

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

February and March 2018

A very warm welcome to our latest newsletter. There have been all sorts of things happening in school this half term so read on for more information.

Easter Disco

Despite the freezing temperatures, there was a great turnout at the Easter disco. As always, the Friends had organised a fantastic event that not only let everyone show off their Easter bonnets and dancing skills but also raised lots of money for the school. **Although the Friends group is fairly small, they do a huge amount of work throughout the year to benefit all our children and I'm sure you would like to join me in thanking them for everything they do.**

Daily Mile



Like many schools, we are thinking of ways to help our children be more active as a way of reducing the levels of childhood obesity and the illnesses associated with this later in life. After meeting Elaine Wyllie, the founder of the Daily Mile initiative, Miss Smith decided we should start it here at St John's. So, last week, Year 1 began their daily run in an attempt to raise their fitness levels. Journalists from the Daily Telegraph came to see us launch the project and will be coming back in a few months time once we have extended it to other classes, to see how we are getting on.

Forest School

Forest school continues to be a huge success with pupils and parents alike! The parents of the most recent Forest School students joined them at Queen's Wood to help them with their learning. Here are some picture highlights.



A new vicar for St John's

We are delighted to hear that a new vicar, **Revd Allan Comfort**, has been appointed and will be starting in his new role on 28th June. We will be seeing him in school later in the summer term and I'm sure you would like to join me in welcoming him to our school community.

SEN coffee mornings

At our latest coffee morning, Miss Susan talked about using Makaton sign language to support children with speech and language needs. Feedback was very positive and another coffee morning will be arranged next term. If you have any areas you would like to focus on, please let Mr Turpin know.

Gate security

We have recently noticed that some parents are propping the school gate open to make it easier for others to come in to school. Although we understand they are doing it to be helpful, it does represent a possible security risk. Can everyone please ensure the gate closes behind them when they come in to school— thanks

Attendance and punctuality so far this year

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance %	93.7	95.0	94.6	96.3	96.2	95.7	95.0	96.4
Lates	34	129	114	136	107	132	78	38

Well done to Years 2 and 3 who have joined Year 6 in getting their attendance above our target of 96%.

We still have lots of parents coming in to school with their children a few minutes late every day – please remember they need to be in before the bell rings at 9:00am and will be marked late if they are not in class and ready for the register by 9:05am.

School magazine — read all about it!

We had some wonderful applications from the children to work in various roles on our new school newspaper. They will be getting a letter later this week to tell them if they have been successful or not. This week we are inviting the children to name the newspaper and hope to have the first edition available shortly after the Easter Holidays. Watch this space!

Maths workshops for parents

Thank you to those parents who attended the maths workshops a couple of weeks ago. Turnout in Year 2 was great but we had tiny numbers in most of the other classes. What the teachers produced was really helpful in explaining how we teach maths at St John's and providing guidance on how you can best support your children at home. We will be posting the information produced for each class on to the school website – just click on the “learning” tab and then select “guides for parents”.

Recycling

Miss Smith has taken on the challenge of helping our school to be more eco-friendly. She now has a team of eco-warriors who are responsible for ensuring we recycle as much as we can and minimise waste, including not wasting electricity. She will be setting up a display in the school foyer so you can see what we have been doing.

Book Worms

Our Bookworms have been meeting with Mr Turpin and exploring the book, “Rooftoppers”. They are due to go on a climbing trip this week to get a sense of what it's like to be climbing at height!

Getting your views

We have recently asked children to tell us their views on all aspects of school life and it's now turn for parents! A parent questionnaire should be in your child's bag today and we will also be giving out copies at the Parents' Evenings this week. We really do appreciate feedback that can help us improve further and if there are things we are doing well, it's great to hear about that too! Governors will be at both parents evenings too and always appreciate it when parents come and talk with them about any aspect of school life.

Upcoming dates and events

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st March – Parents' Evenings in school – please sign up!

Wednesday 28th March – Easter service - parents are welcome to join us in the church.

Thursday 29th March — school closes at 2pm. Children can be collected after registration at 1:30pm.

Monday 16th April — staff training day

Tuesday 17th April — Children return to school — 9am prompt!

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