

St John's Upper Holloway

December Newsletter 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of term is nearly with us. This term marks the end of Miss Clark's time at St John's Upper Holloway. We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Clark and wish her all the best in her future studying. She may appear in school occasionally as a supply teacher. Replacing her in Year 4 will be Mr Dave Burns, who has been looking after Year 3 for the last two weeks.

Mr Ventham is now the father of a little girl: he will be away until the February half term. Looking after Year 3 until he returns will be Miss Hajarah Banu, who met the class last week.

Year 2 said goodbye to Miss Clearwater three weeks ago: they have been looked after by Miss Samiha Mubashir. After Christmas the class will have a different teacher—Miss Shubha Alavandi. Please make her welcome—we are looking forward to her starting.

Dates for the diary

Christmas jumper day is the 15th December.

16th December—last day of term and church service at 10.00. The gates will be open at 1.30 for you to collect your children by 2.00 at the latest.

After Christmas the first day back for children is the 4th January.

Half term next term is the week of Monday 13th February. Children return on the 20th February. The last day of term is Friday the 31st March at 2.00.

Uniform

Children should be in the correct uniform (ask for a copy of the uniform policy from the office if you are not sure, or look on the website). Shoes need to be traditional school shoes with a low heel or trainers in plain black, brown or blue - no bright colours or patterns/logos. Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery to school, with the exception of a watch and small stud earrings.

Attendance and holidays in term time

Schools can only authorize absence during term time in exceptional circumstances such as family emergencies or a relative's funeral. If that happens you should complete a form from the school office outlining the dates you require your child to be absent and the reason for this. The school will respond within a day or so. If we are unable to authorize your child's absence but they are taken out of school anyway, this could be referred to the local authority **who may issue a penalty notice or court warning letter** and it is important you consider this when making your decision about whether to keep your child off school.

If you are unsure whether your circumstances can be classed as 'exceptional', come and speak with Mr Turpin or Miss Ross Goobey.

The target for all children's attendance is 96%. Joyce Udu, from School Home Support, will be working on Fridays in school to support families who have difficulties with attendance and punctuality.

Nativity

The Early Years and KS1 performed a wonderful Nativity this morning, which was well-supported by lots of parents—thank you for coming. Here are some photos from this morning.



Strep A and Scarlet Fever

As you know, we have had a number of cases of these illnesses. Contact your GP if you have any concerns. They are treatable by antibiotics, so do seek treatment. A child can return to school from 24-48 hours after they have started their course of antibiotics.

Music Assembly

On the 29th November all the musicians who have lessons with Miss Kathryn performed for the school and parents. Here are some photographs from that day.



Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns then let us know—ask to speak to Mr Turpin or Miss Ross Goobey. One of the greatest areas of concern is children being exposed to harm when online. There are a number of families in school who need to keep photos of their children from appearing online. Keeping these families safe is very important to us, which is why we ask you not to film or photograph school events. If you do film you are also encouraging other parents to do the same, which makes our safeguarding role much harder.

I hope that you all have a restful and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year

Mr Turpin and all the staff at St John's