

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER 2

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of the school year has arrived and what a year it has been! Well done to every child whose lives and schooling, despite our combined best efforts, have been so disrupted; and thank you parents for supporting home learning during repeated lockdowns and working closely with us to lessen the impact of coronavirus upon our young people.

I also thank my staff, teaching and non-teaching, who have worked so hard throughout to mitigate the negative impact of coronavirus. They too have had to acquire new skills and ways of working and I am grateful to them for their professionalism and dedication. A very special thank you to our team of marvellous teaching assistants, many of whom willingly ran class bubbles during lockdown enabling teachers to devote their time and energy to remote learning. They did this despite the 'front-line' covid risks they were inevitably exposed to.

It has been such an immense disappointment that the school was so badly affected by coronavirus in the very last week of term; so near yet so far! But I guess we did well to survive for so long and with a million school children affected during the last week of the school year it should not have been a surprise to us that we were impacted too. I am sorry for the inconvenience that this must have caused you but as you will fully appreciate the situation was exceptional and our hands were tied regarding the shift to remote learning for many of our classes.

At this moment it is impossible to predict what the situation will be like in the autumn and winter months. The situation remains unstable despite the fact that we hope and pray for better times ahead. We will produce a September reopening risk assessment which will be published in draft form to the school website at or just prior to school reopening. As covid cases continue to rise with dramatic

consequences, there is the possibility that some mitigation measures will be retained, but decisions regarding this will be deferred for several weeks as we monitor the direction of travel of the virus during August.

A reminder that the autumn term officially begins on Wednesday 1st September but **school reopens to children on Thursday 2nd September** (school is closed on 1st September for staff training).



RECEPTION FUN IN THE SUN

Events to look forward to in September include a **PTFA BBQ** scheduled for Friday 17th September 2021, beginning at 4pm; a **non-uniform day** for children on Friday 10th September (donation £2 per child please) and a rescheduled **Y6 Leavers' Service and picnic on Sunday 5th September** as we were forced to cancel the service on the 18th July because of covid in our school setting.



'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'

Congratulations to the Y5 and Y6 cast of our incredibly successful summer show. It was a remarkable production, full of talented children who 'wowed' us with their acting skills, songs, energy and humour! Thank you for entertaining us in such style.

We send our very best wishes to the children of Y6 who were denied the opportunity to celebrate their time at St. John's due to the forced closure of their bubble in the last week of term because of a covid outbreak. We wish each of them success and happiness in their new schools.

Staff completed their **virtual run/cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats** recently to raise funds for our **Sunken Pool** project. My thanks to each who helped us cover 874 miles this term; it was a phenomenal effort; hard work but fun! I am sure that many of us will continue with our fitness regime in the months and years ahead as a consequence of this experience; so many benefits. Thanks to the generosity of your donations so far we have raised £3582 from 59 donations. With approximately 160 families in our school we welcome further donations. Our GoFundMe page will remain open until the end of September so if you haven't yet done so, please offer your support; no donation too small and every donation really appreciated! If we can double our original target and raise £5,000 through this event we would already have £20,000 in the bank with the £15,000 already generously pledged by the Friern Barnet Education Trust. With other potential sources of income and support from other major charities we really are confident that the £100,000 we need is within our reach. Thank you for your continued support.

At the time of writing this newsletter I read of 17 cases of drowning in England these past seven days during this hot spell and a call for 'better swimming education to help people keep safe' ('Education calls grow after week of tragedies in England's waters'; Helen Pidd,

Guardian, 23rd July). Thanks to the vision of a group of parents at St. John's in 1968 and their fund raising activities, thousands of children since then have learned to swim at our school. Please be a part of this legacy and support our fundraising for a new pool so that future generations of children can have the same benefit. If we are forced to close our pool in a couple of years because it has become irreparable that would be a desperate shame and the pool would be lost forever. You can find our fund raising page by following this link: <https://gofund.me/6d2522d3>

On behalf of staff and governors I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Kind regards

Graham Gunn

Scenes from 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'



I'm so happy I just want to sing out aloud!"

More pics on the next page



A recording of the show will be available through Dropbox for Y5 and Y6 families. Link to be sent directly to you.