

Fitzjohn's

...where everyone can succeed

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@FitzjohnsNW3



Autumn Term Issue 16

21 December 2023

www.fitzjohns.camden.sch.uk



On behalf of **Camden Food Bank** thank you for your donations which were collected on Tuesday. Your donations will make a real difference to families in need.



★ Thank you!

★ Without naming any names (as I'm bound to miss people out) a huge thank you to EVERYONE involved in the FSA Christmas Fair. The amount of effort before, during and after was phenomenal. Thank you!
★ Thanks to everyone who came and spent.
★ In total we raised an amazing £4,700!



★ Happy Birthday!

★ She'll hate me for this but I'd like to wish a very Happy (significant but not 40th or 60th) Birthday to Debbie who celebrates over the holiday! I could not and would not want to do this job without her. Happy Birthday and console yourself with the fact that you will always look AND be younger than me.





Sharing our Music

Well done to Nursery and Reception who shared their singing on Tuesday afternoon.

Well done also to Y1 and Y2 who shared some of their music learning with Ezra in this morning's KS1 Winter Concert.

Thanks to those parents who were able to come to support.



Attendance for the TERM Our target is 95%+		Parent Donations														
<p><i>Missing school is missing out</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td>94.63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td> <td>95.67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td>91.77%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td> <td>94.42%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td> <td>92.49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6</td> <td>92.34%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School</td> <td>93.57%</td> </tr> </table>		Year 1	94.63%	Year 2	95.67%	Year 3	91.77%	Year 4	94.42%	Year 5	92.49%	Year 6	92.34%	School	93.57%	<p>£50</p> <p>Donation</p>  <p>Scan to pay</p>
		Year 1	94.63%													
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School	93.57%															
<p>Well done Year 2!</p>		<p>£100</p> <p>Donation</p>  <p>Scan to pay</p>														

This week in class	
Nursery	This week has been all things Christmassy! We made salt dough decorations ,as well as Christmas biscuits. We enjoyed a post office role play in class, we've been busy wrapping parcels and posting letters. On Tuesday morning we performed a poem in our poetry school assembly, we were so proud of the children. Nursery enjoyed singing songs with Reception at the Festive sing-a-long, thank you for coming to watch! Have a wonderful break (illness free! Fingers firmly crossed!)
Reception	Reception have had a very festive week! We enjoyed having a little Christmas grotto in our classroom, to wrap presents, and write gift tags. We made and wrote reindeer Christmas cards, and went on a fun yoga Christmas adventure to the North Pole. The children did great singing in our Festive sing-a-long, and enjoyed eating Christmas Lunch. Well done for a great first time, have lovely restful holidays, and see you in the New Year.
Class 1	This week in phonics we have been reviewing all of our phase 5 graphemes and tricky words. In maths we have done a maths quiz and recapped all of our learning over the past half term. In Art we have done lots of Christmas craft and created a cards, photo frames and tree decorations. On Wednesday afternoon we thoroughly enjoyed Rob's magic show and our lovely Christmas party. On Thursday Year 1 sang beautifully and did us proud in the KS1 concert. Well done for a fantastic term Year 1! Have a lovely break and we will see you in the New Year!
Class 2	In Class 2 this week, we have been tying up all our loose ends ready for a well-deserved Christmas break. The children have completed their maths unit on addition and subtraction. Please try and keep counting in 2s, 5s and 10s over the holidays and perhaps play a maths (or board) game. In literacy, we have been using expanded noun phrases to describe a yeti and imagining how it might feel to be confronted by one in the street. We enjoyed a rather wet trip to Keats Library on Tuesday and the children now have a couple of good reads for the holidays. Have a wonderful break and here's to a happy new year!
Class 3	What a fantastic final week of term we've had in Class 3! In our maths lessons, we had a week of solving logic problems and thinking 'outside the box,' including solving the tricky ancient Crossing the River puzzle and tackling a Christmas tree full of hidden triangles of all sizes. In literacy, we took on the challenge of festive anagrams, as well as rehearsing and performing 'Gran, Can You Rap' as part of the whole school poetry recital event. In our Design & Technology lesson, as part of the sewing progression curriculum, we made stuffed felt tree decorations and learned how to use a needle threader to help our sewing go more smoothly. Thank you to all the parents who contributed and helped with the wonderful party on Wednesday. Have a happy winter break, from all the Year 3 staff!
Class 4	Year 4 have had a fun festive week. We have spent time getting creative and decorating the classroom with paper chains, 3D and 2D snowflakes, Christmas trees, pictures and even a poem! We have also made beautiful, bright, sparkly cards. We have managed to fit in some Maths, where we learnt the 12 times table and solved word problems using our knowledge. In Literacy, we wrote our non-chronological reports on States of Matter and shared them with the class. Well done for all your wonderful hard work this term. Wishing you all a restful, happy holidays. See you in 2024!
Class 5	Class 5 has had a fun last week before the winter holidays! We finished reading A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, analysing the last few chapters and Scrooge's change. We also learned in Maths how to subtract fractions and mixed numbers, while in Science we learned about reversible and irreversible chemical reactions. In Geography, Class 5 discussed different changes in land use over time in England and the purpose of this. We also made our own winter decorations that we put up in our classroom and enjoyed watching the film A Christmas Carol and having a party on Wednesday!
Class 6	After a tremendously interesting visit to the Churchill War Rooms on Monday, Class 6 learned a new Maths game on Tuesday called 'Stockmarket'. As the name implies, it is based on the idea of buying and selling commodities (in our case shapes!) with the golden rule being 'buy low - sell high' - ask your child about it! On Wednesday, we had an interesting Science Quiz followed by a maths investigation all about investigating number patterns. In the afternoon, we were treated to food, music and dancing in our Xmas party: a huge thank-you to all parents involved in decorating the classroom and helping with food. Merry Xmas / Season's Greeting to you all.

