



## **The John Locke Academy Newsletter**

*Opening Minds to Success; Opening Hearts to Succeed*



Towards the end of last half term we celebrated Diwali, exploring how different families celebrate the festival. The children learnt about the stories associated with Diwali and made divas which were on display.

This term we will be learning about Guru Nanak, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

### **Values at John Locke Academy**

Last half-term our core value was kindness. Children can now receive a token for an act of kindness which is put in their class' 'Kindness Bucket.' These are counted at the end of the week to remind everybody that kindness is noticed and is an important JLA value.

This half term we are particularly focusing on Tolerance. We have defined tolerance as accepting and celebrating other people's differences. We want JLA to be a community that can openly discuss and embrace difference in its many forms: religious, cultural, gender, likes and dislikes, appearance, disability etc. Children are very curious about why other people do the things they do or act in the way they do. Community cohesion is developed by embracing this curiosity and giving children a safe place to discuss and ask questions of each other. The introductory assembly is on our website. Click on values and the word tolerance and you will be taken to the presentation used. Please use this to discuss tolerance with your children at home. Knowing our children, we may be posed with some interesting questions over the following weeks. Our aim is to create a



A big well done to all those who made weather stations in year 1. They came in all shapes and sizes and are currently on display in the downstairs entrance hall.

Your pumpkins have added some colour to the slope and created some discussion as children have counted and compared the pumpkins on their way down to their classrooms. Thank you to all families for donating your pumpkins.





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children to talk about their own differences.

### **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.**

### **Academy Leadership:**

I am delighted to announce the appointment of staff year group leaders. Miss Gilder is now leading year 2, Miss Warren is leading year 1 and Miss Silk is leading reception. Their key responsibilities are to ensure the smooth day to day running of their year group, continuity across the year group and maintaining high standards of teaching and learning across their year group.

### **Peace Assembly and Remembrance Day:**

Year 1 are leading our peace assembly on Friday 11th November. It will start at 9.30am in the main hall. Year 1 parents are invited to come and watch the assembly. Although not every child will have a speaking part this time, they will all be involved in different parts of the assembly. After the assembly, we will be asking year 1 children and their parents to distribute some poppy seeds on the slope.

Nursery, reception and year 2 children will be dispersing poppy seeds on the slope at different points of the day. At 11pm we will gather together to observe 2 minutes silence.

### **Safeguarding Week:**

**Monday 14th to Friday 18th is our safeguarding week - It's Good to be Me. During this week children will be learning about anti-bullying strategies, keeping themselves safe generally and keeping themselves safe on-line. We will discuss stranger danger and the need to speak up if bullying or any other unwanted behaviour is taking place.**

### **Sharing Learning:**

Year 1 and 2 parents are invited into class on Tuesday 22nd November from 9.30am - 10.30am to share their child's learning. Teachers will be delivering a maths lesson and parents will be able to take part and work with their child. This is an opportunity to gain an understanding of how maths is taught.

Reception Sharing Learning sessions will take place on the following dates: Unicorn class - Wednesday 23rd November, Dragon class - Thursday 24th November and Lion class - Friday 25th November. The sessions are based on phonics teaching and learning. Parents are invited into the classroom from 9.30am to 10.30am to take part in a phonics lesson and then work with their child. Parents will also see children's independent learning in action.



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**Our tortoise:** For those who missed the result of the vote, our tortoise's name is Shelly.

**Flu vaccinations** for year 1 and 2 take place on Thursday 8th December. This date was set by the NHS team. The team only administer the vaccination to year 1 and 2 children. Younger children can have the vaccination administered by their GP.

**Child minders:** If any parents are qualified child minders or know of reputable child minders with spaces, we are willing to hold that information for parents who require this service. Please send in contact details to the school office. We will be able to give out the contact details, but that does not mean the school endorses the service.

**Reception places:** If your child was born between 1/9/2012 and 31/08/2013 you will need to make an on-line application for a reception place at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/primary)

Please note all reception admissions are managed by the London Borough of Hillingdon.

**Absences:** Please phone the school on 01895 590110 if your child is going to be absent for any reason. If you are unable to get through, a message can be left on the voicemail service.

**Congratulations to Mrs. Leite and her family on the safe arrival of Ellis Roy on 28th October - 9lb 12oz!**