

St John's Upper Holloway

May Newsletter 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the May edition of our school newsletter. We hope it won't be too long before the weather warms up and we enjoy many of the summer term events we are used to.

School closed for polling day

Just a reminder that school will be **closed this Thursday, 6th May**, for the local elections. We will be open again on Friday though!

Covid updates

As restrictions begin to lift nationally, we are also reviewing some of the measures we have in school to ensure they remain proportionate to the level of risk. We will be making a couple of small changes to try to help things return to normality for parents and children.

Playtimes—although we are still staggering playtimes, we will be allowing individual class bubbles mix with other classes in their phase as the risk of transmission outdoors is very low indeed.

Drop off and collection—we currently ask parents to drop off and collect from the correct gate for their child's class. We realise that for some parents who have more than one child, this can be time consuming. We are therefore suggesting that parents can use the side gate and central playground for drop off and collection if they have children in different classes.

Testing at home—Our school has been chosen to be part of a home testing pilot in Islington. We will be sending out further information very soon so do please look out for it if you may be interested in taking part.

Spanish Day

You should have already received a letter to let you know that we will be celebrating a 'Spanish Day' on Friday 14th May. It should be great fun with the children trying a range of Spanish food, practising their Spanish language skills and even having flamenco lessons. It will be a non-uniform day and children are invited to wear as much red and yellow as they can (the colours of the Spanish flag).





Attendance and punctuality

It's been very encouraging to see attendance and punctuality getting back on track since the children have been back full time. Our school attendance for the last 2 weeks is now 96.5% which is slightly above our school target. A special well done to Nursery, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 6.

	Nurs	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance	99.8	93.1	95.9	96.6	98.1	94.8	95.4	98.6
Lates	5	16	0	11	14	9	13	3

Reading and homework—we need your help!

As you will understand, most of our children have missed a lot of their learning during the lockdown this year. We are putting additional support and interventions in place for those who need some 'catch up' but are also asking parents to support their children by reading with them at home every day and writing a brief note in their reading record. We are also asking that parents support their children with the weekly homework that is set. This will usually be recapping what they have covered in class but any help you can give them will ensure they fully understand the learning they covered that week. It shouldn't take long—approximately one hour a week should enable them to cover everything. By school and parents working together, we hope that all our children will continue to make good progress in the months ahead.

Staffing update

As many of you will know, Miss Eden has been on maternity leave and is due to return next Friday. She will be with us for the rest of the Summer term as our PPA teacher, covering each class to enable the teachers to have time to plan, prepare and assess the children's work.

Friends update

We are hoping that we may be able to resume some of the school social events later in the term, including a summer fair. This will need to be planned carefully to ensure we are taking sensible precautions to limit the possible spread of Covid. If you have any ideas for what could be included in a summer fair or (even better) may be able to help us with organising one, please speak with the school office or email friends@st-johnshollway.islington.sch.uk

Garden update

As the weather warms up in the coming weeks, we would like the children to help us with planting and developing some of our wildlife areas in the nature garden. They have already enjoyed seeing the pond transformed but now we would like to work on the rest of the garden. Some parents have kindly offered to help us buy some of the plants we will need. If you are able to make a contribution to the cost of the plants it will make a huge difference to the success of our garden project. You can make a donation via parentmail or just speak with Andrea in the office on 0207 272 2780.

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

Mr Welsh

