



# St John's Upper Holloway Newsletter

## October 2014

Welcome to the October edition of the St John's newsletter. Already the weeks are flying past and the children are settling in to their new classes and producing some wonderful work. Miss Jodie is leaving us to begin her maternity leave and I'm sure you will all join me in wishing her well. We will keep you informed of how she is getting on. A new teaching assistant, Miss Hollie, will be covering for a year and we are delighted to welcome her to the school.

**Playground Update** Some of you recently came along to the meeting in the hall about our plans for the new lower playground. Here is the (hopefully) final design. As you can see, a large area will now have a soft surface with short astroturf. The existing play structure will be significantly extended to include a wide range of activity spaces, there will also be several climbing structures and some lovely new seating areas. We hope you like it! The cost is around £55,000 and although we have raised a large part of this already through the work of the Playground Project Group and a grant from the Business Design Centre, we will still need to raise a bit more. We are hoping to now get the work completed in the middle of Spring term and urge you to continue to support our fundraising efforts in the months to come.



### Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the fundraiser such a huge success. Almost £480 was raised for the charity and masses of delicious cake was consumed!

Here are school council who, with Miss Leeb's enthusiastic guidance, helped at the event making sure all the visitors had all the cake they could manage!



### **Cut price book sale—Wednesday 8th October**

The Playground Project Group are organising a fantastic book sale at the Gate Café on Archway Island next Wednesday from 9.30am to 1pm. They are all high quality books donated by the Guardian and money raised will go towards our new playground project. Look out for the flyers and posters that are appearing and pop along for a chance to buy some early Christmas presents.

The recent book sale in school was also incredibly popular and we raised £640 which will give us plenty of commission to be spent on books for our classrooms.

### **Small Change Challenge**

It's that time of year again when we ask everyone to save up all their small change and bring it in to school for the Friends Small Change Challenge. All money raised helps the Friends support the wide range of trips and other special events that take place in school each term. More information to follow shortly.

### **Harvest Service**

Our Harvest Service in church is on Wednesday 8th October at 10.00—we'd love you to come along and join us with singing! Please do bring in your Harvest Service contributions before Wednesday. Many thanks for your support.



### **Important dates coming up this half term**

Tuesday 7th October—Road safety theatre show for Rec, Y1 and Y2

Wednesday 8th October—Harvest service

Thursday 9th October—London Fire brigade assembly

Tuesday 14th October—Year 2 trip to Pizza Express

Friday 17th October—Year 1 attend a London Symphony concert at the Barbican

Monday 20th October—Year 2 trip to the Tower of London

Tuesday 21st October—visiting drama company working with Year 5

### ***SCHOOL FINISHES FOR HALF TERM ON FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER AT 3.30pm***

### **School uniform update**

It's wonderful to see so many children now wearing the correct school uniform. I'm aware there were problems with the online order system at Marks and Spencer earlier in the term but these are now all resolved. If your child is not yet wearing the correct uniform, can you please buy this as soon as possible.

### **Punctuality and attendance**

I met with the education welfare officer today to go through the attendance and punctuality data for each class. Although our figures have improved slightly from last year, there are still a small number of families who take holidays in term time or are persistently late. ***In line with advice from Islington, we will be enforcing penalty fines to those families who take holidays during term time. We will also be issuing fines where a child is late (ie more than 5 minutes) 12 times or more in a 6 week period.***

As always, both myself and Miss Hughes are available to meet with you if you have any queries or suggestions. Please either come and speak to us in the playground at the start of the day or see Sue or Michelle in the office to make an appointment.

Brian Welsh