

John Keble Church of England Primary School
Newsletter
Autumn 2 2017



Dear Parents,

As the autumn term draws to a close and we focus on the holiday season ahead, I would like to take this opportunity to say how inspiring and fun this term has been. The staff have been working extremely hard to deliver our creative curriculum, building on the children's interests and engaging them in meaningful learning. In September, a theatre group inspired us as we began a school journey through many traditional fairy tales. After half term, the teachers all dressed up for a spectacular time warp assembly (yes, we danced). We then journeyed back in time in our classes' time machines. This term has also been filled with trips, class assemblies and more recently nativity plays and concerts. All of these opportunities have enriched, not only the children's experiences at school, but also the lives of others, with our choir singing at St Marks' Senior Fellowship Group. Thank you to the parents and carers who have supported their children by helping with events and coming to watch them perform. It makes all the difference for the children to know that you are there for them. Thank you too for the way that you have also engaged with the new home learning format. I love the children bringing home learning to show me. They are so proud of this additional learning and talk about the quality time spend with parents and carers completing many of these activities.

During the last few weeks, we have been lighting our advent candles in assembly and learnt how the word advent means 'to come'. In church, last week Father Andrew taught us that John the Baptist was called to prepare people for the coming of God. He challenged us to think about how we are preparing for Christmas, the birth of Christ. Looking around us in this time of advent however, it seems to be a time of indulgence materially, socially and economically. Ironically during advent, we seem to have less time to make room for God, as there are expectations placed on us by society to prepare for the perfect celebration. When we look back at the birth of Jesus, it was far less than a perfect story in a worldly sense with a teenage mother, a very long journey, nowhere to stay, visitors, shepherds – outcasts in that time- and wise men who made a detour to see Herod. Jesus was then a refugee for the first few years of his life. In the gospels, there is no mention of the perfect tree, snow, decorations, turkey, crackers, cards. Christmas is not about the perfect experience, but about God sending his own son because He so loved the world that He sent His only son to live among us, so that everyone might have eternal life. Christmas is about LOVE, LOVE come down, the Word became flesh and lived among us. If Christmas does not come out of a place of love, then why do we do it? I encourage you all to have a fun Christmas, full of love and fun and to make room for love this Christmas holidays.

Another word that comes from advent is adventure. I look forward to an adventurous learning journey through 2018 with all of you.

A very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at John Keble School. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th January 2018.

Catherine Allard

HOLIDAY LEARNING

Check the Christmas learning grid in your child's home learning book for fun, family activities to keep you

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God."

Romans 8:28

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Sporting News

A big well done to all the children who have represented the school at sport.

Our school football team, The Ace team have had an extremely successful term. They have won every game and they have also won 3 tournaments, including the QPR Cup – they will now go on to represent QPR at the Majeski stadium in Reading.

The tag rugby team have played brilliantly this term, earning the right to represent Brent at London-wide 'Tag-Rugby Megafest' in the new year.

Check our website events section to see our sporting successes in more detail.

Term Dates

Spring Term 2018

INSET day (School closed for children) - Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Term starts (children return) - Thursday 4th January 2018

Half-term - Monday 12th February 2018 to Friday 16th February 2018

School reopens (children return) - Monday 19th February 2018

Term ends - Thursday 29th March 2018

Easter holiday - Friday 30th March to Monday 16th April 2018

Summer Term 2018

Term starts (children return) - Tuesday 17th April 2018

Bank holiday (no school) - Monday 7th May 2018

INSET (School closed for children) - Friday 25th May 2018

Half-term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June 2018

School reopens (children return) - Monday 4th June 2018

Term ends - Tuesday 24th July 2018

Goodbye

This term we say Goodbye to Mrs Kennedy who has worked in the school office for many years. We wish her all the best as she takes some time to travel around the world.

We welcome Ms Auty as a new Assistant Headteacher, teaching in Year 6.

League Tables

The primary school league tables have been published showing the results.

We are very proud of the children here. 67% of children reached the expected standard in all three subjects. This is higher than both the Brent and National average.

Here is the website to compare local primary schools.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=304&geographic=la&phase=primary>

Internet Safety

Please remember that if you are concerned about your child's internet safety, the site below will show you everything you need to know.

<https://ceop.police.uk/>

The school has also been made aware that a number of our children have social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, etc). We will be reporting children with social media accounts as underage to the providers as part of our duty of care. Most social media accounts require the child to be 13. We are also aware that many of these accounts have no privacy settings hence putting the child at serious risk.

MOBILE PHONES

We recognise that some home alone children are bringing phones to school. If your child is home alone and has a phone, please make sure that they are handed into the school office for safe keeping.

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Romans 8:28