

St John's Upper Holloway newsletter– 23rd June 2020

Dear parents and carers

It has been lovely welcoming back more children to Years 2 and 5 whilst still seeing some of the great learning that is taking place in the other classes. Here is a taster of some of the things they have been enjoying.

Early Years

The pirate theme continued this week as the children went on a treasure hunt and prepared for a Pirate Picnic! There was also phonic fun with the swat game and today the children kept cool in the pool and made fruit kebabs!

Year 1

After lots of hard work in the morning, Year 1 enjoyed their PE with Coach Johnny and made some tasty ice-lollies.



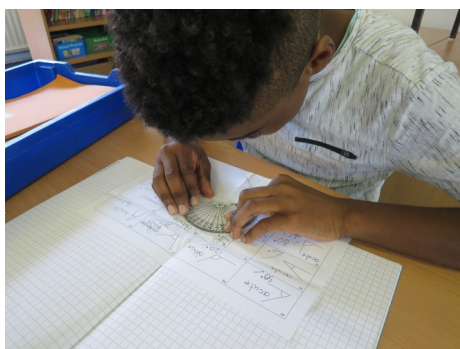
Year 2

Year 2 have been making the most of the warm weather by planting seeds and finding mini-beasts to study, including a woodlouse with loads of teeny babies!



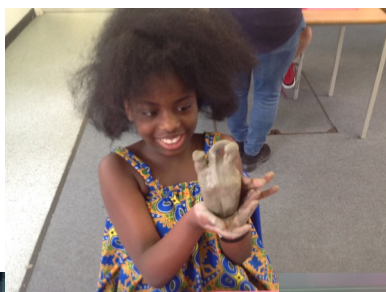
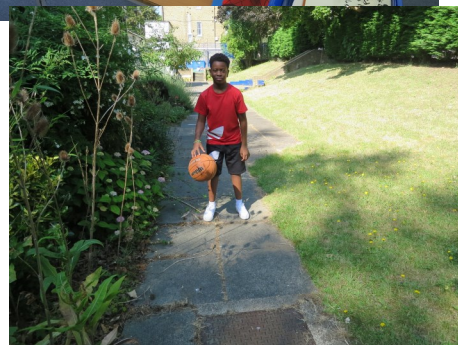
Year 5

Although they have only been back for a couple of days, the children have been finding out all about vertebrates and life cycles. They have also been mastering the skill of using a protractor to measure angles. It's not all hard work—there is also time for PE with Johnny and a bit of basketball.



Year 6

Year 6 have also been working hard while having fun. Last week they wrote letters before turning them into origami birds. They have also been exploring the structure of the human heart and made some from clay. Today they have been preparing for secondary maths by doing a calculator game.



Key worker group

After working hard on their home learning in the mornings, our key worker children designed, made and tested some vehicles as part of a unit looking at axels and wheels.



Return of Years 3 and 4

I know that many parents with children in years 3 and 4 will be keen for the children to return to school. We are hoping that we can have children from these classes back in school for the final two weeks of term but are currently reviewing how well we can maintain our measures to minimise risk with the six classes we have currently before confirming this. If we are able to open for Years 3 and 4, we will be contacting parents next week to find out who would like their children to return.

Resources to support diversity education and Black Lives Matter

As a inclusive school, we strongly believe that all children are unique and valued by God. Although we try to ensure that the books we have in school reflect the diversity of our children, it is an area that we are constantly working to develop further. Several parents have approached the school to say they would like to donate or contribute to the purchase of new books for our class reading areas to ensure we have a wide range of books that both reflect racial diversity and present positive role models. We have a list of excellent books from The Islington library service that we would like to purchase and if you would like to help us with this, we'd be extremely grateful—just phone the school office and they will explain how you can help. We are also sending out a PDF with some wonderful books that present positive messages about black lives. Just click on the books in the picture and it should take you to youtube and someone reading the book. We hope you and your children have time to explore a few of them. If you have a favourite, let us know, and we can try to buy a copy for the school.

Looking ahead to September

We have just finalised our staffing for next year and I have outlined who will be teaching each class below. We are sorry to be losing Mr Evans who will be returning to Wales but a new teacher, Ms Clark will be joining us and teaching Year 3.

Normally the children move up to their new classroom and meet their new teacher at this time of the year, but this year I have asked each teacher to write to their new class, introducing themselves and telling them a little bit about what they are looking forward to next year. Early Years and Year 1 have also made a video to help children prepare for their new classes. If you have any concerns or questions about the transition process, please do contact us and we will try our best to help.

Class	Teacher	Teaching assistants
Nursery	Miss Barbara	Ms Jackie T, Ms Carol, Ms Merley
Reception	Miss Barbara	Mr George, Ms Jackie B
Year 1	Mr Flavell	Ms Margaret
Year 2	Ms Ross Goobey	Ms Noel, Ms Min, Ms Debra
Year 3	Ms Clark	Ms Yasmine, Ms Claudia
Year 4	Ms Leeb	Miss Claire, Ms Susan
Year 5	Ms Rushworth	Ms Shekira, Ms Amanda
Year 6	Mr Ventham Pickstock	Ms Nikki

Although the government announced that all children will be returning to school in September, there has been no guidance yet on what measures schools will need to take to ensure we minimise the risk of Covid transmission. As we may need to make a number of adjustments to what school will look like, ***I have asked the local authority to allow us to use Friday 4th September as an additional INSET day. This would mean the children return to school on Monday 7th September.*** I will of course let you know as soon as we have confirmation from the local authority.

I know it has been a very difficult period not just for schools but for our families and children too and I wanted to thank you for your flexibility and support during this extraordinary period.

As always, do get in touch if you have any worries, questions or suggestions.

Best wishes

Mr Welsh