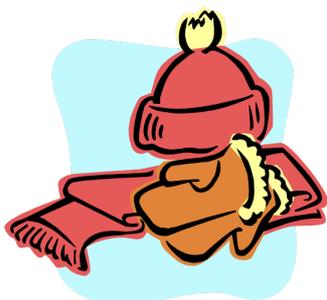




Teaching and Learning Review

This week, the primary school had an arranged visit with a highly experienced consultant to have a look at standards of teaching and learning this week. All classes were seen 'in action' and we are very pleased to report how impressed the consultant was. One of the main strengths was the very warm and positive relationships between staff and pupils and how hard the children worked during the sessions on the tasks given to them. We're very proud to work in a school where the children are such eager participants in their learning and the staff work so hard to delivery challenging lessons. As we all know there is always room for improvement in anything we do and the staff are committed to delivering excellent provision. Over the coming weeks, the leadership team will work alongside staff to reflect on any feedback given and share best practice.



Coats, gloves and scarves

Autumn has certainly arrived and lots of children are all wrapped up warm with coats, scarves and gloves. Please label all items clearly so that if items become separated from their owner they can be easily reunited.

School photo

On Monday, the proof of the individual school photo went home. The last day to order these is **15 November** and these must be ordered online. If you have any questions, please contact Donna in the office.

Scholastic Book Order

On Tuesday, your child should have received a Scholastic book order form. If you would like to order any of the books, please return the completed order form with the payment (**credit/debit card payments only**) to Donna in the Primary office by Friday 11 November. The school receives 20% commission on books bought, which goes towards us being able to buy books in order to keep class libraries up to date.



Poppies

Next week, poppies will be for sale in the school playground during the day and from the office at other times. Money from these sales goes to support the Royal British Legion who provides lifelong support for the Armed Forces community - serving men and women, veterans, and their families.

Parenting workshop

A free course on Parenting Children will be running in the Primary from **Wednesday 9 November** for a total of 5 consecutive weeks on Wednesday afternoons. It will start at 3:40 and finish at around 5:15. It's a great programme, designed for parents, step-parents and carers looking after children aged 0-10. It's open to anyone, whether they consider themselves to have strong parenting skills or whether they happen to be going through challenges. There are 5 sessions: Building Strong Foundations; Meeting our Children's Needs; Setting Boundaries; Teaching Healthy Relationships; Our Long-term Aim. The course has been running for several years across the UK and internationally with great success. Volunteers from Hope Church Islington will be involved in helping it run. There's no need to sign up in advance, just be in school for a 3.40 start. You are most welcome to bring friends who are interested too, but may not have children attending the school.

Free School Meals

Islington is one of the few councils in England to offer free school meals for all primary pupils in its schools. Research has shown that healthy free school meals improve children's learning and productivity, whilst saving you money in tough times. What you may not realise is the importance of registering for free school meals **if you are eligible**. It's important to sign up for free school meals as registering could also raise an **extra £900 for the school** from central government, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, learning assistants or after school clubs. Even if you don't want your child to receive a free meal, we would encourage you to register for free school meals so that we receive as much funding as possible! If you think you may meet the following criteria, please contact Donna in the school office for a simple form to fill in.

Eligibility criteria:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income which does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

School lunches

As a school, we are always aware that school lunches can be a source of many and varied opinions as there are so many different mouths to feed! Luckily we have a wonderful and flexible staff led by Tracy Mays who is very happy to listen to any specific information about your child's dietary needs. She is contactable on email through tracy.mays@smmacademy.org. We would ask that if your child has any food allergies that the school is unaware of, you can contact Donna in the office to fill in a form for our records.

Emails

If all goes to plan, email newsletters will be sent out from next week. If you still have not signed up for these and wish to, please contact Donna in the office. An email version of the newsletter will not only guarantee delivery (no more hunting through bags), but also save resources so please sign up if you can!

On Monday, **Year 4** visited the **Horniman Museum** in Forest Hill. The museum specialises in natural history and musical instruments and so the trip supported our new unit of inquiry, 'Humans express themselves through art and music'. The class had a guided session with a musician learning to play a gamelan. This is a Balinese instrument that is made up of many different parts and it took all thirty children to play it. The musician was very impressed with the musical accomplishment of year 4 and all the children very much enjoyed the day out.

Assembly themes

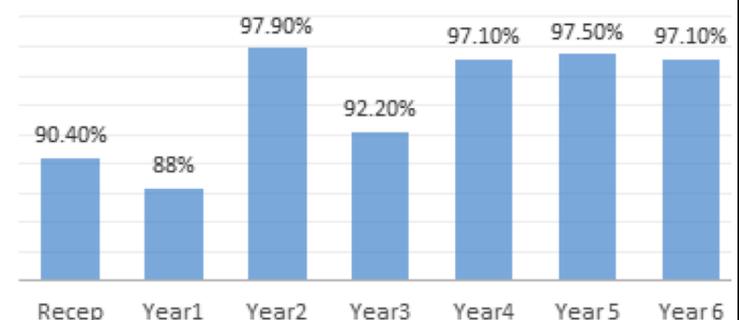
This week, **Ms Luzmore** spoke to the school about the historical background to **Bonfire Night** on 5 November. **Rev April** spoke to the school about **All Saint's Day** and how Saints are people who shine God's light through their lives. **Mr Standing** spoke to the school about the last post and the symbol of the poppies as we prepare for **Remembrance Day** next Friday.

Dates for your diary

Year 5 meeting for Sayers Croft residential will be at 4.30pm on Wednesday 9 November.

Year 4 class assembly will be Friday 11 November at 2.45pm. All families very welcome to attend.

Last week's attendance figures



Remember: every day counts!