

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

January 2016

A very happy new year to everyone– we hope 2016 will be a wonderful year for our children and families.

Christmas nativity and carol concert– thanks for the donations!



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our nativity and carol concert performances. Parents were also very generous in supporting our fund-raising efforts. Some of the money raised went to the Noah's Ark children's hospice and the remainder will contribute towards the fund for our new sound system.



Attendance and punctuality

Our attendance continues to improve across the school and we finished the term by celebrating all those pupils with 100% attendance– there were a lot of them! Our target for attendance is 96% so a very well done to Years 1, 4 and 6. Remember that we are unable to authorise holiday absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances and the local authority continue to impose penalty fares for unauthorised absences.

A small selection of children with their 100% attendance awards. Have a look at our website for all the other children who received an award!

	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	94.2%	96.2%	95.2%	93.9%	97.9%	95.6%	96.3%
Lates	44	115	86	78	53	50	25

However, punctuality remains an issue for some pupils and we would ask parents to ensure they leave enough time in the morning so that their children are in school before the bell rings at 9:00am prompt. Major changes are due to start shortly as part of the Archway gyratory redevelopment so this may make journeys by car longer than usual - please plan ahead!

Cars near the school !



In the last few newsletters we have asked parents not to park or drive near the entrance to the school. There have still been a few cases of "near misses" as a result of cars parking or turning by the zig-zag lines or school gates. Please consider our children and try to drop your children off away from the school entrance. Thanks.



Recent events and trips



Nursery and Reception class started the term with a trip to the discovery centre in East London. It was a fantastic day out and enabled them to learn through exploration and play.

Year 1 have also been on a trip to the Islington Museum to find out more about nursing in the past, as part of their topic on Mary Seacole.

Upcoming dates and events...

Monday 25th January– Year 2 will be visiting the Museum of London

Wednesday 27th January– Year 5 will be creating their own pizzas at Pizza Express

Tuesday 2nd February– Year 4 are visiting Kew Gardens

Tuesday 2nd February—KS1 and KS2 are watching a drama production called “car-less talk”!

Wednesday 3rd February– RSPB are visiting years 1, 2 and 3.

Friday 12th February– we break for half term at 3:30pm.

New fencing!

We are due to get all our old perimeter fencing replaced in the next week or two. It will help to smarten up entrances to the school and make sure they reflect all the improvements that have taken place in the playgrounds and classrooms. Temporary fencing will be put up while the work takes place to ensure all the children remain safe in school. We can't wait to see the finished result!

Your views

A governor newsletter will be coming home shortly to tell you about the areas of school improvement they are focusing on this year. They will be meeting in a few weeks time to think about some of the longer term goals for the school and would like to have your thoughts and ideas about which aspects of school life you think we should be improving further. We will have a suggestion box in the school foyer shortly and would be grateful for any ideas you have.

Class webpages and our new website

We have recently updated our class webpages to give parents an insight into what the children are learning, including trips and special events that have taken place. The class pages also provide some useful links to websites that can support your child's learning. Please have a look when you have a moment. We will be replacing our old website with a completely new one in early March so please keep your eyes open for the official launch! Our website address is www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk

Please don't hesitate to speak with myself or any member of staff if you have something you would like to discuss.

Best wishes

Mr Welsh