attend half termly committee meetings first thing in the morning as well as half termly full governing body meetings from 6-7:30pm. If you think you may be interested but would like to know a little more about the role, please feel free to come and talk with me or contact the chair of governors, Sue Hallam via the school office.



Number day and family Bingo event!

On **Friday 1st February**, the children will be having fun exploring all things number based. We will be asking children to get creative and think of something number-related to wear for fancy dress.



To get everyone in the mood, we will be having a **family Bingo event** the previous afternoon, on **Thursday 31st January in the hall**. It should be a lot of fun as well as giving everyone a chance to win some prizes. Teams need to have at least one adult so please look out for the Number Day letter coming home and sign the slip at the bottom

to be registered for the event. Places often run out quickly so return it as soon as you can. The Number Day event is in support of NSPCC and all money raised will go to this charity.

Helping your children with their learning

Although children do most of their learning in school, those who do a little extra at home are the ones who make the most progress. Reading is a hugely important part of this home-learning and we ask that you hear your child read, or read to them, every day, even (in KS2!).

We have also subscribed to a few websites that can really help your child's learning.

Purple Mash is brilliant and covers all areas of the curriculum—some teachers set homework linked to this site but it can be used for all kinds of creative things such as writing a booklet or developing their coding skills.

Mymaths covers all areas of the maths curriculum and can be used to support homework. It also models how to do many of those tricky things like division, ratios and fractions!

Times table rockstars is a new site that we are trialling. As all pupils across the country will soon be getting tested on their times table knowledge when they reach Year 4, it's never too early to start learning some of the easier tables (2s and 10s) before tackling the harder ones. Each child has their own log on details for each site and you should have received these already. However, if you haven't, please speak with your child's teacher and they will send it to you again.

Attendance and punctuality

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance %	95.1	96.8	94.3	97.8	96.5	95.9	97.0	95.7

Our attendance so far this year is 96.1%, just above our school target of 96%. A huge well done to Reception class and Years 2, 3 and 5 who are all above this target.

It is the half term when children often pick up colds and sniffles. If they are not too poorly, please do still bring them in. However, if they are too unwell to come in to school, can we ask you to call the school office first thing in the morning for each day they are off.

We still have quite a few children coming in after the bell rings at 9:00am. Please make a big effort to arrive **just before 9** so that your children have a smooth and calm start to their day.

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

All our teachers spent the January Inset day learning about how to develop children's questioning and thinking as part of the P4C project. Giving children the opportunities and skills to think more deeply is incredibly important in their learning journeys and we look forward to developing it further across the curriculum.

Back to Green

Children in KS2 have started a project called 'Getting back to Green'. It focuses on them identifying how they are feeling, including whether it is angry or upset, and then thinking about some of the strategies they can use to help them return to a happier and calmer state (green). Developing this 'emotional regulation' is an important part of growing up and developing good mental health.

Candoco dance group

Year 3 are due to start a dance project with the Candoco dance company. They are a truly inclusive dance group who's message is that everyone can dance, whatever challenges you may face. For any fans of strictly, they did the opening dance on one of the shows and have already briefly met the class. There will be an open-session for parents to come along and meet the dancers on Tuesday 19th March.

St John's present their Kahoot quiz at the Emirates!

A group of children from St John's went to the Islington schools' computing event at the Emirates Stadium to show off their skills using the Kahoot app. It allows children to develop their own quiz type questions linked to a topic they are studying and then test each other. Feedback was positive and even the person who invented the app thought they were great!

Upcoming dates and events

Thursday 7th Feb – Year 2 to Discovery, Angel (IT trip)

Thursday 14th Feb — EYFS Movie Night

Friday 15th Feb — break for half term at 3:30pm

Monday 25th Feb — children return to school at 9:00am

As always, please do come and chat with me if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Mr Welsh and all the staff at St John's.