

SCHOOL NEWS

ST JOHN'S UPPER HOLLOWAY

Dear Parents and Carers

Easter is here! I can't quite believe how fast the term has gone. As ever, we have had a very busy term, packed with activities. Year 6 have been working very hard in the lead up to their SATS tests and I have really enjoyed having the pupils in my booster groups coming to work with me twice a week. It is wonderful to see how hard work and determination can really pay off. Miss Donovan has worked tirelessly to help the children: there have been the morning sessions, the booster groups during the day and the after-school tutoring sessions from staff, all aimed at helping the children feel assured and ready for the tests in May.



Making egg box dragons in Year 1, on the trip to Pudding Lane and at the Science Museum

Life in school is not all work. We had masses of fun on World Book Day; the Early Years have been to the theatre and Forest School continues to introduce the children to the joys of mud and twigs. Reception went pond dipping on Hampstead Heath; Year 4 have started their preparations for their performance of Shakespeare's A Winter's Tale; Year 1 visited Pudding Lane; Year 5 had a chocolate workshop (linked to their work on the Mayans) and worked with the Almeida Theatre in school; Year 6 went to the Junior Citizens day; Year 5 and Year 6 visited Two Temple Place (and saw some mysterious big pink pants); Year 3 mummified tomatoes (successfully); Year 2 visited the national Army Museum; Reception made pancakes for Pancake Day and spring rolls for Chinese New Year.



Year 6 at Two Temple Place



Reception pond dipping

Seedlings have been planted in the vegetable patch by Reception and Year 5 have potted seedlings in the classroom: we hope for kind summer weather and a bumper crop of peas, pumpkins and potatoes. Parents took part in the very good Actually Autistic workshop in the staffroom – there will be a children’s workshop early next term. We went to church to celebrate a slightly-postponed Ash Wednesday and we marked Easter today (with some really good singing).



Year 2 at the National Army Museum

Schools succeed when people work hard – and often without being noticed very much. Anne Keogh, the School Business Manager, beavers away making sure that the school runs smoothly, with the bills paid and the lights on. I am very grateful for her dedication since she started in September. Toni, the school’s site manager quietly cleans up, fixes things and sorts out the small problems that can quickly get out of hand; and Annie, the chef, always produces good food for the children with the help of her friendly team. One member of staff will be leaving at the end of the first week after half term. Miss Claudia is moving to work in the nursery of a school in Hampstead. We wish her the very best in the future.

I was very pleased to see the scaffolding come down at half term. It had been up since last July while all the school's roofs were replaced. The diocese paid a lot of money to make sure that the school's roofs are fit for purpose for many years to come. However, there will be more building work over Easter: all the lights in school are being replaced and a wall is being added to the foyer to improve the school's security. This means that it will not be possible to enter or exit the school through the office at the beginning or end of the day: parents will need to go round the side of the school to the main playground to drop off and collect children.

I hope you all have a restful break and I look forward to seeing you on April 13th.

Mr Turpin



Celebrating World Book Day

Dates coming up:

13th April - Start of Summer Term

6th May - Class photos

7th May - We are **closed** as we are a polling station for the local elections

25th - 29th May - Half term

10th July - Sports Day at Tuffnell Park Playing Fields

17th July - Last day of term- 1.30 pm finish

ATTENDANCE AND TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

Children need to be in school to learn and give them the chance of a successful future – children only get one chance at education: missing it can have a long-term negative impact on them. Schools can only authorize absence during term time in exceptional circumstances, such as family emergencies or a relative's funeral. In these circumstances you must 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 has to be referred to the local authority, who may issue a penalty notice or court warning letter: it is important you consider this when making your decision about whether to keep your child off school. If you do not pay the fine you may be taken to court and, if found guilty, will be given a criminal record – which no one wants.

If you are unsure whether your circumstances can be classed as 'exceptional', come and speak with me.



Restoring Whittington Stone

SAFEGUARDING

Our first priority is keeping children safe. We know how easy it is for children to be harmed and we always have to be alert. If you have any concerns about the safety of children, please come and see me, Miss Ross Goobey or Miss Susan – the school's trained safeguarding leads. It is very easy for children to get access to worrying content online, especially as so many of them have their own devices. Regularly check what your children are seeing online. Unmonitored device use by children can lead to them easily accessing very concerning content. The Online Harms Bill is now law and should improve safety for children online, but until it does, the online world is risky and made purposely appealing to children. Here are some key websites for parents to help raise awareness of risks and set boundaries for your children.

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net>



Our new 'Bands' performing in front of the whole school

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Governing Body, to wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Easter.

Easter is a central moment in the Christian calendar - a time of hope, renewal, and new beginnings. In our school community, these themes are reflected daily in the care, kindness and commitment shown by our pupils, staff and families. The words of Jesus underpin our school life with "Love one another as I have loved you." It is evident in the way our children support each other, in the dedication of our staff, and in the strong partnership we share with you as parents and carers. We are proud of the respectful, caring community we are building together.

This term has been filled with many achievements and memorable moments. You will all have seen the scaffolding being removed and we are thankful for the support of LBDS who have funded the cost of replacing the roof. It will allow St John's to remain in good order for many years to come. As a governing body we are aware of the responsibility to maintain our budget and this is managed and planned for so well by Mr Turpin.

As we look ahead to the Easter break, I hope you will take the opportunity to thank all the staff for the hard work and care they provide daily to the children

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

With Good Wishes

Jane Airey

Chair of Governors



Amazing homework!



The choir went to the O2 centre for Young Voices