

JBuzz Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2019

“Achievement, ambition and progress for all....”



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week at John Ball with children across the school taking part in our annual Safer Internet week. As part of this, Miss Odeje led assemblies to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology. A bank of online resources can be found at www.saferinternet.org.uk for you to explore at home.

A reminder of the importance of this initiative can be seen in the news this week. The sinister challenge, 'Momo', has been heavily reported on in the news and on social media. The challenges are accessed through apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and YouTube Kids. The challenges feature a doll-like figure which sends graphic and violent images to children, asking them to partake in dangerous challenges; these challenges have been reported to include the encouragement of self-harm. Please see advice from the National Online Safety Office on the link below. I would encourage all parents to be vigilant if allowing their children to access apps through their phones or the internet. <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/momo-online-safety-guide-for-parents/>

Mrs Noakes has been out of school at the end of the week as part of a review team with Challenge Partners, looking at a school in Portsmouth. We will be having our own Challenge Partner review in a few weeks time.

Next week we are all excited for World Book Day which is taking place on Thursday 7th March; our theme this year is 'Amazing Animals'. As you can imagine, it is difficult to condense the many activities and assemblies into a singular day, therefore classes will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities throughout the week. As the result of a generous donation from the Friends of John Ball, we will be welcoming authors Sara Grant and Tee Dobinson into the school to speak with children; more information about this will be included in a letter from our English team.

As part of World Book Day, children have the opportunity to dress up as a character from a book they have enjoyed reading. If children wish to link this to the theme of 'Amazing Animals', they can but any involvement would be fantastic. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to be creative and I would urge parents not to worry about creating the perfect costume. A small 'nod' to a character in the form of a hat or t-shirt is enough to make children feel involved on the day. You can find inspiration and costume tutorials on the World Book Day website: <https://www.worldbookday.com>. Whilst this is of course optional, I do hope that many of the children in our school community will take part.

Finally, as you will be aware our lollipop lady, Tirou, has been absent this week. Mrs Noakes sent a letter home earlier in the week explaining that Lewisham have authorised a period of absence up until 22nd March and unfortunately they will be unable to provide a replacement. Please do take care when crossing the road and encourage children to use the 'Stop, Look, Listen' rules. More information on this can be found here: <http://www.brake.org.uk/schools-communities/road-safety-for-families/21-facts-a-resources/resources/321-parents>

I hope you have a restful weekend with your families and I look forward to seeing you all again next week.

Kind Regards,

Stephen Mitchell
Acting Deputy Headteacher

deputy@johnball.lewisham.sch.uk

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

Amazing Animals Theme

Dress up as any book character that is an animal, ideas from films such as The Lion King, Jungle Book, Finding Nemo, Little Mermaid, or from nursery tales like Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks are a few suggestions. But as Mr Mitchell said, please don't worry too much about creating costumes.

This is just for fun so no need to bring in a donation.

Library Books – We have enough now

We are so grateful for all the amazing books that have been donated to our library but we have, at the moment got enough so do not need any more for the time being.

If we start to run low on stock we will ask for donations again. But for Red Nose Day, Pupil Voice would greatly appreciate book donations for their book swap.

Thank you for all your support



March

Thursday 7th	World Book Day
Friday 8 th	6NN trip to Legal & General offices
Monday 11th	STEM Week
Friday 15th	Red Nose Day
Monday 25th	Year 6 Mock SATs week
Thursday 28th to Friday 29th	YR4 residential trip to Tolmers Camp

April

Tuesday 2nd	Open Morning for prospective parents 9.30am – 10.30am – Please call to book email: admissions@johnball.lewisham.sch.uk
Wednesday 3rd	LAMDA Exams
Thursday 4th	Reception vision & hearing tests
Friday 5th	SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30pm for all pupils

Letters

Lollipop Lady away
Secondary Transfer information
Rec & KS1 Author Tee Dobinson visit
KS2 Author Sara Grant visit
Nursery Forest School



Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March

Pupils are going to be selling the special Red Nose day noses in school in the lead up to Friday 15th March so please try and buy from John Ball rather than outside of school. They will cost £1.25 with 65p going to Comic Relief. Lots of staff will wear something red for the day too!

Children from Pupil Voice and staff will tell jokes and perform a special John Ball does Strictly Red Nose Day assembly for both Key stages.

Children are going to raise money by holding a Red Nose book swap where book donations will be kindly accepted before Friday 15th March. Donations of good condition books can be left in the atrium from Monday 11th March. Other ideas are being considered by the pupils.