



Wednesday 3rd September 2019

Autumn Term Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

St John's Highbury Vale C. of E. Primary School

School Website: www.st.jhv.islington.sch.uk

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Welcome Back

Firstly, I would like to say a warm welcome back to all children, parents and carers. We hope you have had a brilliant summer holiday and are refreshed and raring to go for the year ahead. We have so many exciting things planned already and can't wait for another fun filled year at St John's.

A Huge Thank You

As you come into the school this week, you will notice some changes and improvements around the school. We have a new fence on the Reception playground area and some new decking and seating under the shelter. As always, whilst we have been enjoying our summer holidays, Richard has been here, working away for the whole six weeks, making the school look fresh and new. He has painted classrooms, moved furniture around and even fitted a new sink upstairs. He truly is amazing! We are so lucky to have him!

Notices

At present, our school breakfast club is currently ran by Ruth Gladstone, our HLTA. Ruth could really do with some support in those sessions and therefore we were wondering if any parents would be able to volunteer their time to help. Breakfast club runs from 8 – 8.45am Monday to Friday. If this is something you feel you would like to support us with please speak to Mrs Hodgson.

Many parents have already volunteered their time to come and support in school with reading, running of clubs etc. Over the next few weeks, we will be in touch to discuss your availability and to hopefully get all volunteers in school working to support our teachers and children.

Don't forget St John's Big 2K coming up on Friday 27th September!!! Speak to Sophie Walter for more information.

St John's New Curriculum

Back in July, whilst everyone was busy looking forward to the end of the school year, some of us had already been working very hard behind the scenes, making changes for when we came back to school in September. In this new academic year, we will be launching our new enquiry driven curriculum. Every half term, the whole school will explore there topics through and overarching 'BIG QUESTION', and all of our topics will be linked to these questions where possible. We are hoping that this style of enquiry will allow us, alongside the children, to model and demonstrate that not all questions can be answered; some questions have many answers, some questions we don't know the answer to (and that's ok) and that one answer isn't always correct and we may need to start again. Ultimately, we want to teach the children that it is ok to make mistakes and to learn how mistakes help us to improve. We have also made the decision to change our school week in order to give more time to our foundation subject.

What to do if your child is struggling with going back to school. This is a great website with useful suggestions. <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-your-child-is-anxious-about-going-back-to-school/>

New Faces

Starting with us at St John's this September we have some new teachers and teaching assistants. If you see them round school, don't forget to say hello and welcome them into our community as you do all new members of staff.



Gareth Thomas will be teaching in Year 1 every Thursday and Friday. He is a very experienced class teacher, and has previously worked in a number of different classes in St John's in a supply capacity and therefore is already well-known to staff and children.

Molly Carl has recently completed a degree in Psychology and has ambitions to become a child psychologist. She will be coming to work with us this year at St John's to support some of our additional needs children in Year 3 and Year 1.



Sasha Ahmed is joining us as a teaching assistant and an EYFS specialist. She is coming to us with over fifteen years of experience and will be working alongside Miss Jones in Reception class this year.

Mariana Saforcada is also an experienced teaching assistant joining us this year. For the past year she has worked supporting a child with additional needs in a nursery setting. She will also be working in Reception class with Miss Jones this year.



Dionne Davis is joining us as the Year 4 teacher this year. After spending some years as a teaching assistant, Dionne decided that wasn't enough for her and went back to university to train to be a teacher.

Beginning a complete career change, Sam Rudd is joining us as our Year 5 teacher this year. He previously worked with finance in the City, but decided education was where his heart was and retrained to become a teacher.



We also have a number of new families joining St John's this year. We have all of our new Reception class, and some other children joining in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. Again, please keep an eye out for the new children and families and practice this term's value of Friendship.