Autumn term—100% attendance

Congratulations to the following children who attained 100% attendance this term:

Nursery: Lottie	Reception: Ella, Himari, Satiago, Hailey
Class 1: Atrisa, William, Jack, Lucas, Ivy	Class 2: Nathaniel, Michael, Iris, Guy, Noam, James
Class 3: Ariel, George, Jinxuan	Class 4: Tighe, Michael, Karm
Class 5: Teo, Vivaan, Adrian	Class 6: Hana, David, Sofia

Christmas Lunch
With thanks to Shulie and her kitchen team for creating such a yummy Christmas lunch on Tuesday.



House Winners
Congratulations Fire who have won this term's House competition!

Fire	1st
Air	2nd
Earth	3rd
Water	4th

Thank a Teacher
If you want to thank anyone working in our school this is a great way of doing it. From experience I know that they are greatly appreciated and can act as a springboard to the National Teaching Awards.
<https://thankateacher.co.uk/>

FITZJOHN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all our families for their participation in whichever way in the Christmas Fair. We raised over £4,700 which will go in full towards the sports, art and music programmes at the school.

A special thanks to these local businesses for their contribution to our Auction:

The collage includes logos for the following businesses:

- David Lloyd CLUBS
- EVERY MAN
- THE HAMPSTEAD BUTCHER & PROVIDORE
- WOLF & LAMB
- Shimi Alkabetz
- appi
- ARTICHOKE
- HAPPY RETURNS
- Louis
- lola
- Oddono's gelati
- silverberry
- VAKRAT
- HEATH STREET KITCHEN
- Walking on Clouds
- MAZAL
- Linor Crystal Healing
- vasilena LONDON
- UCS Active
- elements
- HAMPSTEAD SEAFOODS
- ART & FUN
- Nitzan Yoga
- SUSAN WAINWRIGHT
- snappysnaps
- montadito
- photo: digital specialists

THE FITZJOHN'S CONVERSATION 2024

This year's theme:



Education: What's the point?

**7.00pm
Wednesday 17th January
2024**

The Fitzjohn's Conversation is an annual event in which all members of the school community are represented—children, staff, parents and governors.

In a café style atmosphere with soft drinks, nibbles and a glass of wine or juice we chat and debate ideas inspired by three questions.

Come and join us for a lively evening of conversation. This year the theme is

Education: What's the point?

Ideas generated help the school improve by adding your ideas to our development plan.

Everyone's voice matters and helps!

The Event

The hall is set up like a beautiful café with tables of six to eight people. There are nibbles and drinks available and a free crèche.

During the evening we pose three questions based on our theme which the table discuss in turn.

Participants move tables between each question so they get to share ideas and meet new people.

At the end of the evening all of the tables share their thought and we collect notes to help with our planning.

Football Report

On the 19th December, Fitzjohn's played two teams in Camden's central league football competition : Brecknock and Rosary schools. In the first tense mid-table game, the boys' fought back to level the score in the last seconds to draw 3-3 in an very entertaining match. The girls' team meanwhile, beat Brecknock girls 3-1 - with Vivian Wilcox scoring twice in a rousing battle. In the second game, the girls were held to a 1-1 scoreline whilst the boys were narrowly defeated 2-1 in a close and physical game.

