

# St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary

## January newsletter

Dear Parents,

I just wanted to start off by sending you all our prayers and best wishes during what is an extremely difficult period for so many of our families. As you already know, it appears schools will be closed for quite some time to all pupils apart from those whose parents are critical workers or those from vulnerable families. We know children generally learn best when they are in school so it is extremely difficult when we have to say we cannot accept additional pupils, even though we know circumstances at home may be very challenging. We hope that by sticking closely to the rules and minimising the opportunities for the virus to spread amongst pupils in school, the infection rate may start to fall and children can once again be back in school with their friends.

### Remote learning

Each week, teachers set tasks for children to complete via Seesaw.



The weekly timetable helps to show which days they should be completed on. We know that this can be difficult if parents are working from home or if children need to share computers or other devices with siblings. ***Please just do the best you can.*** If you are struggling to complete everything, please focus on the basics such as reading every day with your child and completing as much of the English and maths tasks as you can, including using Doodle maths. Teachers are now including short video clips alongside the tasks on Seesaw to explain what the children need to do and model it where possible so we hope this helps. Our teachers have also started to collect pupils work in the home learning journals each week or two and drop off new reading books. We hope that by collecting in the children's work, it will help motivate them to complete the tasks as well as they can. It's also a lovely way to keep in touch with you all!

One of the things children miss most about home learning is seeing their friends. Each class has **two zoom sessions a week**. On Wednesday, the zoom is to catch up on how children are getting on with their learning but also to have fun and play some games. Starting next week, we will also have an **achievement assembly each Monday** to celebrate all the good things children are doing both at home and school. Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 will have one at 1:30 and Years 3 to 6 will have one at 2:00pm. Teachers will send out a zoom link beforehand but please make a note in your diary.

We understand that some families will struggle to complete all the home learning if they do not have computers or other devices. If you are unable to access the online learning, please contact the school and we will try our best to support you.

Our school website has a number of things on there to provide information and support regarding home learning. These include our remote learning policy as well as a guide for parents on our home learning offer. They can be found at:

<https://www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk/learning/curriculum-and-assessment>

Miss Ross Goobey, Miss Barbara and Miss Leeb also ran a zoom session for parents earlier this week to explain how to use Seesaw with your child. We have recorded the session for those who were unable to join and will put it on the website shortly. Please remember to speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns at all—we are all here to help as much as we can and no question is too silly!

### **Vouchers for those entitled to free school meals**

Miss Andrea will have been in touch with all those families who are entitled to lunch vouchers for their children while they are learning at home. If you think you should be receiving these vouchers but haven't heard from her yet, please do get in touch.

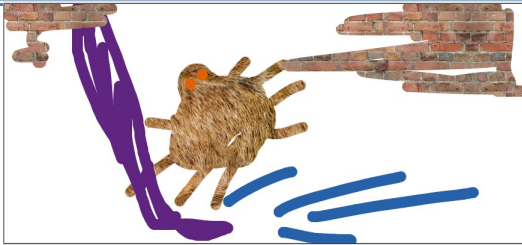
### **Updates from the Classrooms**

We are so proud of how hard children are working in their tasks in school. They cover all the same things as the children at home do but with a few extras such as PE with coach Johnny and various creative activities.

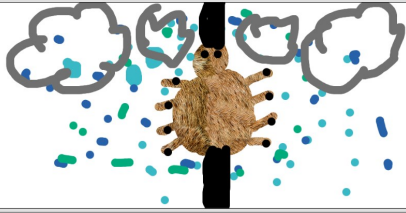


Early Years learning through exploration!

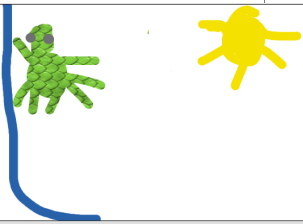




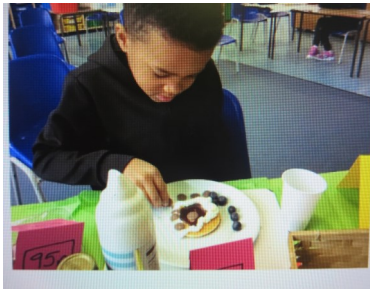
Incy Wincy spider climbed up the water spout.



Down came the rain and washed the spider out.



Then the sun came out and dried up all the rain.



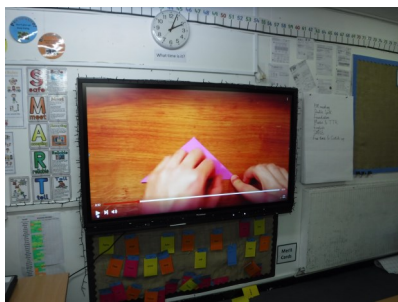
Year 2 visited Ms Giles shop to buy lots of different toppings for their pancakes– if they added the totals correctly, they got to eat them!



Year 1 created some animated 'Incy Wincy Spider' stories.

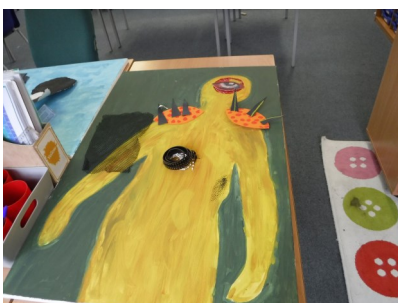


Year 3 have been doing ancient Egyptian collages and making Stonehenge out of Jenga!



Year 6 have been creating paper mache bowls, using electrical circuits to create 'light up constellations' and painting pictures of mythical sirens from Ancient Greece

Year 5 have been discovering the challenges of origami!



## **Showcase your home learning**

I know that children are working incredibly hard at home and I love to see some of the things they are posting on Seesaw. Please do keep supporting your children with their learning at home and I will hopefully include some highlights of their work in our next newsletter.

## **Lateral flow tests**

You will have heard on the news of the tests that were due to start in all secondary schools before lockdown changed this.

Islington have however started to offer lateral flow tests to all primary staff each week and are also beginning to plan for this to be rolled out in primary schools once the children return from lockdown. We will of course provide much more information when we have it.

## **Applying for a Reception place in September**

All Nursery parents who wish their child to move in to Reception class in September need to complete an application form through Islington admissions. The deadline for this is **16th January** and you can find out more information on our school website at

<https://www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk/parents/admissions>

If you need any help with this, please do ask the school office. If you have any friends or neighbours who would also like to apply for a Reception place, please remind them too!

## **Foodbank referrals**

Many of our families are facing real difficulties as a result of being made redundant or being placed on furlough. Revd Comfort at St John's Church and Revd Steve at St Andrew's are able to refer families to our local foodbank should they need it so let us know if you would like us to put you in touch with them.

Once again, please do contact us if you have any concerns or suggestions no matter how small.

Best wishes

Mr Welsh and the St John's staff team