



**Dear parents:** .... Yes the paper based Newsletter is back for the first time since March 20th. Another small step back on the road to recovery and always useful for lining cat trays, making origami swans or for bulking up the recycling bins. It will also still be on our website as a PDF. With this Newsletter you will also get a really sad looking Term Dates paper. Normally all the dates up until Christmas with assemblies, class visits, Fireworks Night details, Nativity Plays, Christmas Fairs and dinners and all the other amazing Advent and Christmas events as we try to light up the gloom would all be listed so you can plan in advance. Not quite the same this year. We do however plan to still go big on Christmas God willing. We are making plans the whole time. Flexible plans of course as the guidance keeps changing. Spare a thought today for the poor students in Scotland locked up and can't even see their own parents, now that is truly draconian. More updates and news on Monday.

Some good news on Attendance. The Hackney average is 88% we last week were at 94.73% so please do your best to keep this up.

For Year 6 parents this would normally be the season for visiting secondary schools. Now all these schools are doing remote, virtual tours etc. Check with individual schools you may be interested in.

March 20th is seared into my consciousness as that Friday we closed schools for all but the children of key workers, those with SEND and our vulnerable pupils. I always remember Year 6 bidding each other farewell as they thought they would never return. We did get them all back for the last few weeks and gave them a Graduation Ceremony and a good send off. I think September 22nd six months later will be equally remembered. The day that the PM told us of new restrictions for the next six months ..... six months !!! ..... and the realisation that more was sure to come. It was Autumn Equinox day too and dear Lord it was so depressing to contemplate the future for everyone. We are human after all. Next day we were all back in school and the children were as cheerful and bubbly as ever. I am an eternal optimist, glass half full person so one day at a time we carry on. Roll on April.

## School news ... this week

Packed lunches resumed on Monday but the take up was tiny. Florence our cook has now asked to let her know in advance if you want to change either way. Breakfast club also resumed and there are still a few vacancies please register if interested. Multi-sports resumes next week and letters went out with a really strong uptake already. This half-term Years 1-2 and 3 next half-term Years 4, 5 and 6. We next hope to resume Art Club and others soon.

## Solution to Testing for Covid in schools

I have a cunning plan to save money, keep schools open and reassure teachers and parents. Eton and Bennenden public schools have just bought Covid testing machines called a Samba 2 costing £35,000 each. Results in 90 minutes max and each test costs around £60. So there are currently 32,770 schools in the UK. Of these, 3,714 are nurseries or early-learning centres, 20,832 are primary schools, 19 are middle schools and 4,188 are secondary schools. There are 2,408 independent schools, 1,257 special schools and 352 pupil referral units (PRUs). If every school in the country was provided with one it amounts to £1,146,950,000 just over a billion. If they were put into the PM's beloved Rule of 6 say in a cluster of schools the cost falls to £191,158,333.333 etc. Staffing and training would be costly but a fraction of what we are currently spending. Its effect on people's mental health would be immeasurable. I was going to write it would be a 'game changer' but I have banned myself from using that overhyped phrase. Airports have them too.



## School news ... next week

Tuesday - CATS Banding for Year 6 starts and is much longer this year all done online. + Multi-sports resumes with Mr James after school.

Thursday - is Poetry Day - with the theme of Vision.

Friday - Speech and Language Therapist in.

## Pics of the week:

Music always a big part in school but almost no singing .... in a primary school that is hard. Still the beat goes on .... Year 1



explore Salty, Sour, Bitter and Sweet tastes and oh dear someone forgot to water the new trees at Highbury Corner. Traffic cones have finally gone however.



**and finally** ... my favourite local restaurant has just given up and not re-opened best Sardinian food in London and then my local last of the great Irish pubs finally re-opened last week. I had last been in there March 17th St Patrick's Night. Eagerly walked in on Friday with my book...aarghh. ....inside ripped apart, all screens gone, all old red benches gone, pool tables and dart boards and then shock horror a large wine collection and food menu .... in 130 years the Boston never sold wine and food was a bag of crisps. Gin £9 a glass and Guinness £6 ....another casualty of the pandemic ... words I will not now write include 'bubbles' - 'unprecedented' - 'world beating' - 'new normal' ..... heard from a football insider the full story behind Orient cancelling the game against Spurs ...interesting !! Be happy .....