

St. John's Upper Holloway C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and carers

As they say, we are living in interesting times.... This letter was due to go out on Monday when we heard that there was a confirmed Covid case in Year 4. By now you will know that we have closed Year 4 with children self-isolating until 27th November and that the appropriate steps are being taken at school to keep everyone safe.

We are so pleased that our school welcomed back all pupils in September and we are impressed with the excitement of the children, enjoying being back at school. The children are continuing to work in their "bubbles". We must all continue to do everything we can to help keep our children safe, engaged and working hard. We thank you all for helping to observe these challenges, keeping distances when collecting children from school and using the different entry points and for your continuing support of the school.

The Governing Board again extend our thanks to Mr Welsh and all the staff team at St John's for all that they are doing to help address the gaps in the curriculum. It was not possible to carry out the normal end of year assessments for your children last term, so the staff have worked hard to carry out "baseline assessments" this term to enable them to evaluate the gaps in the children's learning and put in place the necessary catch-up support and intervention programmes. We fully endorse the leadership team in these initiatives, which, as always, have your children's learning and wellbeing as top priority.

Curriculum maps have now been completed with an emphasis on diversity, equality and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All of the teaching staff used the INSET day in October to explore how we can embed greater diversity within our curriculum in a way which is more effective than simply celebrating Black History Month. Initiatives such as the 'Gallery of Greatness' has certainly grabbed the children's interest and parents can see this develop over the coming weeks on the hall windows.

As part of this process the school is continuing to support and develop links with a local charity, CARIS, as well as World Vision and Macmillan charities. These link closely to the school's vision to 'Love each other as I have loved you'. Each term there will be an exciting range of fund-raising activities initiated by your children and the School Council - starting this term with the Spellathon. This is very exciting as it has been challenging the children to improve their spelling which they are enjoying! Always a good thing. And they are raising funds for World Vision to support the poorest children around the world to access housing, health, food and education. Governors will be excited to support your children with this fundraising too.

On the other side of this pandemic there will be adjustments to be made. To be sure it is an experience with things to be learnt.

Stay safe, stay well.

With love and prayers on behalf of the governing body,

Sue Hallam

Chair of Governors

