

St John's Upper Holloway

June Newsletter 2022

Welcome to the June edition of our school newsletter. With only 4 weeks to go until the end of the school year, there is a lot still to enjoy!

Recent events and highlights

Science week highlights

All the classes had a wonderful week developing their science investigation skills and becoming young scientists! It was also great to see so many parents and children taking part in our Family Science Challenge event. The pictures below show some of the highlights.



Year 6 transition support

It can be an anxious time for children as they near the end of their time at primary school and prepare for their move to secondary. We have been lucky to have Tracey Campbell supporting our children over the last 6 weeks, helping them to consider what some of their fears and challenges will be and thinking about strategies to address them. Tracey is an author and behaviour specialist who has worked with both teachers and pupils in many schools, focusing on positive and effective approaches to behaviour management.



Y4 Primary Shakespeare project

Our Year 4 class have taken part in a fantastic project this term with the Primary Shakespeare Company to explore Macbeth and create their own version through drama and music. They have really impressed the professionals who are delivering the sessions each week and parents will be able to enjoy their final performance at Jackson's Lane Theatre on 7th July.

Oftsed

Thank you to all those parents who fed back their thoughts about our school to the inspector when she came to visit us a couple of weeks ago. Both the conversations and online surveys helped to provide a very helpful and positive picture of the nurturing ethos we aim to provide for all our children and families. It generally takes 4-6 weeks for the report to be written and as soon as it is finalised we will share it with you.

Attendance and punctuality

	Nur	Rec	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance (%)	90.7	91.5	92.2	94.8	93.8	94.1	93.8	91.4
Lates (%)	1.4	1.8	3.3	1.6	1.8	0.7	1.3	2.3

Our attendance is still well below our target of 96% but is gradually creeping up towards this figure. Well done to Year 2 for having an attendance just under 95% and to Year 4 for fantastic punctuality. Our home-school support officer, Peter, is working with families where attendance is well below what is expected and aims to provide support wherever possible. We ask that families do not take holidays during term time and in line with local authority guidance, we may have to impose a penalty notice on families who do so. If there are exceptional circumstances why you may need to take your child out of school during term time, please speak with the school in advance so that we can discuss whether such absence can be authorized.

Staffing updates

Many of you will have noticed that Riyan has not been with us for some time. She has decided to leave her role due to medical issues and will not be returning to St John's. The governing body would like to thank her for her many years of dedication and commitment to the school. We have recently appointed a new school administration officer, Tara Kubilay, who will be joining us from September. Mr Andrew (Dadomo) has also taken up an offer at another school and will not be with us for the final weeks of term.

We have appointed two new teaching staff for September—Nicola Hennessy who will be our new Nursery teacher and Bianca Clearwater who will become our Year 2 teacher. Ms Najifa, our Year 4 TA, will also sadly be leaving and we are in the process of appointing a replacement.

The staffing for September will be as follows

Class	Teacher	Teaching assistants
Nursery and 2 year olds	Nicola Hennessy, Barbara Dickey	Jackie Thomas, Ruqiya Nuur, Merley Morgan, (plus an additional TA to be appointed)
Reception	Barbara Dickey	Carol Plaw, Debra Van Pelt
Year 1	Oonagh Davis	Geraldine Noel
Year 2	Bianca Clearwater	Margaret Findlay , George Ross Goobey , Claudia Garcia
Year 3	Harry Ventham	Claire Jones, Claudia Garcia
Year 4	Emma Clarke	Min Clarke, Janet Gordon (plus an additional TA to be appointed)
Year 5	Molly Rushworth	Felix Bradshaw , Amanda Lyons
Year 6	Kerry Donovan	Susan Evans

Upcoming events and dates

Jubilee week 11th– 15th July —we will be celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with a whole range of events and activities. These include creating portraits of the Queen, making a book with their own hopes and dreams for the next 70 years, learning dances from the last 7 decades and making a ‘time capsule’ that we can bury in the school grounds. The week will finish with our **summer fair on Friday 15th July**. The Parent Friends group and pupils are working hard to make it a fantastic event and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. The event starts straight after school at 3:30pm. We will send parent mail messages nearer the time with further details.

Sports day Tuesday 12th July—This will be taking Place at Tufnell Park Playing Fields from 9:30 until lunchtime. Parents are all very welcome to join us—to cheer on your children and perhaps take part in the parent race!

Other dates:

Friday 24th June– group of Y5 and Y6 children at netball tournament

Weds 29th June– vision and hearing checks for Reception children

Thurs 30th June—group of Y5 and Y6 children at athletics tournament

Friday 1st July—Year 1 visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum

Monday 4th July—Bright Futures coffee morning with Mr Turpin

Weds 6th July—Y5 summer sports festival and the Great St John’s Bakeoff in the hall at the end of the day

Thurs 14th July—Y5 trip to the London Eye and end of year reports given out to parents

Monday 18th July—optional parents evening

Tues 19th and Weds 20th July—Y6 performance of Aladdin Trouble!

Dates continued:

Thursday 21st July—Leavers service at the Church from 10am-11am. We will be saying a sad farewell to our Year 6 children as well as staff and governors who will not be with us in September. All parents are very welcome to join us.

Thursday 21st July—this is the last day of term and we will finish after registration at 1:30. Parents can collect children between 1:35 and 2:00pm.

Monday 5th September—children return to school for the start of Autumn term.

As always, we are here to support you and answer any questions you may have so please do approach us if you have anything you want to talk about.

Mr Welsh and the St John's staff team.

(More science week highlights below!)

