

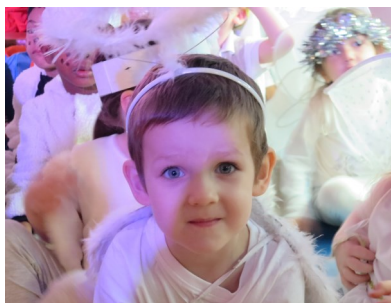
St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School Newsletter

January 2020

A very warm welcome to our January newsletter – the first of the decade!

Christmas Celebrations

It was wonderful to see so many parents coming to support our Infant nativity, Junior carol concert and Christmas service. It is such a special time of year and a fantastic way to bring the Autumn term to a close.



Science week 10-14th Feb

We are finishing this half term with a celebration of all things scientific! Children will be taking part in a wide range of science experiments supported by the wonderful 'Mad Science' team. We are also inviting a range of people in to school to talk about the science related jobs they do—from doctors to archaeologists and environmental campaigners to computer scientists. If your job links to science in any way, we'd love you to come and talk about it with some of our children. We will also be organising a family event after school on Thursday 13th Feb – keep your eyes open for details.



School council updates



School council's focus at the end of last term was to find out what sort of **after school clubs** the children in their class were most interested in. They are due to meet very soon to share their findings and then we can begin to find a way to make as many of them happen as possible! Last term, some of our older school councillors visited the Houses of Parliament to find out more about British democracy. Last week, they joined up with school councillors from other local schools for a workshop exploring democracy and debate.

Messy Church and St John's Kicks

Many of you have told us how much your children have enjoyed spending time at Messy Church and St John's Kicks. **The dates this term for Messy Church are Saturday 15th February and then Saturday 21st March.** If your children enjoy doing creative, thought provoking and messy arts activities, bring them along **to school from 4-5:30pm.** **Football kicks is a football club for all**—whether you are a confident footballer or not. It's all about enjoyment and participation and takes place **in school every Saturday morning from 10-11am.**

Friends update

A big thank you to the members of the Friends who organised such a lovely 'Winter wonderland' event. For this term, we are considering an Easter disco. Details are still to be confirmed but if you would be willing to help out in order that it can take place, do come along to one of our Friends meetings or let the school office know.

Attendance and punctuality so far this year

	Nur	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance %	90.2	95.9	95.1	94.9	95.8	95.0	94.2	94.8
Punctuality	57	39	59	38	78	129	89	62

As you know, schools aim to have an attendance figure of at least 96%. Although we achieved this last year, attendance has slipped this year, partly as a result of illness but also due to some families taking time out of school. We hope that as we get towards spring, we are less affected by winter bugs and can get back on track! Please also remember to ensure your child is in school ready for the bell at 9am.

Welcome to our new school – home support worker

Some of you may have seen or spoken with David May, our new family support worker. He will be working with the school on all aspects of attendance and punctuality but is also able to help families with other issues around family finance and support. Do make him feel welcome if you see him in the playground.

Parent coffee morning

Our next parent coffee morning is due to take place on Friday 31st January in the therapy room. It's a good chance to come and chat with other parents and also to chat with staff if you have any questions or ideas about the school. On Monday 24th February, come and meet Simona Berardozi and find out how Islington can help families across a range of areas.

Admissions for September

We are due to receive details from the local authority of which pupils have applied to start in Reception class in September. Early indicators suggest we have a few places still available so if you know of any friends or families who may enjoy the benefits of being in a small, friendly and supportive school, do encourage them to come and visit the school.

Reducing the impact of traffic and pollution on our pupils

Islington have chosen our school to be part of a pilot project called 'safer streets'. This will involve traffic calming measures to reduce the amount of vehicles passing the school at key points in the day—we will provide more details once they are confirmed.

Some of you may have also heard of plans for **Ocado** to open a new delivery depot at Bush Industrial Estate, just off Junction Road. The head teachers of those schools that are likely to be most affected by additional delivery van traffic have appealed to Islington for the planning request to be rejected. If you feel strongly about this issue, do let me know and I will let you know how you can help us try to prevent Ocado's plans from going ahead. You can find out more at <http://islingtontribune.com/article/ocado-plan-puts-children-at-risk>

Not using the foyer as a cut-through

Can we remind parents that the foyer should only be used by parents who need to speak to a member of the office staff. **When dropping off and collecting children, we ask all parents to use the side entrance.** Those parents who drop off a child in KS1 or 2 and then need to take a sibling to Reception or Nursery class, still need to use the side entrance. The reason for this is that the foyer becomes so busy and the front door is often open, making it very hard to see if a child has walked out of the school building. We take pupil safety extremely seriously and hope you will all support us with this.

Please do come and talk with me or any member of staff if you have any concerns or any thoughts on how the school can be improved further. We do value your ideas and suggestions.

Mr Welsh