

St John's Upper Holloway

June Newsletter 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start to think about the end of what has been a unusual year, I wanted to share some of the recent highlights and flag up some important dates

Highlights around the school

Despite the Covid restrictions, teachers have been working hard to provide a stimulating and exciting curriculum. Here are just some of the highlights:

The farm visits Early Years and key stage 1.

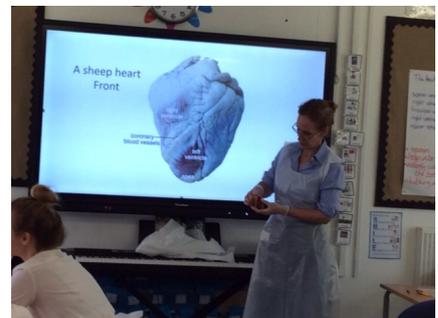
As we were unable to travel to the farm, we invited the farm to St John's. The children were able to stroke and ask questions about a range of animals including goats, sheep, ducks and even a ferret!





Heart surgery in Year 6

We were lucky enough to have two doctors from the Whittington Hospital to lead a lesson on the heart. Children explored the structure and function of a sheep's heart and used what they had learned to write an information text.



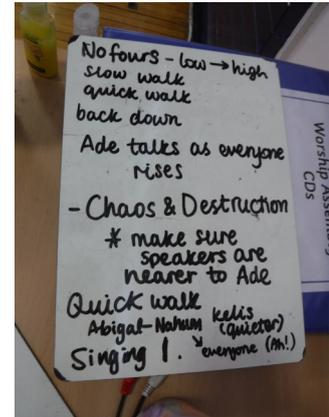
Planting seeds in Year 4

Year 4 have been planting a range of seeds for our nature garden. We are hoping it won't be long before they attract the bees and insects.



Year 5 Shakespeare project

Our Year 5s are focusing on Romeo and Juliet this term as part of a Shakespeare project across several local schools. They are creating their own scripts and music and we will be filming it to share with parents at the end of term.



Year 3 planting at navigator square

We were invited to take part in a planting project to help 'green up' the public spaces around Navigator Square. Our green fingered Year 3 children volunteered and helped to plant a fantastic range of plants. Next time you pass, you can admire their gardening skills!



Highgate School volunteers

We have recently linked up with Highgate School to look at ways we can work together. This week we had a group of Year 10 students in to help us with an 'environment day'.

They spent the morning working hard by repainting benches, sweeping paths, weeding and generally making our school look much better. We hope to find other ways to continue this link in the months ahead.



Attendance and punctuality

It's been very encouraging to see attendance and punctuality gradually getting back on track as the year has progressed. Congratulations to Years 1, 2 and 3 who have all beaten our target of 96%. A big well done to Reception and Year 3 for being our Early Birds!

	Nurs	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance	93.9%	94.1%	97%	96.5%	97.5%	92.3%	93.4%	94.3%
Lates (%)	1.8	0.7	1.3	1.9	0.3	2.3	2.2	1.7

Sports Day and Summer Fair

We had hoped that all Covid restrictions would be lifted on June 21st, allowing us to have a Sports Day and Summer Fair. However, the current guidance means that we cannot have any parent gatherings of more than 30 people. **We have therefore decided to postpone both events and reschedule them for early next term.** We will cross our fingers that all restrictions will be lifted by September!

Year 6 preparations for secondary school

Tracey Campbell, behaviour specialist and author of several books bestselling books, is joining our Year 6 children each week to help them think about, and prepare themselves for, the challenges of secondary school in order that the transition is a successful one.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 30th June—Year 6 will be taking part in a 'virtual leavers service' with 9 other schools from across the borough.

Thursday 1st July—Cath from School Food Matters will be joining Year 2 for a planting session in the garden. We will be hoping to grow lots of flowering plants to attract plenty of bees and insects.

Monday 5th July—Year 5 start Bikeability and Year 4 have a live poetry session (online)

Monday 12th July—Year 5 will be recording their performance of Romeo and Juliet

Wednesday 14th July—a beekeeper will be coming in with a hive to talk with 4 classes and about the role of bees in nature

Thursday 15th July—end of year reports to be collected by parents

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July—Y6 leavers' production and BBQ

Friday 23rd July—leavers' service in Church at 10am. School closes at 2:00pm for the summer holidays.

Keeping up to date with our news

Just a quick reminder that you can see updates of our latest news through the school website (in the latest news section) as well as through Facebook. We have a 'restricted access' Facebook page that is only available to parents of the school. If you wish to join, please click on the link below to request access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsupperhollowayfriends>

Do get in touch if you have any ideas, concerns or questions about the weeks ahead.

Mr Welsh and all the staff at St John's Upper Holloway