

# St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

September 2018

## Welcome to the new school year!

A very warm welcome back to school. It's been lovely to chat with so many parents and children about their summer breaks and I'm really looking forward to the year ahead. I'm delighted to welcome three new teachers to our team—Ms Ross Goobey in Year 2, Ms Bishop in Year 4 and Mr Evans in Year 5. I hope you've had a chance to meet them at the 'meet the teacher' sessions or just to say hello in the playground. You may have also noticed that Mrs Dato and Miss Neneh are no longer working with us in their TA roles. They have both been with us a very long time and I am happy to say that they are still with us but in a slightly different role at Breakfast and Buzz clubs and lunchtimes.

### Some upcoming events...

#### Walk to school day—Friday 21st September.

We live in a particularly busy and polluted part of London and are encouraging all our children to walk to school next Friday as part of a joint initiative with Archway Zero Emissions Network. They can of course also cycle, scooter, skip etc! Every car journey that is prevented makes a small difference to our air quality.



#### Black History and international food events.

In the **last week of this half term**, we will be celebrating Black History Week. Children will be exploring black authors and artists and we will be inviting a range of guests in to enrich the curriculum with art, music and literacy. We'd also love to have a food fair with parents bringing in their home-made favourites (from any country!). We will send more information over the coming weeks.

Individual **school photos** will be taking place on **Tuesday 2nd October**. Can you please make sure your children are looking their best and wearing correct uniform – thanks.

#### Harvest Festival service—Wednesday 3rd October from 10:00-11:00am

We are celebrating Harvest in Church and will be inviting parents to bring food into school nearer the time so that it can be distributed to local residents and charities. Parents are very welcome to join us for the service in church .

### School Uniform



We have heard from a number of parents that there have been issues with our uniform being out of stock at Marks and Spencer online. We have spoken with them and they have assured us it will be available again in 3-5 days. If you still have difficulties after this period please let us know so we can chase them up.

A reminder that the correct uniform is shown in the foyer with the polo t-shirt, sweatshirt and cardigan having the school logo on them. Children can wear grey trousers or skirts or navy blue jogging bottoms. They will also need the navy blue T-shirt with logo for PE.

Can parents also make sure that their children have plain, dark shoes or trainers (with no logos, patterns or colours)

### Friends parent group

Our Friends group do fantastic work, raising funds for all our classes so that they get additional resources and can go on free or subsidised trips. We mentioned last term that we are very worried that the number of parents who come to support has dropped significantly, meaning that the Friends group may not survive. We will be holding a coffee morning and coffee afternoon in the next few weeks and would love as many parents as possible to come along to find out how you can help— even if you can't make the normal Friends meetings. We will send a text out soon to confirm dates.

## Attendance and punctuality

One of our priorities this year is to ensure punctuality improves for many of our children. Myself and Mr Turpin will be out on the school gate each morning to monitor which children are persistently late. Please allow time for your children to get to school before the bell goes at 9:00am.

A number of families have also requested time out of school during term time.

***We have very strict guidance from the local authority to ensure absence is only authorised in exceptional circumstances. Where it is not approved, families may face a penalty fine or court action so please discuss any planned absence with us in advance so that you know whether it will be approved or not.***

We also want to celebrate excellent attendance and punctuality and will be recording our weekly results on the parent noticeboard each week as well as celebrating the best classes in assembly. Here is Phoebe Jenkins (aka early Bird) who is presented to the class with best punctuality each week.



## School Foyer squeeze

Our school foyer is very small and so we ask parents not to use it as a route to and from the playground or as a place to sit while you are waiting to collect your children. Please can I ask that parents use the side entrance unless you need to speak with someone in the school office. Thank you.

## School website

Just a reminder that our school website ([www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk](http://www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk)) has a lot of really useful information, including key dates and recent newsletters. Each class teacher is currently updating their class webpage to highlight what the class are learning this term and suggest ways you can help them at home. The school subscribe to [www.mymaths.co.uk](http://www.mymaths.co.uk) and this is a fantastic resource to help your children improve their maths skills at home. If you are not sure how to log on, please chat with your child's teacher.

## Updating our contact information

The school office will be sending out a form soon to ask parents to update their key information, including phone numbers and email. It is extremely important that we have up to date information in case there is an emergency at school so we would appreciate if everyone can return the forms promptly. In an attempt to reduce how much paper we use each week, we are hoping to send out more letters via email for those parents who would prefer it, so if you can include your email address that would be very helpful.

## Our school development priorities 2018-19

Each year we identify some of the main areas we want to focus on with the whole school community to ensure our school is as good as it can be. We have attached a copy for you to look at. If you have any thoughts or ideas about it, please do let us know—we'd love to hear from you.

I hope you and your child have a very enjoyable and successful year ahead but if you do have any concerns or suggestions please make sure you come and speak with myself or one of the members of staff. You can also put any suggestions in the suggestion box in the foyer.

Best wishes

Mr Welsh