

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

May 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.

Daily Mile is rolling out!

Our Year 1s have enjoyed the Daily Mile so much that it is now beginning to roll out to other classes. Our aim is to increase our children's fitness levels so that they are all able to run and jog for 15 minutes each day without stopping. Our children were so enthusiastic that the Sunday Telegraph wrote an article about them!



General data protection regulations (GDPR)

Like all organisations across the country, we are reviewing and updating how we collect and use your personal information and data. We will be updating our privacy notices for parents, pupils and staff and also updating our data protection policy. These will be available on our school website within the next couple of weeks and we will send a text nearer the time to remind you. If you want to know more about the GDPR please come and ask at the school office.

The Friends — we need your help

The Friends are a small group of very hard working parents who fundraise for all the children in the school. This term, a number of classes have been able to go on trips that are either highly subsidised or free as a result of the Friends' donations. They have also given each class £400 to spend on resources and games that the children had requested. In these times of reducing school budgets, this makes a huge difference to the children in each class. As we get to the end of the year, a few of our Friends may be moving on and we are very keen to have some new parents to help. If we don't, we may face the prospect of having no Friends group at all and therefore no social events or fundraising. If you think you may be able to help, even if it's not every week, please either speak with the school office or to one of the Friends. They meet every Tuesday morning and would love to see a few new faces.

Questionnaires

Thank you to all the parents who completed a questionnaire for us — your feedback is always very helpful. We have sent summaries of the parent and pupil questionnaires home with the children so please check for it in their bags!

Uniform

I have recently noticed that a number of children are not wearing the correct school uniform. Footwear can only be plain dark shoes or trainers, not open-toed sandals or trainers with bright logos. Children are also wearing jewellery and very large hair bows. We have a no-jewellery policy (apart from stud earrings) as necklaces and hoop earrings can be a safety risk. Please make sure your child is dressed in the correct school uniform each day. If in doubt about any item of clothing, call the office to check.

Yes please!



No thanks!



Attendance and punctuality so far this year

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance %	93.8	95.0	94.8	96.2	96.2	95.8	94.6	96.4
Lates	46	177	147	168	121	155	91	50

Well done to Years 2 and 3 who have joined Year 6 in getting their attendance above our target of 96%. Year 4 aren't far off either! 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.

Fruit for KS2

Some of our health conscious Year 4 children have asked if Key Stage 2 children can bring in fresh fruit to eat at morning playtime. We think it's a great idea and have said yes. However, we do ask that it is just fresh fruit and not dried fruits or fruit strips that can be very high in sugar.

Crossing update

We are due to send our petition off to the local councillor regarding our request for a zebra crossing in front of the main school entrance. If you would like to add your name to the petition, please come in and ask at the school office.

Homework and reading diaries

I have recently been looking through homework folders and reading diaries in each class. It was fantastic to see some of the hard work and shared learning that takes place every day at home. However, there are a number of children who either don't complete homework or have very little written in their home reading diaries. This is such an important part of their learning routine and makes a big difference to how well they achieve in school, so can I ask that all parents make the time to read with their child every day and make sure they are able to complete their homework successfully. Thanks.

Early to bed, gaming and electronic devices in the evening

We have an increasing number of children who appear very tired in the mornings and find it hard to concentrate in class. They tell us they are going to bed very late, often watching TV or playing on their electronic devices. The school day can be a long and demanding one requiring lots of brain power so we ask that you review bedtimes if needed! We have also noticed an increasing number of problems as a result of children making unpleasant comments to or about each other on gaming devices. If your child uses these, it would be worth you monitoring the type of conversations they have on there.

Walk to school week

Next week we are encouraging all children to walk (or cycle or scooter) to school as part of national "Walk to School Week". Children will receive a diary to record their progress, stickers for each day walked and sunflower seeds to grow. If you live a very long way from school, they can walk part of the distance. Given the levels of air pollution in London and increasing levels of childhood obesity, it seems like a great initiative and we hope you will help your child to take part.

Upcoming dates and events

Mon 21st May—Year 6 trip to Lauderdale House
Friday 25th May—break for half term at 3:30pm
Monday 4th June—children return to school
Tuesday 5th June—class photos (smart school uniform please!)

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