

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

March 2015

A very warm welcome to our March newsletter.

Playground update

Many of you will have seen the incredible transformation that has happened with the lower playground. The children have been SO excited and have been counting the days until they can get onto the equipment! As you know, raising the money to pay for this was a lot of dedication and hard work from many people in the school and we will be organising an official "playground opening ceremony" in the near future to which all those involved in raising money and those from outside school who have contributed towards the cost, will be invited (further details will follow shortly).

In light of health and safety, please do not let your children go on the playground equipment before or after school—thank you.

Red Nose Day is this Friday 13th March!!

Not only are we asking everyone to **please dress in as much red as possible on this day (and please bring £1)** we are also having a **"Great Comic Relief Bake Off"!!!**

If you would like to enter a bake for this event (and just to let parents know, many staff are feeling very competitive about it!) then please **bring it in no later than 2.30pm this Friday**. All entries will be judged and certificates will be awarded! After school on Friday you can then come and buy the cakes.

Do please get baking and help us raise money for Comic Relief!



The chicks have been back!

We have been very lucky to have the Happy Chick Company bring us eggs again this year, which we are pleased to report that ALL hatched successfully. The children were able to base lots of their class work on this, including life cycles, conditions for animal growth and consideration of what it means to "nurture" something. Here they are...



Attendance and punctuality

The previous month's results are:

Class	Attendance (target 96%)	Lates (target is 0!)	Number of children who were late
Reception	88.9—very low	10	8
Year 1	95.4—fine	14	6
Year 2	91.4—very low	29	13
Year 3	97.3—excellent	22	7
Year 4	93.9—low	14	7
Year 5	89.7—very low	16	7
Year 6	96.9—good	8	7

Last term our attendance figures were very low due to illness, including chicken pox, which seemed to spread between children and classes, so this term we are hoping to get back on track. There are also a few children who are consistently late and this is obviously very disruptive to the start of their day (as well as the learning of the rest of their class).

Please ensure your child is in school on time every day, thank you.



Your school needs YOU!

School maintenance fund

This is just a reminder that the school **maintenance fund** is due. This fund is payable each year and goes towards making sure we can safeguard many of the exciting trips, resources, furniture, books and warm classrooms. ***Your contributions really do make a difference to what we are able to provide for your children.***

The amount due is:- **1 child = £30, 2 children = £50, 3 or more children = £60**

Please note that the payment is for one whole year.

A letter explaining the purpose of this payment will be sent out from the Chair of Governors shortly. In the meantime, please see Sue in the office regarding payments for any of the above mentioned items.

Buzz club and music lessons

We would like to remind parents that if you sign your child up to attend Buzz club or to have music lessons, that these need paying for promptly. If arrears occur, your child may lose their place, so please do speak with Andrea (school business manager) at the earliest point in order to avoid this. Thank you.

School trips

On the letters that go home to parents, you may notice that it states the total cost of a trip and asks for a "voluntary contribution" towards this cost from parents. We are aware that this relies on good will from parents, but recently we have seen a decline in parental contributions towards the costs of school trips. As a school, we have a set budget that contributes towards trip costs, but this budget has depleted greatly in recent months due to parents not contributing as they have done in the past. ***We ask you to please provide the contributions. We do not want to have to cancel trips due to not being able to pay for them. Thank you.***

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please make a time to speak with your child's teacher or see Sue in the office and she will make an appointment for you to see me.

Brian Welsh