

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary

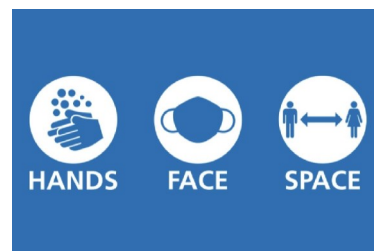
November Newsletter 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new half term, it was lovely to see so many children and parents in the playground this morning. I hope you all managed to get a break during the holiday and that despite the new lockdown, we all have a successful couple of months ahead.

Covid update

Many of you were asking what the implications of the new lockdown are in terms of school being open. The government has been clear that the level of Covid transmissions in primary schools has been very low and have therefore prioritised schools to remain open. We will however be ensuring that we continue to have measures in place within school to minimise the risk of transmission such as keeping children in class 'bubbles' and maintaining a regular schedule of handwashing and cleaning. ***Can we please remind parents that they need to wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting their children from school*** as adults are more likely to transmit the virus than children. To help everyone remember, our Year 2 children put their IT skills to good use by creating some posters about the importance of wearing a mask—we are hoping we may be allowed to also display them on local buses.



So far we have been fortunate to have very few cases of Covid in our school community but obviously if children, parents or staff do test positive, there is a possibility that we will have to close whole classes or even the whole school in the event that a significant number of staff tested positive. We hope that keeping our strict measures in place will ensure the risk of this is low.

The St John's sponsored spellathon!

Just a reminder that children in Years 1 to 6 will be taking part in the sponsored spell on **Friday 13th November**. The children will need lots of practice at home before the big day so will need lots of support from parents and siblings—remember to break the spelling list down and tackle a few words each day until your children are really confident. You should also have received some useful tips on different ways to help your children practice so that it's not too daunting.

Year 6 spelling success

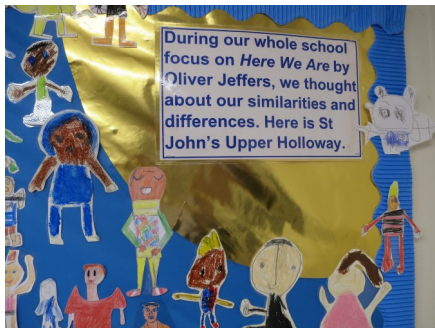
On the subject of spelling, our Year 6 children finished a fantastic third in a national spelling competition via Doodlespell. Over 300 schools entered the competition so not surprisingly, they were very proud of their achievement. Well done Year 6!



Diversity at St John's

We think that having such a diverse community of children and parents helps to make our school a rich and exciting place to be. As part of our focus on redeveloping the curriculum, we invited Heather Vacciana in from Islington's education team to deliver staff training around diversity in order that all our children feel equally valued and inspired to achieve great things as they grow older.

As well as highlighting important people throughout the curriculum, we will also be celebrating the achievements of people that children may be more familiar with and showcasing them each week in our 'Gallery of Greatness'. Look out for them in the windows in the hall and also on the large screen in the playground. If you have any people that you think should feature in our gallery, do let us know.



General reminders

Lateness - quite a few children are arriving 5 minutes late each day and this can be upsetting for them as well as disruptive for the rest of the class. Please remember that you can drop your children off in class from 8:45 so that they are ready for the register at 9am prompt.

Cars dropping off children - the entrance to school can be very congested in the morning so we are asking parents to not park or drop their children off near the school gates so that the space is clear and safe for children to cross the road. Thank you.

Breakfast and Buzz Club

Just a reminder to parents that we are asking you to book and pay in advance either by phone or by parentmail. Numbers are steadily increasing since the start of term which is encouraging and will hopefully enable us to continue to offer the service for the future.

As always, do feel free to get in touch if you have any questions, thoughts or suggestions.

Brian Welsh and all the staff at St John's