

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary

End of Year Newsletter—July 2020

Dear Parents

I'm sure you will agree, it has been a very strange year but as often happens, there have been some incredible achievements despite the many challenges we have all faced. For many of you, your children have not been in school since March and so I wanted to not only celebrate some of the highlights of the last few weeks but say farewell to our lovely Year 6 class and outline what we have planned for **pupils returning in September**.

Highlights across the school

The Key worker children have been doing all sorts of creative tasks after they have finished their morning learning. Here they are painting masks, creating dotty tiles (Aboriginal art) and painting glass jars ready for flower arrangements. They also used the chard from the garden to make a great pasta dish.



Early Years wanted to find out if a small child could take off to space if they had enough balloons tied to them! Finley was the brave volunteer but thankfully remained firmly on

the ground. The children thought they could try again with a smaller child but strangely no one was keen to volunteer. Eventually a small toy animal was released up to the skies instead and may well still be heading towards the moon!

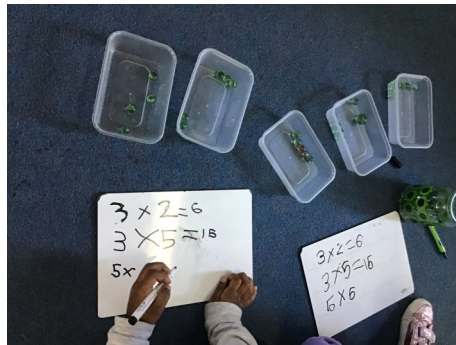


Early Years also spent time exploring bugs and relaxed with a pyjama party.



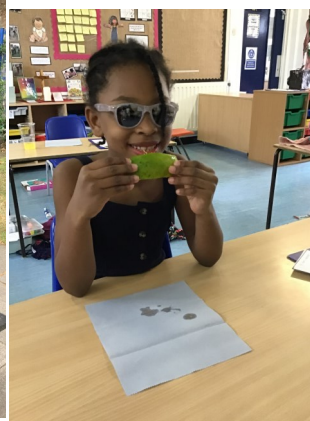
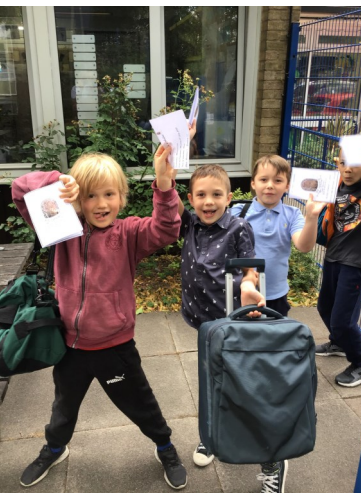
Year 1

Year 1 have continued to make sure all their basic skills are good enough for the start of Year 2 and they have also been making volcanoes with vinegar and bicarb of soda.!



Year 2

Year 2 travelled to Madagascar (Business class!) before exploring some of the local wildlife and trying out some delicious tropical food.



Years 3 and 4 had a fantastic time exploring the human digestion system. From breaking up food like we do in the mouth all the way through the stomach and intestine and out the other end – fascinating but a bit disgusting!



Year 5

The children in Year 5 have done their best to keep their creativity going with some socially distanced acting based on their class story! A bit of reading in the sun was also a popular option as well as using Kahoot to make and do their own quizzes.



Year 6 have been doing as much practical science as possible — from creating volcanoes, to exploring static electricity and harvesting vegetables to make a tasty meal.



Farewell to Year 6



Many of our Year 6 children have been with us for almost 8 years and we have loved watching them grow and blossom. This picture by Amber perfectly captures the warmth and support they provide for each other. Although we are unable to have a leavers' service, the children are all invited to come in for a socially distanced picnic on **Thursday 16th July from 2-4pm** to see and chat with their friends. We are asking children and parents who wish to come along, to enter via the back gate on St John's Grove. Ms Leeb has also made a wonderful leavers video that is definitely worth a look—the link is <https://vimeo.com/437637641> and the password is cats

We are encouraging parents to check with the secondary school their child is moving to, to find out if they have any virtual tours or other information about transition and starting school in September. Their websites often have a lot of information to help parents and pupils with what can be an anxious time.

Summer holiday provision

We understand that many families benefit from access to children's play centres and 'Lunch Bunch' schemes during the summer holidays. We are waiting on information from the local authority about what can be accessed this summer but you can keep up to date by accessing the 'heatwave' section of Islington's website www.islington.gov.uk/heatwave
If you would like inspiration for things your children can do over the summer holidays to keep them engaged and learning, Islington have produced some great resources that can be found at <https://www.islingtoncs.org/home-learning>

Returning to school in September

As you will know, all pupils are expected to return to school in September. As we are likely to have to make some further preparations and changes to ensure we keep both the children and staff as safe as possible, the Local Authority has agreed that all schools can have an additional INSET day at the start of term to put these measures in place. This means that children will return on **Monday 7th September**. We will try to ensure we keep children and staff in their class 'bubbles' as much as possible throughout the day but recognise that especially for younger children, we will not be able to keep them socially distanced.

Some of the key information for you is:

- Children should ***not come to school if they have any symptoms of covid*** (dry, persistent cough, high temperature, lack of sense of taste) and must be taken for a covid test. If the test is positive, they need to self isolate for 7 days and other members in the household self isolate for 14 days. Children should not return until all symptoms have gone.
- School will continue to have a programme of **hygiene and cleaning** for all pupils and staff including regular handwashing and increased cleaning of school premises and resources
- The school day will **start and end at the normal time** (9:00am –3:30pm for Years 1 to 6 and 9:00-3:20pm for Nursery and Reception classes). However, we are introducing a '**soft start**' and children may enter their classrooms **from 8:45am** if they have arrived early and a member of staff is in the classroom.
- **Entrances**—We are asking Early Years children to continue using their entrance to and from the classrooms. Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 should use the side entrance to come into the playground and wait to enter their classrooms. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 should use the rear gate to come straight into their classrooms. ***It is important that pupils do not play and mix with children in other year groups in the playground but go straight into class or straight home with parents.***
- **Breakfast and Buzz club**—although many schools will not be providing extended school provision, we understand how important this is for parents and are exploring ways in which we can offer this whilst still minimising risk of transmission between age groups. ***We will not be able to offer it in the first week back at school but are working towards starting it from 14th September (but will need to confirm this when we return).***
- **School uniform**—we will be asking parents to ensure all pupils are wearing correct school uniform from September. This can be bought online through M&S at mandsyouruniform.com—remember there is a 20% discount for all items bought up to September. ***Please make sure all items of clothing are named!***
- **Curriculum**—we understand that children may be quite traumatised by their experience during the pandemic and we will be focusing on supporting pupils mental health and wellbeing, particularly in the first few weeks of school. We will also be assessing all pupils during September to gain a clear picture of what gaps they have in their learning, and will be **meeting with parents at the end of September** to discuss how we can work together to help our children make excellent progress.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at St John's, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 7th September.

Mr Welsh