

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

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Dear Parents and carers,

We hope that you will all be able to have an enjoyable half term, especially as there will be Jubilee Celebrations to enjoy.

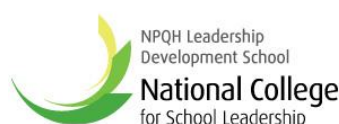
Needless to say, we are sad that this is Mr Welsh last term as head of St John's. He will be much missed as his leadership of the school has been a wonderful example. He will be leaving the school in as good a shape as possible, given the constraints of the coronavirus over the last two years. And the team work with Mr Turpin means that Mr Turpin is in a great position to pick up the responsibilities, assisted by Ms Ross Goobey as deputy head for next year.

As Governors we have much to be proud of in St John's. However, it is our role to make sure that the school continues to deliver the best education and to look at the areas where improvements can/should be made. We have also taken this on ourselves and in the autumn term we arranged for a review of our activities by the London Diocesan Board of Schools to improve our governance. This has been useful and is helping to improve our overview of the schools' activities.

Some of the key areas in the school development plan that the school (and governors) have been focusing on are:

- **improving attendance and punctuality.** School attendance is gradually improving but we are still well below our 96% target. Covid and other illness have been a challenge this year but it really makes a difference for our children's outcomes if they are in school and on time every day.
- **supporting children to address the gaps in their learning** due to Covid lockdown through intervention groups and extra TA support in class. These 'gaps' are diminishing and should continue to do so during the rest of the summer term. However, making up for the 'lost learning' during lockdown will take time to address fully and will remain a focus in 2022-23.
- **implementing the new phonics scheme** (Little Wandle) and helping children develop their phonic skills in their reading and writing is another important focus. It really helps children to make much better progress if they are heard reading by an adult at home every day. It impacts positively in all subjects so we ask for your support by hearing your children read, writing in their reading record and sending both the reading book and reading record in to school each day. The class teachers will be very happy to provide guidance so that you know what is required.

The Science week has been a lovely experience for all the children and a great way to bring fun into science and education. I hope that a number of you were able to enjoy the science Showdown challenge on Thursday. The school will be posting highlights of the week on the school website so do look out for these.



This is also my last term as Chair of Governors. It had been an honour to be chair but it is also right that I have to “retire”. We will let you know the changes to the governing board after the last meeting at the end of the term.

As always, our thoughts and prayers reach out to you all as we look to provide the best possible for our St John’s children.

With kind regards

Sue Hallam

On behalf of St John’s school Governors

