

JBuzz Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2020

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



News from across the school...

It is hard to believe that we have already had one full half term of this new academic year – it has gone incredibly fast!

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for your commitment to keeping our school community safe during these challenging times and adapting to what is now the 'new normal' at John Ball. By supporting us with staggered start and end times for the children and the other routine changes in our risk assessment, I am hopeful that we will continue to safeguard the school as best we can, against COVID-19.

As we finish this half term, I would also like to thank the wonderful children and staff of our school community. The children have adapted to new routines and rules as part of our transition back and we are so proud of them all for doing it so well. But, most of all, we are proud of the excellent learning which is taking place across the school. On countless occasions this half term, I have been delighted to see stunning work from all year groups; I have no doubt this will continue as we enter into next half term. This of course would not happen without the commitment and energy of our excellent staff who have planned brilliant learning opportunities, keeping within the parameters of our risk assessment.

As part of our COVID recovery plan, we will now be further entering into the second stage of academic recovery – 'reignite'. I will write to you all when we return to school with the details. As part of this, we will be continuing to explore and embrace technology in harnessing the opportunities usually available to families – providing a 'new normal' for us all.

School closures

May I remind parents that certain vehicles have permits that allow access to the road during school streets closures. Some school busses have these permits so please do be mindful when encountering someone who may be using the road at the times when they are closed to other traffic.

Safeguarding Information – Y5/6

We have been made aware of a number of reported incidents at Greenwich and Bexley schools of children being offered a lift home by an unknown man (or men).

If your child walks home alone at the end of the school day, please do discuss with them how to keep themselves safe when travelling home. Class teachers will also discuss safety at the end of the school day with classes and, of course, our staff will remain vigilant when dismissing children.

I hope that you all manage to enjoy some time out of the school routine this half term, taking advantage of the outdoor spaces across the borough. Please do stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all on 2nd November.

Have a good half term break.

Regards

Stephen Mitchell

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Secondary school applications for 2021

If you have not done so already, please do not forget the deadline of the 31st of October to apply for your child's secondary school. We strongly recommend you apply before this date to avoid any problems with logging in or any other issues that may arise

You are advised to add all 6 schools in preference rather than leaving any choices blank. This is to avoid an offer of a school that you would have no information about or that could be further away than one you could have added as a choice.

Details for applying are at the end of this newsletter

Pupil Safety and Dark Nights

Early on Sunday 25th October, we will be setting the clocks back an hour and summer time ends. Road traffic collisions increase by 20% in the fortnight after the time change. Sadly, some of those collisions will involve child pedestrians and cyclists. Children under-16 are one of the most vulnerable groups of road users.

The latest available government statistics (2015) show that 58% of children who die or are seriously injured in a road collision are involved in incidents between 3pm and 7pm. From next Sunday, much of those will happen in darkness.

Whilst younger children are at risk, the data shows that 11 - 15 year olds are actually at more at risk from accidents that kill or result in serious injury.

The resources below will help remind children, especially teenagers, about road safety and safe cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents <https://www.rosopa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Road safety teaching resources for children <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>

Be Bright, Be Seen Poster https://6282.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Be_Bright_Be_Seen-A5-Flyer.pdf

Primary School Applications for 2021

Our virtual open morning videos are now on the John Ball website. Please follow this link to view these

<https://www.johnball.lewisham.sch.uk/our-school/virtual-open-morning/>

- Applications open (apply online): Tuesday 1st September 2020 <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>
- Closing date for applications: 15th January 2021

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

Secondary School Applications for 2020

- Applications open (apply online): Tuesday 1st September 2020 <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/>
- Closing date for applications: Saturday 31st October 2020 (we recommend that you submit your online application by Friday 23rd October 2020)
- Closing date for supplementary forms (if required) to be returned to the school directly: Saturday 31st October 2020

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-secondary-school>

Don't forget you can also look at the John Ball website for links and some schools virtual tour information. This will be updated as and when we receive information.

<https://www.johnball.lewisham.sch.uk/nursery-and-reception/secondary-transfer/>