



*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

Autumn 1 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy start to the new academic year, yet it is hard to believe that it is half term already. The children have settled really well into their new classes and there is a very purposeful learning climate around the school.



This half term, our nursery's main focus is to ensure that the children are happy in their new environment. We are encouraging them to make friends and play cooperatively with each other.



Our Reception classes have been learning about the properties of different materials. We investigated which material would make a waterproof bus stop for the gingerbread man. We have been reading the story "The Something" and found a hole in our playground! The children have been discussing and drawing what they think might be inside the hole. We have also been developing our one to one correspondence in Maths, focussing on numbers 1-5.



In science this half-term, Year 1 children have been learning about the seasons, the weather and time. We made globes out of oranges to see why it's day in some places and night in others. We made rain-gauges to catch and measure the rainfall. We used thermometers to measure hot and cold and to show how the sun heats the Earth. We also made hour glasses to see how people used to measure time in the past. We love doing experiments. In computing, we

have been learning how to use different formatting functions such as "Fill" and "Create" to insert and modify lines and shapes in image software. This helped us to recreate Henri Matisse's 'Snail'. In maths we have been learning about number bonds to 10.



This term, the Year 2 classes have been learning about a variety of topics. In science, we have enjoyed creating bird feeders and keeping a track of them to aid our learning about animals' survival needs. During art lessons, we have been observing nature closely and using our observations to create nature drawings. In writing we have been on an adventure with the book

# Rooted together in love, growing without limits



The River to inspire our letter writing and build up our vocabulary.

This half term our year 3 classes have been learning about Ancient Egypt. We carved our own hieroglyphs into clay and learned the grisly details of how the Egyptians mummified their dead! In science, we conducted experiments to see who could grow the biggest crystals by altering the temperature and rate of cooling. We discovered that they grow best when they are cooled very quickly in ice.



This term has been an exciting half term for Year 4. We started to learn the steel pan drums in music. We combined our science learning about circuits with our design technology lessons to build traffic lights. We used our own designs and used electrical components like bulbs and switches to successfully work their coloured lights independently. It was very exciting!



In Year 5, this term we have been learning about forces. We carried out an experiment to determine whether the relationship between the surface area of an object (parachutes) had an effect on the air resistance it encountered. It did! In our maths lessons we have consolidated our understanding of place value and learnt to round and compare numbers to 1,000,000. In reading and writing lessons, we have used, 'When We Walked on the Moon' to learn all about the Apollo missions. To enable us to write our own imagined recounts of space missions, we watched video footage of astronauts and employed role-play.



In Year 6, we have looked at electricity and renewable energy. In science we made wind turbines and conducted an investigation to see which shaped blades would be most effective. This was inspired by our reading text, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba.



We hope you have enjoyed our new homework format, designed to help the children practise the skills they have learnt each week.

This format also gives parents and carers a chance to see what the children have been doing in class. The half-term holiday is a time for children to pursue their interests outside of school and to engage with their family to make memories; however, we have provided activity ideas that link to what your child has learned this half-term should they wish to consolidate or follow up on their learning during the half-term



break.

Our Junior Leadership Team has been interviewed and appointed for this year after a rigorous application and interview process. Thank you to all the children who applied. Many of our new leaders have already started their roles and our Peer mediators underwent training too with Ms El and Ms Brown.

Congratulations to the eleven children from John Keble School who made their First Holy Communion at All Souls Church on Sunday 15th October. It was a joyous occasion for all. We would like to thank Father Adam who prepared them for this celebration of the children's faith.

Father Ross was inducted at St Matthew's Church on Sunday 15th October and we look forward to welcoming him into school soon.

Thank you to all of you for the generous harvest contributions that were sent into school. We celebrated a harvest assembly and a harvest mass with Father Adam and the food has now been added to our foodbank. Please let the office know if you would like support from our foodbank or if you are able to volunteer to help with its distribution.

A reminder that our school office is open from 8am -4.30pm and closes between 1.30pm-2.30pm for lunch.

For the latest news, please remember to check out what is happening on our X (formerly Twitter) feed @JohnKebleBrent, we post at least twice a week. You can also read about our latest news and view images in the gallery on our website. <http://www.johnkeble.com>

I wish you all a good and restful holiday.

Catherine Allard.

### **School starts again on Monday 30th October for the children**

Please remember that the morning gate is open from 8.30-8.40am. Formal lessons start at 8.45am. Children brought to school after 8:40am need to ensure they are brought through the front office to ensure they are registered appropriately.

### **Term Dates 2023-2024**

<b>Autumn Term 2023 (72 days + 2 INSET)</b>	
Inset Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 and Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Term starts	<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>
Half term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Term ends	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023
<b>Spring Term 2024 ( 53 days + 1 INSET)</b>	
Inset Day	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

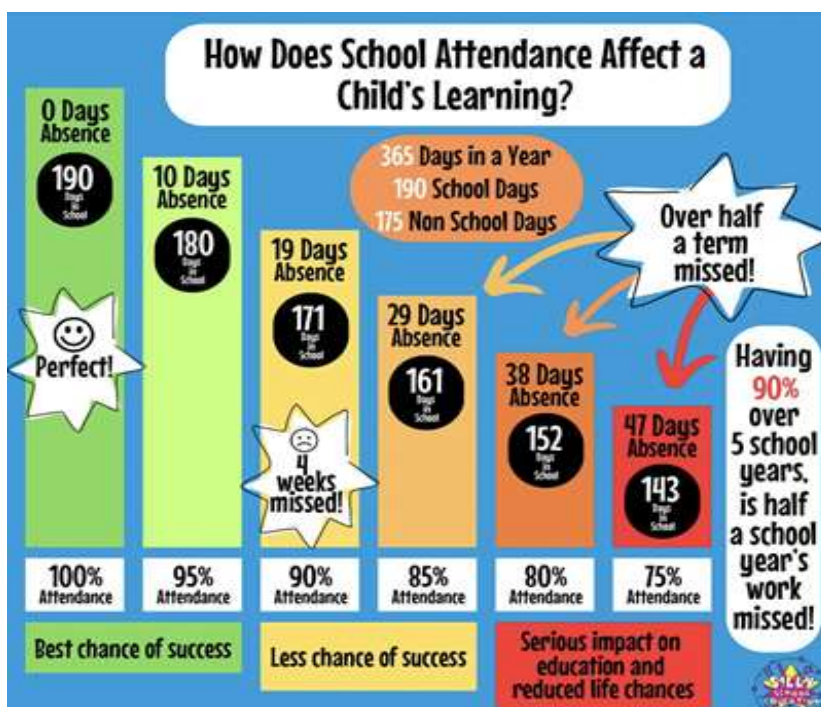




Term starts	Tuesday 9th January 2024
Half term	Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2024
Term ends	Thursday 28th March 2024
Summer Term 2024 ( 65 days + 2 INSET)	
Term starts	Monday 15th April 2024
Bank holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
Half term	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024
Term ends	Monday 22nd July 2024
Inset Day	Tuesday 23rd July and Wednesday 24th July 2024

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 30th October 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.



## Upcoming Dates

Friday 17th November: 5Elm assembly

Friday 1st December: 5Pine assembly

13th December: Christmas lunch for children in school

14th December: Nursery and Reception Christmas performance

15th December: The Royal Shakespeare Company in to perform Macbeth to Years 3-6

19th December: Year 1 and 2 Christmas performance

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