

# St John's Upper Holloway newsletter– return to school edition!

Dear parents and carers

As we enter the second half term of summer, we are **starting to welcome back some children from Reception class, Year 1 and Year 6**. Although we only have a small number of children in each class, it has been a real joy to have them back in school and to see how much they have enjoyed seeing their friends and school staff. We have tried our best to limit the risk to pupils and adults by maintaining social distancing as much as possible, although with the youngest children this is only partly achievable. However, by keeping children in small 'bubbles' that don't mix with others and by increasing the level of hygiene and cleaning, we really have done our best to keep children both safe and happy.

The pictures below give you an insight in to some of the activities the children have been enjoying in these year groups, including our key worker group.

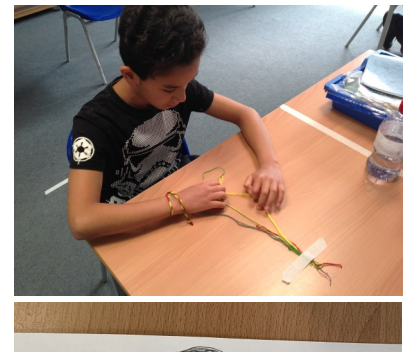
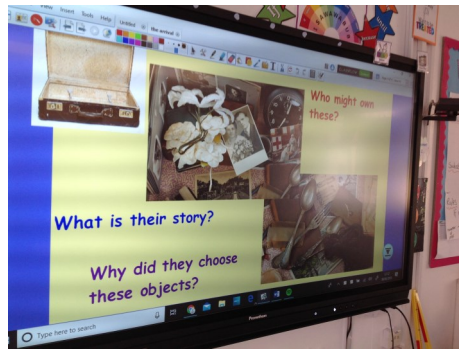
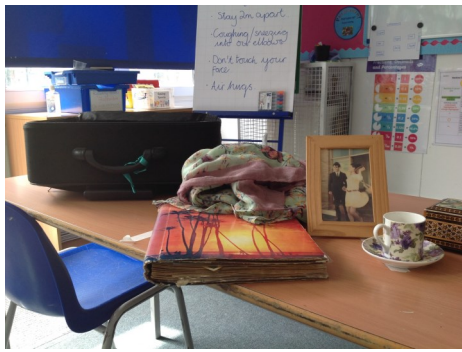
Early Years were exploring number bonds to 10 and also trying to retrieve the treasure chest that had been hidden on top of the walk-way by the pirates!



Year 1 were reminding themselves about hand hygiene, exploring Doodle maths, getting some 1:1 support with their learning and finding minibeasts in the garden.



Our Year 6 children worked in a small group on the curriculum tasks that have been set for the week with lots of additional support from Miss Leeb. The afternoons were more relaxed with art lessons and an opportunity to make friendship bracelets for the children in their class that they miss.



Our key worker children are supported by Miss Giles every day as well as a range of TAs who work with each child on their home learning tasks. They have also been making friendship bracelets and pom poms!



### Opening up to other classes

The government announced yesterday that they recognise the difficulty of opening schools to more children while maintaining social distancing and other measures to minimise the risk of transmitting Covid19. However, as a school, we also recognise the huge impact on children, both academically and socially, of remaining away from school for a long period. We are meeting later this week to explore whether we can open to additional year groups in the coming weeks and will outline what this will look like to parents next week. Equally, if you have a child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and would like them to return from 22nd June, please do let the office know.

### The level of Covid in Islington

At a head teachers' briefing this morning, it was confirmed that Islington has the lowest number of covid cases in London, with no new laboratory cases reported since 27th May. This is reassuring to know, although we recognise how easy it can be for numbers to rise again quickly if measures are not in place, including testing and tracing. We are working closely with the public health team in Islington to ensure that the measures we are putting in place will help keep our children, families and staff as safe as we possibly can. We ask parents not to send their children in to school if they are at all unwell and to let us know if they have any symptoms of covid so we can quickly put measures in place to limit any possible further infection.

### **Home learning—do you need extra support?**

Given that many of your children will have been away from school for a few months and with the summer holidays fast approaching, it is more important than ever that they have the opportunity to get in to a daily routine of working on the learning tasks set by the class teacher. It has been wonderful to see the fantastic work that many of the children are achieving at home but there are a small number of children from whom we have seen no work at all and no evidence of on-line learning. We understand the incredible challenge that many of you face helping your child with their home learning but do ask that you speak with us if you are finding it hard to support them as well as you would like. We will do our very best to find a way to help you as fully as we can.

As always, do get in touch with the office or your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions.

Brian Welsh

Head teacher