



## The John Locke Academy Newsletter

*Opening Minds to Success; Opening Hearts to Succeed*

It is the 2nd of December and the countdown to Christmas begins. Reception have begun to rehearse their nativities, ready for performance at St. Andrew's Church and the PSA is busy organising our Christmas Fayre which takes place on Friday 16th December 3pm to 5pm. We are delighted that the Mayor of Hillingdon will be in attendance. Our children are preparing lots of goodies to buy and all the proceeds will go to the funding of our school library.

**Punctuality:** Please remember that our registers are taken at 9.10am. The top gate is open for 20 minutes to ensure that all children are able to get to their classrooms on time. The extra 5 minutes of the gate being open is to allow parents out. Children who arrive in class after 9.10am are marked as late. If children are persistently late, we are bound to report this to the London Borough of Hillingdon's Participation Officer. Our attendance and punctuality policy is being amended to reflect this.

We appreciate that most of our parents share our belief that punctuality is important and persistent lateness has an impact on learning.

### **Nativity dates:**

Unicorn Class (Miss Silk): Tuesday 6th December

Dragon Class (Miss Giffard): Thursday 8th December

Lion Class (Miss Matharoo): Tuesday 13th December

**Reception Nativities:** Parents, carers and families are welcome to join us for the reception nativities. Parents are asked to join us at **9.30am in the children's classrooms**. We will then walk up to the church together. At the church, families should wait outside while we settle the children. After the performance, please walk back with us to the school to ensure that everyone returns safely.

Learning about Christmas forms parts of Religious Education (RE) programme. Children will learn how and why Christmas is celebrated. Year 1 will focus on the Christmas story and the characters involved. They will learn about other festivals of light. Year 2 will think about why presents are given at Christmas and the symbolism in the Christmas story. Children will be helped to understand why some people don't celebrate Christmas as part of our theme of **tolerance**.

**Supporting your children at home:** Many of the basic skills that children need in maths and English need regular practice at home as well as at school. Regular practice of phonics, reading skills, number bonds, times tables at home will help accelerate children's learning when those skills are needed at a higher level.



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This website has free downloadable resources for Letters and Sounds

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>

<http://www.snappymaths.com/> has some ideas and interactive games for number bonds and times tables

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/files/MyMaths> has a wealth of games and activities to learn and consolidate maths skills. Individual logins will be issued in the coming weeks so we can track usage but in the interim please use the following; Username - johnlocke Password - divide235

The school has invested in **Bug Club** on-line to help motivate children to read at home. The on-line books also extend children's comprehension skills in turn preparing them for classroom comprehension activities. Please ask your child's teacher if you do not have one or have lost your password.

**JLA SPONSORED SPELLING BEE SPRING 2017:** In order to raise the profile of spelling, we will be holding a Sponsored Spelling Bee. The aim is to encourage healthy competition amongst the 5 Key Stage 1 classes as well as raising money for a good cause. The competition will consist of 30 words randomly chosen from a list of 100 common words. Effort as well as success will be celebrated. Once we have collected the sponsorship money, the children will vote for their preferred charity. More information will follow shortly.

**School Website:** Miss Werner has done a fantastic job in relaunching our website making it easier to access information and easier to add information at school. Please have a look and tell us what you think. All of the newsletters are posted; upcoming dates are on the front page; the blog is updated more regularly and features two video clips - children reading part of 'For the Fallen' and a video about Gardening Club.

**CGP practise** and learning books for both Year 1 and 2 Literacy and Numeracy are available for a discounted price of £3.00 each. We have books for both Year 1 and Year 2. First come, first served! Please buy them from your child's teacher after school next week. Any excess books will be sold during the Christmas Fayre.

### School Closure Date

Please note that **the academy will be closed to children on Friday 26th May 2017**. This is to enable all of our teachers and support staff to participate in an Elliot Foundation Training Day.



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### News from the nursery:

In Nursery we have been busy exploring the wonderful world outside and looking at seasonal changes. Last week we read the story *Leaf Man*. We collected Autumn treasures on our welly walk and used these to make our own leaf characters. Later in the week we collected lots of leaves and created a leaf storm by throwing them in the air.



This week we enjoyed the story *Stickman*. We found long and short sticks and made them into stick characters. We have also had fun painting with sticks and using sticks to make patterns in the mud.

The children were very excited to see the frost this week. We enjoyed looking at the frost covered plants on our welly walk and tried mark making on the frosty tables. We will be exploring Winter more next week.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Phonics Sharing Learning. We hope you enjoyed the activities and have got some new ideas for games to play at home.



### News from reception:

Reception have been working extremely hard to perfect their Christmas concerts. Their singing, dancing and acting skills have been wonderful. The children have been eager to practise during challenge time and have used the sandpit as a stage.



We have also been exploring changes in the seasons. The children decided it can no longer be Autumn because it is so cold, so we went on a welly walk in search of signs of Winter. We found ice and frost all over the grass and the leaves. Some of the leaves were found in the freezer as the children wanted to see if the frost would stay!

Thank you to all the parents who came to the sharing learning sessions last week. The children enjoyed showing their parents what they do at school.



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### News from Year 1:

Over the past few weeks in year 1 we have been learning about changes that happen all around us. The children shared photos of themselves when they were babies and discussed what has changed or stayed the same over the years. This moved nicely into discussing how caterpillars change into butterflies and looking at how little fluffy cygnets turn into beautiful, white swans. Next week our learning turns to the Ugly Duckling.

On Wednesday the children were very excited by the frost that appeared overnight. They thought snow had appeared and wanted to build snowmen. As a result we took the children on welly walks around the playground, soon realising everything was icy and very slippery and in fact not snow. Nonetheless this led to the excitement of Christmas kicking in and the countdown beginning.... 23 days to go.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our Maths Shared Learning last week. We hope it gave you a slight insight into how Inspire Maths is run within the school. Any questions regarding the scheme and learning that is happening do not hesitate to ask.



Learnasaurus of the Week		
<b>Kingfisher</b> 	<b>Puffin</b> 	<b>Robin</b> 
Taran	Piotr	Jeremiah
Edvardas	Sebastian	Valentina

### News from year 2:

The children have all worked very hard this week. We have been focussing on multiplication in Maths and on learning our times tables. They have been developing strategies to help work out calculations they are unsure of. We will be continuing this learning next week and holding times table competitions around the 2, 5 and 10 times table! The children will see how many times tables they can complete in the given time and then compete to beat their score!

In English we have been unpicking the story of The Little Red Riding Hood. We are working towards the children writing a retell of the story. We have even had suggestions of a new title - Little **Green** Riding Hood! I will look forward to reading these once they are finished!



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