

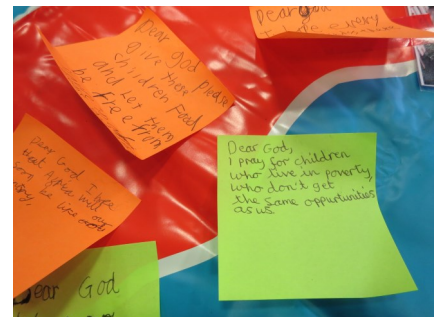
St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

October and November 2016

Welcome to our latest newsletter. It's lovely to have the children back after their half term break and we are looking forward to a busy and productive month ahead.

Prayer day

This event was organised by our RE leader, Miss Giles and one of our parents, **Mim**. It was the first time we have held a prayer day with the children and it was a chance for them to think about the world around them, including their families and friends. Some of our children enjoyed creating their own prayers, some spent time discussing issues that affect them with their friends and others just enjoyed the opportunity to sit somewhere quiet and think deeply. We had a wonderful response from the children and are already planning our next one. If you would like to know more about our prayer days, please come and speak with myself, Miss Hughes or Miss Giles.



Parent open day

Some of our parents have said they would like to have the opportunity to spend some time in class, looking at their children's books and finding out more about some of the learning that has been taking place. We think it's a great idea and so have planned an **open classroom session from 3:00-3:30pm on Wednesday 23rd November**. If you are free at this time, we'd love to welcome you into our classrooms. If you can't make that time, please just chat with your child's teacher to arrange a time for you to look at their books before we have parents evenings at the end of the term.

Black History week

Before half term we celebrated Black History Week with a great range of stories, poetry, art, music and dance. One of our ex parents, Nicole, also came in to inspire the children with an assembly based on the quote from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first woman president "The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them". We brought the week to a close with a wonderful international food fair. The children were able to try a range of food and drinks brought in by our parents. It was absolutely wonderful to see everyone coming together to try foods, many for the first time. A huge thank you to those parents who contributed so much to make the event a great success.



Forest school

Forest school is a leading organisation in outdoor education and focuses on developing children's confidence, independence and team work when solving a wide range of practical problems. Ms Barbara recently completed her training for Forest school and will be taking a group of eight Reception children each week to Highgate Woods. Later in the year it will roll out to the rest of early years and key stage 1.



Other events

- Weds and Thurs 9th & 10th November– Zoolab in classes with their animals
- Thurs 10th Nov– early years open afternoon
- Mon 14th Nov– filling the boxes with xmas donations as part of operation Christmas child
- Thurs 17th Nov– Year 2 visit the Islington museum for art, storytelling and archaeology
- Tues 22nd Nov– Year 1 visit Islington museum for a nurses workshop
- Weds 23rd Nov– parent open afternoon from 3:00-3:30pm
- Thurs 24th Nov– Anti-bullying show and workshop for Years 5 and 6
- Fri 25th |Nov– Year 5 to Gillespie Park

Attendance and punctuality update

	Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Attendance	97.0	95.1	96.9	95.9	92.8	95.1	95.7	95.6	95.5

At the end of half term we celebrated all those children with 100% attendance and punctuality. They can be seen on the screen in the office but here is a sample! Well done to Nursery and Year 1 who are both above our target of 96% attendance so far this year.



Start and end of the school day

Recently, an increasing number of children have been coming in to school before the gates open at 8:45am. They cannot go through to the playground as it is not supervised and therefore need to sit in the foyer which can become very busy first thing in the morning. **Can we please ask that you don't arrive at school before 8:45am or if you do arrive very early, check them in to breakfast club which costs £2 (or £8 for the week).** Similarly, the foyer is getting incredibly busy and noisy between 3:00 and 3:30 with parents waiting to collect their children, making it very difficult for the office staff to work. **Can we ask that parents wait in the playground at the end of the day when they are waiting for their children.** Thank you.

Xmas Fair and disco estate agent boards

Every year we raise a lot of money for the school from parents who are willing to have an estate agent board outside their house, advertising the Christmas fair and disco. JTM estate agents have been very supportive of the school in the last few years and are again sponsoring us this year. A flyer will be coming out soon with more information, but if you think you would be able to have a board outside your home, please give your details to Riyan in the school office.



Archway Christmas lights competition

We were delighted to learn that Sabery in Year 3 recently won the local competition to design the poster for the Archway Christmas lights festival. A huge well done to him– keep your eyes peeled for it to be displayed in the local area in the weeks ahead.

Interested in gaining an award in working with children?

If you are interested in gaining a level 1 qualification and have time each Wednesday morning, you may want to enrol at the Margaret McMillan Children's centre. See over for more details.

As always we are very happy to hear from you if you have any suggestions, thoughts or questions. Please come and talk with me in the playground at the start of the day or make an appointment with the school office.

Best wishes
Mr Welsh