Maya and Bear

Thanks to Dawn and Pete for taking them!

**Reminder: School Opens to Children
Tuesday 9 January 2023**

Talks

Wednesday 7 February

Stalls

Free Entry

9am to 12 noon

Free healthy snacks

Advance Notice

Being happy and safe online

Talking to your child about sex & relationships

Health

Ideas to help your child

Mental health

Well-being

Being a Safe, Happy & Healthy Child

More details to follow in new year

Workshops to help with parenting

workshops

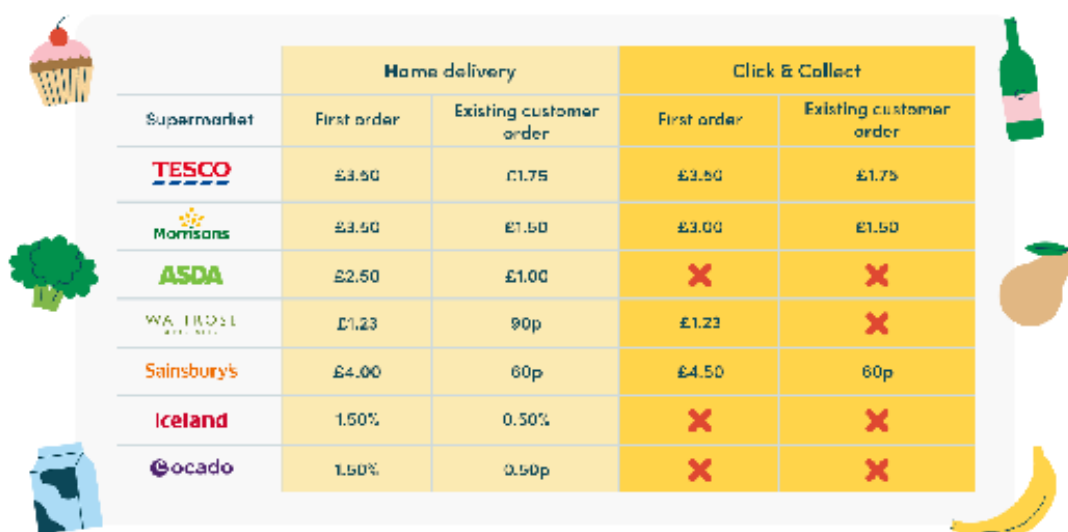
Fitzjohn's Primary School

86a Fitzjohn's Ave.,
NW3 6NP

In class session with the children

Turn your weekly shopping into BIG donations for our school

No matter who you shop with, or how you shop,
you can now raise FREE MONEY for Fitzjohn's!



Supermarket	Home delivery		Click & Collect	
	First order	Existing customer order	First order	Existing customer order
TESCO	£3.50	£1.75	£3.50	£1.75
Morrisons	£3.50	£1.50	£3.00	£1.50
ASDA	£2.50	£1.00	×	×
WALFORD	£1.23	90p	£1.23	×
Sainsbury's	£4.00	60p	£4.50	60p
Iceland	1.50%	0.50%	×	×
ocado	1.50%	0.50p	×	×

Minimum spend requirements apply. Full retailer T&Cs apply. Donation rates may change from time to time, rates above were correct as of 18/03/2023.

Raise a donation every time you shop with your supermarket

Last year we raised close to £1,000 just from
parents using easyfundraising for their online
shopping. It takes a couple of minutes to set-up,
and that's it!

These donations really help us,
so it would be great if you could
take a moment to get started:
[easyfundraising for Fitzjohn's](#)
Thank you!



PRIMARY SCHOOL T-SHIRT & HOODIE SALE!

FITZJOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS CREATED A NEW SITE TO BUY SCHOOL LOGO T-SHIRTS, HOODIES AND MORE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS. THE FITZJOHNSNW3 LOGO REPRESENTS OUR COMMUNITY AND AREA, AND IS IN AN EXACT REPLICA OF THE STREET SIGN DIRECTLY BESIDE THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE. THE HISTORY OF THIS LOGO IS UNIQUE TO OUR LOCATION AND HISTORY. OTHER LOGOS AVAILABLE ARE THE HOUSE SIGNS OF AIR, WATER, EARTH AND FIRE AND THE SCHOOL BUILDING LOGO.

<https://shop.spreadshirt.co.uk/FitzjohnsNW3>

Great
Christmas or
Hanukah gifts

Click here to
be taken to the
site.

