



Believing in the worth of every individual, we are a nurturing, Christian sanctuary of learning, where all can flourish. We aspire for everyone to achieve heights of success, to deepen courage and to experience breadth of creativity, knowing the joy of God's love.

LIVING OUR VISION

Spring 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term we have had, full of exciting opportunities. Thank you to the 102 parents who completed the parent survey. The results were overwhelmingly positive with over 98% of parents saying that their child was safe at school and 96% of parents stated that their child does well at John Keble School.

On 13th January 2023, we launched this year's school charity. The charity is Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The charity was chosen by some of our older pupils, who know that the school has an increasing number of children with type 1 diabetes. These children approached staff and requested that this be our focus charity for 2023 as a show of support for their peers. The children presented the assembly themselves, educating the school on what it means to have type 1 diabetes and what Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is doing to find a cure.



Thanks to our guinea pigs naming competition, we raised £73.80 for this charity. Their names are Venus and Serena. Thank you to all of you who paid 20p to name them.



Our Year 1 children have also held a dance off to raise money for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and have so far raised £355.

In nursery this half-term, the children have been exploring the world through their senses. They discussed their favourite and least favourite foods and made fruit kebabs. They learnt how to cut up the fruit using a safe knife and thread the pieces onto skewers.

They also became pirates for a week and decided to make treasure maps and telescopes before going on a treasure hunt. The children are experimenting with mark making and particularly enjoyed using a variety of writing tools in our mark-making tent. With lots of new children joining us this half-term, we continue to focus on social play including taking turns and sharing.



In reception, we have been comparing life in different countries. We learnt about Brazil and the South Pole. The children have made collages inspired by the book "From My Window" and made their own mini-books about the South Pole. We have been retelling the story "Lost and Found" and we found a lost snail in the playground! Inspired by this story, we returned the snail to his home in the park, using a map to help us find his home. The children have also made their own maps based on the trip. In maths, we

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have been exploring capacity, mass and height. The children enjoyed measuring and comparing the length of their body-parts.



In Year 1 this half term, we have been learning the story of Rapunzel. We immersed ourselves in the story and did lots of short burst writing. We wrote a postcard to Rapunzel, wrote a letter to the wicked sorceress and retold the story in a range of different ways. In continuous provision, the children chose to use junk modelling to create Rapunzel's tower. They worked together experimenting with different bases, in order to solve the problem of making it stand up. They also measured it against themselves to ensure that it was taller than them! Finally, the children changed an element of the original story to create and write their own version.

Year 2 went into the outdoor classroom during their science lessons to explore and look at microhabitats, searching for what insects live there. We discussed as a class what insects and plants we found, thinking about why it is a suitable habitat for the living organism. For writing we looked at the story Amazing Grace and learnt about what



makes us amazing too. We used similes to create poems about self-worth.



In Year 3 we have been having lots of fun learning about Ancient Sumer in history and raw materials in science. We even made our own recycled paper from newspapers! We have been really using our imaginations to write suspenseful stories in writing - this term, using Escape from Pompeii as inspiration, we used exciting sentence starters to captivate the reader. In geography we have been learning about mountains and mountain ranges



around the UK and the rest of the world whilst in mathematics, multiplication and division has been the focus.

Spring has been an exciting half term for Year 4. The children built on their prior science learning about the different states of matter and carried out several exciting investigations involving rocks! Year 4 proved their ability to work scientifically, using their observations and sorting diagrams to help classify different types of metamorphic rock. Year 4 enjoyed performing their assemblies for their families. Thank you to all who came.



This term in Year 5 we have been reading and writing about a contemporary narrative inspired by fantasy fiction, focusing on the Brightstorm text- by Vashti Hardy. Children have immersed themselves in the language of the text through characterisation, suspense, action and drama. They have published some amazing writing based on the text. In DT the children have designed and created their very own moving toy using the cams mechanisms. They were able to create a purposeful and functional toy.

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Year 6 have been learning about WW2 and how the Blitz affected the lives of ordinary people in Britain at the time. Anu and Zuhaib wrote an amazing information text about rationing for people living in Britain in 1939. This week Year 6 have been away on a residential trip to Hilston Park in Wales. They have learnt many new geographical skills, but also had many new experiences, e.g. riding a zip wire, rock climbing.



Our learning at school builds on knowledge gained in the lessons and days before. When children miss school, it has a massive impact on their attainment. The children doing best at school, both academically and socially, have the highest attendance. Well done to 6 Birch Class who had 100% attendance last week - every child was in school every day. This means that 6 Birch have won a Mufti Day on Friday 24th February.

We welcome Father Adam to our school community. He was installed as priest at All Souls Church last week. He will join us for Mass on Wednesdays after half term. Our worship leaders will be helping to choose a new priest for Saint Matthew's Church later this term too. We would like to thank the local clergy members who have ensured that we have been able to have Mass each week, Reverend Trevor Goddard, Reverend Julia Palmer, Reverend James Yeates and Archdeacon Catherine. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Lusa later this term too.

We're excited to announce that a new ukulele music club for children and parents will start on Thursdays after half term for children in Years 1-3. No prior music experience is necessary. If you are interested, please contact Will (aka the Harlesden Music Man) who has been running music classes for primary and pre-school aged children in the area for the past 14 years. The cost is £5 per adult and child. £2 per extra sibling. For more information and to register your interest please email Will - harlesdenmusicman@gmail.com

Phone Numbers: It is really important that the school has your most up to date phone number on our system, so we can speak to you and contact you in an emergency. If you do not get regular text messages from the school. Check your number with the front office.

I wish you all a good and restful holiday.

Catherine Allard.

School starts again on Monday 20th February 2023 at 8.30am

Term Dates 2022-2023

Spring Term 2023 (58 days + 1 INSET)	
Half term	Monday 13 th February – Friday 17 th February 2023
Term ends	Friday 31 st March 2023 at 1.30pm
Summer Term 2023 (62 days + 2 INSET)	
Term starts	Monday 17 th April 2023
Bank holidays	Monday 1st May 2023 and Monday 8th May 2023
Half term	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

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Term ends	Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 1.30pm
Inset Day	Thursday 20th July and Friday 21st July 2023

Please do not request leave in term time. It will not be granted. Please ensure that your child/ren are back in London ready to start school on Monday 20th February 2023. Action, including fines, will be taken by Brent Council against families whose children are not back in school. There is a clear correlation between children's attendance at school and their academic performance.

Children with the best attendance have the best results.

We have published our term dates for 2023-2024 below to help you ensure that all travel is booked outside term times.

Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023 (72 days + 2 INSET)	
Inset Day	Monday 4 th September 2023 and Tuesday 5 th September 2023
Term starts	Wednesday 6 th September 2023
Half term	Monday 23 rd October – Friday 27 th October 2023
Term ends	Thursday 21 st December 2023 at 1.30pm
Spring Term 2024 (53 days + 1 INSET)	
Inset Day	Monday 8 th January 2024
Term starts	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Half term	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February 2024
Term ends	Thursday 28 th March 2024 at 1.30pm
Summer Term 2024 (65 days + 2 INSET)	
Term starts	Monday 15 th April 2024
Bank holiday	Monday 6 th May 2024
Half term	Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May 2024
Term ends	Monday 22 nd July 2024 at 1.30pm
Inset Day	Tuesday 23 rd July and Wednesday 24 th July 2024