

# St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

## November 2018

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It's a busy time as we head towards Christmas!

### Friends parent group raise over £15,000 with the Co-op

We were delighted when we discovered the Friends had been approved as one of the charities the Co-op were going to support last year. When Ellie and Bianca initially applied, we thought we may get a thousand pounds or so but were amazed when we were told they had raised £15,832 for us. For the last few years, our laptops in classrooms have been showing signs of old age, meaning many of our IT lessons are not as productive as they could be. We have therefore decided to buy a new class set of chrome books, plus some additional i-pads which will be much quicker and easier for the children to use. A huge thank you to our Friends who helped to make the link with the Co-op and Aarna's mum who encouraged us to apply.



### Zebra crossing update 2

We recently heard that the proposed zebra crossing at the main school entrance has been approved by the council. It shows what 'parent power' can do when we unite and insist on changes that will make our children's lives safer. The work is due to start in February. Thank you for your support.

### Book sale

A big thank you to Miss Susan and Miss Andrea who organised a book sale last week. They raised almost £200 for the school which will go towards buying new books for the classrooms.

### Farewell Miss Smith and hello Mr Jenks

As you will already know, we are sadly having to say goodbye to Miss Smith who will be returning to Australia next week. It has been wonderful having her here at St John's and I know the children and staff will really miss her—especially her passion for recycling and for introducing the Daily Mile. We are a greener and fitter school as a result of her being with us! We are delighted to welcome Mr Jenks who will be starting on 3rd December and working alongside Miss Giles until taking on the class full time in January. Some of you got a chance to say hello to him a few weeks ago when he came in for a transition day and I'm sure you will make him feel very welcome.

### Making the most of online resources

Miss Ross Goobey is sending home information about a range of online websites your children can access to help them with their learning. These include sites such as Purple Mash, LGFL and Mymaths and can be used to support their homework. Your children will need a log in and password for some of these and this will be written on the letter that comes home so please keep it somewhere safe. If you are not familiar with these websites, it can be a bit overwhelming, so **Miss Ross Goobey will be holding a parent session at 3:30pm on Wednesday 5th December in Year 2 to talk parents through how to make the most of them.** These are fantastic resources and we would love to see as many parents as possible at the event. If you can't make it but would like some guidance, please just let us know and we will find a time to talk you through the most important information. If you don't have access to a computer at home, we can make sure your children have time to work on the laptops to do their homework in school—just let us know.

## Attendance and punctuality

As you know, our attendance target this year is 96% - a figure we have come close to achieving in the past but never quite reached! **We are delighted to say our attendance is currently 96.5% which is fantastic news.** Thank you to all of our parents for working with us to ensure there are no unnecessary absences.

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance %	95.3	97.7	96.2	97.7	95.7	96.4	96.9	95.9
Lates	3	46	17	65	39	58	50	76

Those children with attendance below 90% are classed as 'persistently absent'. A large proportion of these are children who have taken time out of school for a holiday during term time. Can we remind all parents that we are unable to authorise holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances which have been approved in advance by the school. If you do take an unauthorised holiday, it could lead to you receiving a penalty notice (fine) from the local authority and possibly a criminal record if this is not paid. If children are absent from school and we do not know of their whereabouts, we may also need to inform the police and report your children as missing. To ensure you don't book holidays on the wrong dates by mistake please ensure you know our holiday dates. These are:

***Christmas holiday: Monday 24th December to Monday 7th January (school re-opens on 8th Jan)***

***Spring half term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February (school re-opens on 25th February)***

***Easter: Monday 8th to Monday 22nd April (school re-opens on 23rd April)***

***Summer half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May (school re-opens on 3rd June)***

***Summer holiday: finish Friday 19th July and children return on Wednesday 4th September 2019.***

Making sure your children are in school and ready for the bell at 9:00am is equally important – even coming in 5 minutes late can be disruptive to the class and stressful for your child. If you have children to drop off in both early Years (Nursery and Reception) and Key stage 1 or 2, please drop off the older children before the bell rings and ensure your children are ready to come in to the Early Years classes at 9:00 prompt. Thank you.

## Upcoming events

**Wednesday 5th December—'making the most of learning online' workshop for all parents @ 3:30pm in the Y2 classroom**

**Friday 7th December—Year 3 visit Gillespie Park**

**Friday 7th December—School Christmas Disco—we'd love to see everyone there for dancing, Santa's grotto, tombola and much more**

**Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December—Parents Evenings in the hall.**

**Friday 14th December—school Christmas lunch**

**Friday 14th December—Key Stage 2 go to Alexandra Palace for a Horrible Histories Panto**

**Monday 17th December—Infant and Junior Nativity/panto dress rehearsals**

**Tuesday 18th December—Infant Nativity for parents at 10am. Key stage 2 Panto for parents at 2:00pm**

**Wednesday 19th December—Infant Nativity for parents at 10am. Key stage 2 Panto for parents at 4:00**

**Thursday 20th December—Nursery and Reception go to see The Gingerbread Man at Jackson's Lane Theatre.**

**Friday 21st December—Church Service at 10:00am—all welcome. Break for the Christmas holidays at 2:00pm**

Please feel free to come and speak with me if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Brian Welsh