T-SHIRTS: BETWEEN £12 - £17
HOODIES: £27 - £37
DEPENDENT ON SIZE
ALL ITEMS CAN BE PERSONALISED



Fitzjohn's Primary School

FITZJOHN'S NW3



Free Money!

You may all already know that everyone from Reception to Year 6 is now entitled for Free School Meals as these are being funded by the government and the Mayor of London.

What you may not know is that the school gets extra money into our account for all those children who fulfil certain criteria.

Please could everyone check on this link to see if you are entitled - if you are then we get extra money!

<https://pps.lgfl.org.uk/>



Merry Christmas

A very Merry Christmas to all our Christian families who will be celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus on 25th December.

Corporate Funding - can you help?

Are you working in one of the banks or one of the big tech companies (Google, Microsoft, Facebook)? We are looking to speak to parents who work there about some corporate funding opportunities for the school.

Please get in touch with:

Lee (Oscar's (Y2) and Rae's (N) dad): leefels79@gmail.com
or Nitzan (Roni's (Y5) dad): nitzanyudan@hotmail.com

Assemblies (all at 9.15am)

Friday 19 January Y2
Friday 26 January Y1
Friday 2 February Y3
Friday 9 February Y4
Friday 23 February Y5
Friday 1 March Y6
Friday 15 March Nursery

Tuesday 26 March Reception perform their play to parents

Poetry Recital

All of our classes learnt and recited a poem on Tuesday morning. What a great range of performance styles and poems we had. I'm looking forward to the next one.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9 January School Opens to Children
Wednesday 10 January N-Y2 Fluoride tooth varnish
Thursday 11 January Y1 CLC (in school)
Friday 12 January 6pm Popcorn Night
Wednesday 17 January The Fitzjohn's Conversation
Monday 29 January Reception British Museum
Wednesday 7 February Being a Safe Happy and Healthy Child

Thank you!

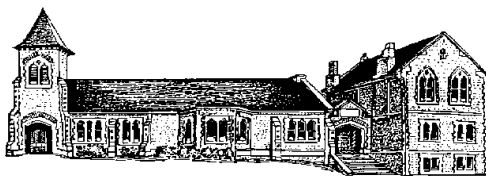
On behalf of all of the staff, thank you for all the cards, gifts and most importantly kind messages at this time of year.

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To The Manager	
Bank Name	
Bank Address (optional)	
Bank Sort Code	
Bank Account Number	
Please Pay	
Payee Bank Name	Lloyds TSB
Payee Account Name	Fitzjohn's School Association
Payee Sort Code	30-93-80
Payee Account Number	00008235
Payment Amount (circle)	£30 £50 £100 £250 £500 Other: £
Frequency	STANDING ORDERS from my account as detailed in this instruction on the ___ day of every month
Date of First Payment	
Reference	Fitzjohn's Parents Appeal
Customer Details	
Print Name	
Signature	
Date	
Address	
Email	
Phone number	
GIFT AID IT—UK TAXPAYERS!	
<p>For every pound you give to us we get an extra 25p from the INLAND REVENUE so please sign below if you are a UK taxpayer*</p> <p>I am a UK taxpayer and under the GIFT AID scheme, I would like the Fitzjohn's School Association to claim back the tax on any donations I make until further notice OR have made in the past 4 years.</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p><i>*To qualify for Gift Aid what you pay in UK income tax or capital gains tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year from the Inland Revenue. NB. Please notify us if you change your address. NB. You can cancel your standing order form at anytime.</i></p>	

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE FITZJOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL'S OFFICE.

Registered Charity No. 102 9947



The Governing Body (GB) met twice last term: once in October and, more recently, on 12th December.

The focus of October's meeting was to receive an update from Rob on the school reopening in September and GB noted that the year groups had settled in and there were no concerns to date. Rob also reported that the new office and premises staff team had settled in well.

GB discussed the summer term data for the children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, including the 2023 SATs results for reading, writing and maths. Whilst attainment was lower than targeted (and compared to previous years), it was noted that progress was good.

