

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary

December Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents

As we are coming towards the end of what has been a busy term, I wanted to give you an update on some of the recent highlights and also give you some key dates for your diary.

The St John's sponsored spellathon!

All the staff have been amazed at how incredibly well the children did at not only learning so many tricky words, but also how much sponsorship was raised. I know that during such difficult times, raising money for any cause has been difficult so can we all say a **HUGE THANK YOU** for all the effort parents put in to supporting your children with practising their spellings and gathering sponsors.

The total amount raised for World Vision was an incredible £2,115 so a massive well done to everyone who contributed to this total. Some children managed to raise so much more than we thought possible so we wanted to say a special well done to...

-David C, Harry and Zoe in Year 1, Millie, Isabella, Nova, Athena and Tahliah in Year 2, Oliver, Tommy and Kasra in Year 3, Scarlett and Jeziah in Year 4, Aiden and Freddie in Year 5 and Gracie and Lia in Year 6.

Christmas Prayer Day

We have really missed not being able to celebrate Christmas in the normal way with our nativity and KS2 Christmas plays, so this year we have teamed up with the other church schools in Islington to plan a Christmas prayer day focusing on the themes of hope, thoughtfulness, guidance and thankfulness.



Pupil assessments and conferences

Over the last 2 weeks we have been assessing the children in reading, writing and maths to see how well they are progressing and what areas they need to focus on next. Each teacher will be meeting with every child individually in the coming weeks to celebrate their achievements and identify next step targets for next term. With Covid having such a big impact on children's learning during the Spring and Summer terms, we wanted to make sure that we are helping children to catch up as much as they can. Teachers will be sharing these with parents too at the Parent's Evenings on 15th and 16th December.

Gallery of greatness

As part of our focus on diversity, we have started to create a gallery of inspirational figures on our hall windows. Children are encouraged to find out more about these figures and what makes them inspirational by reading the labels and clicking on the QR code at the bottom of each one.

If you have any people you think should feature on our gallery, let us know.



Class	% attendance	% lates
Nursery	89.9	0.4
Reception	94.1	1.0
Year 1	96.6	1.9
Year 2	97.0	3.7
Year 3	97.0	0.9
Year 4	91.0	2.2
Year 5	92.7	2.1
Year 6	91.4	1.8
Total for school	94.4	1.9

Lateness and attendance -

Now that we have a 'soft start' from 8:45-9:00am, it is important that children are in and ready for lessons from 9am prompt. Even arriving just a few minutes late can disrupt or delay the start of a lesson and can be upsetting for the child.

Despite the impact of covid, attendance for some classes remains really high so well done. However, we also recognise that if a child has Covid symptoms they need to get tested and this can result in some time off school. Please remember it is important that children are tested if they have symptoms in order that the school know for sure and can then take any follow up action if needed.

Secret Cinema Grotto

To help bring a bit of festive cheer to the end of term, Miss Nikki and the class teachers have been organising a film event for each class. These will be during the afternoon and children will be ready to go home at 3:30 as normal. **The children are invited to wear a Xmas jumper or other festive clothing and donate £1.** This will help to raise funds for school given that the Friends have not been able to organise any social events due to Covid. The days for the films are:

Monday 7th—Year 1	Monday 14th—Year 3
Tuesday 8th—Year 4	Tuesday 15th—Year 6
Wednesday 9th—Year 2	Wednesday 16th—Early Years
Thursday 10th—Year 5	

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th—parents evenings via zoom or phone call. Sign up sheets will be available via Parentmail from next week.

Thursday 17th December—Christmas lunch for pupils.

Thursday 17th December—**Christmas jumper day** and parties for KS1 and KS2 classes.

Friday 18th December—school closes at 2:00pm. Children can be collected from 1:30-2:00pm.

Monday 4th January—staff training day

Tuesday 5th January—children return to school

Brian Welsh and all the staff at St John's