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Spring Term Issue 18

# NEWSLETTER

St John's Highbury Vale C. of E. Primary School

School Website: [www.st.jhv.islington.sch.uk](http://www.st.jhv.islington.sch.uk)

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## Spring Half Term

To celebrate a wonderful term of excitement and learning at St John's, our final newsletter of the half term is focusing on a range of learning that has took place in each class. It is great to see so many brilliant activities, educational visits and of course smiling faces in every year group. We hope you enjoy reading about your child's learning and seeing the great pictures to support it. We hope you all have a wonderful half term break, and look forward to seeing you all again back at school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.



The class with the best attendance last week at 98.9% was ...

Year 6



The class with the best punctuality last week and with 0 children late all week was ...

Year 4

This half term **Reception class** have been Palaeontologists. They found dinosaur bones in the sand tray and used books to find out which dinosaur they belonged to. Using their knowledge of dinosaurs, they made their own fossils, recreated a dinosaur skeleton using pasta, made dinosaur eggs and even sorted dinosaurs into the correct time within the Mesozoic era.



During Geography in **Year 1** this term, the children have been looking at the UK and its capital cities. We integrated cooking into our unit by having a 'Queen's High Tea', and having some traditional High Tea food. We baked Sultana scones and a Victoria Sponge Cake.



**Year 2** travelled back in time to London, September 1666. They stepped into the shoes of people who lived at the time and were given different trades. Trades: candle makers, leather craftsmen (tanners), apothecary practitioners, weavers, sowers and scribes, making our own ink from charcoal. As the day went on, a fire broke out, slowly burning down the businesses they had built up. The children investigated what happened, digging through the charred remains to try and salvage what they could. They have since learned exactly what happened and now know how it was caused, brought to life by the fact that they lived it!



This term in **Year 3** so far, the children have visited Gillespie Ecology Centre as part of their Geography topic, in which they were looking at contrasting localities. They were studying human and physical Geography and looking at differences and similarities in locations. Map skills were also included in the sessions, as well as how to use a compass correctly.



They have also been looking at the water cycle in Science, and they carried out their own experiments to test how different elements of it work.



**Year 4** have been very busy about and about on educational visits recently. Their first visit last week took them to Neasden Hindu Temple, to support their RE learning in class. Whilst they were there, they were able to observe what Hindu worship looks like, but most importantly, they were filled with awe and wonder as they learnt some amazing facts about the temple itself and how it came to be.



The children visited the Science Museum exhibition, 'Making the World Modern', to consolidate their learning about electricity. The children also visited the fantastic Wonderlab, where they explored different parts of Science. The day ended with a wonderful rocket show where they learned about the insightful Isaac Newton.



In Maths, Year 5 started their unit of work on fractions. As an introduction to the unit, Mr Rudd organised for pizzas to be delivered to school.



The children made parachutes for their Science experiment on forces. They investigated which forces can counteract gravity and slow down its effects. They discussed how a parachute could be used to increase air resistance to the pull of gravity on the 'spoon' soldiers that they had made.



In **Year 6**, all of the children's work has been linked to their topic of India. In Geography, the children have been looking at the physical features of Geography. Using art materials, the children created a representation of the map of India, identifying features through a number of different ways.



### Extra Curricular Events

A group of children from **Year 5 & 6** went off to a Basketball tournament last week. They worked on developing a number of skills, before then competing in matches in a small-scale tournament.



An annual LDBS service at St Paul's Cathedral took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January, for all London diocesan schools. A selection of **Year 5 & 6** children from St John's went to represent the school at the service. The service lasted an hour, in which a procession of banners were marched through the Cathedral, the children sang a number of hymns and lit candles.