School Improvement Priorities 2023-24

Whilst operational matters are a major priority for Rob and his team, we, as a Board, also have a strategic responsibility and in October we confirmed the school improvement priorities for 2023/24, which align with the new Ofsted Inspection framework and are as follows:

- Priority 1:** Increasing the % of children making expected or better progress in writing based on prior attainment, with a particular focus on disadvantaged children and low prior attainers.
- Priority 2:** Improve attainment and progress in Science by improving teaching and learning of "working scientifically" area of Programme of Studies (PoS).
- Priority 3:** Improve attainment and progress in Design and Technology by reviewing, adapting and improving the Design and Technology PoS.
- Priority 4:** Improve attainment and progress in Geography by reviewing, adapting and improving the Geography PoS.
- Priority 5:** Improve leadership and management by developing the role of (interim) phase leaders and improving their impact on teaching and learning and curriculum development.
- Priority 6:** Further improve EYFS, increasing levels of literacy and ICT skills.
- Priority 7:** Attendance of all pupils (especially those below 90%) improves during the academic year 2023-2024.
- Priority 8:** Governance: All governors have an improved understanding of teaching and learning across the school. Governors have an improved understanding of the benefits (and otherwise) of partnership working/federations etc.

These will be the subject of a half-yearly review by Governors in March 2024 .

(continued over page)

I was proud to be re-elected the Chair of the GB and Danielle agreed to continue to be Vice Chair.

Rob encouraged governors to attend the Fitzjohn's conversation event on 17th January and the title will be "What is the purpose of Education?" Fitzjohn's Conversation is a great event (which hasn't happened since Covid) where the school community is engaged in a fun conversation about topics that impact the children's education. During the evening, parents, staff, children and governors get to sit together and brainstorm issues. It is a special opportunity to examine a topic from all these various angles, especially that of the children, who are incredibly articulate and get to take part in this grown up discussion. For example, distilling the school values which all of you probably know by now, was a result of a Fitzjohn's Conversation. Nibbles and drinks are provided.

In December, the main focus of our meeting was School Partnership Working and we received a very informative presentation from Stephen Hall, the CEO of Camden Learning. Partnerships can take many forms, such as sharing staff meetings when we have visiting speakers or working together to share learning ideas. We will discuss next steps at our February meeting.

GB also received the annual report on safeguarding at the school, as well as the updated Child Protection policy.

We also received the half-termly report from Rob, with key updates highlighted.

Another key task of governors in the autumn term is to review the performance of the Headteacher. We're supported in this by a representative from Camden. Together with their input, we have now set objectives for the coming year, and will be reviewing progress against the 23-24 objectives at our March meeting.

Our clerk, Mike Herlihy, always keeps us well informed about national developments in school governance as well as feedback from Camden. With his help, we have reviewed our training priorities for 2024 and allowed us to reflect on key governor contributions (see below) to our wonderful school in the last school year.

Wishing you a happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you all next year!

Ruth Schocken Katz
Chair of GB

(additional notes on next page)

School Governors

You can find full details of the Governing Body on the website, along with other key governance information, including the minutes of our half-termly Board meetings.

Listed below are some examples of governor contributions to the school in the 22-23 school year:

“Bringing a fresh parent governor perspective.”

“Bringing governor training insights to the GB meetings, for example questions for governors to consider during governor’s day at school.”

“Attending a meeting regarding solar panels for the school, to make the school more self-sufficient, lower its environmental impact, and reduce energy costs and helping consider the solar panel project based on legal experience.”

“I have been able to give insights into how the school is led and managed and been able to answer questions governors might have in meetings. As my area of focus in school is inclusion and SEN, I particularly provide information to the governing body on these areas.”

“I feel I have contributed especially to the now flourishing music provision, and I would like to pursue this further and help bring visual arts up a little too.”

“I have chaired a Committee, mentored a new governor. With two other governors, in autumn 2022 I carried out the Headteacher’s annual performance review. I interviewed for a new member of the administrative staff.”

“Attending assemblies.”

“On behalf of the Governing Body, I have attended various meetings such as the Standards meeting, governor’s induction meeting, challenge partners, job interviews, subject focus days and ongoing meetings with the Headteacher.”

“I have connected with the school community by attending events, and through the governors’ day at school.”

“I have attended training sessions (Health and Safety and governor’s role in the curriculum) with Camden, including the primary chair’s forum. I have taken part in the Headteacher performance review and fulfilled the role of lead governor for Safeguarding.”

“I have supported the school through its organisational change. I have tried to support and challenge the school and its management throughout the year and hope to continue doing so throughout next year. I am interested in thinking strategically about the issue of partnerships and supporting the school as it works on achieving its School Improvement Priorities and overall goals.”

“To give ‘a voice’ to the staff in terms of the ‘day-to-day’ experiences when working at Fitzjohn’s.”

“To give an honest insight into all aspects of teaching and learning within the school.”

Homework for the Christmas Holidays: Draw and colour a BOOK THEMED flag

Do not write or draw here

Picture/book cover (use felt tip pens)

Book title

Author

I like this book because: