



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Interim Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

11th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Balloon Release Messages of Hope

I have had some very compelling and thought provoking emails, and discussions that have prompted me to reconsider the balloon release due to the effects on the environment. I thought we had it covered by using environmentally friendly biodegradable balloons, but have since been given more evidence that this is still not good enough. I was also told that this suggestion was rejected by the school community just a few short years ago.

We will instead replace our balloon release of hope with 'Rocks of Hope', a completely environmentally friendly act. Each child will paint a rock and write their message of hope upon it. We will then decide on different locations in Islington, that we can walk to, where the children can place their 'Rocks of Hope'. Using the same principle with the email address, people who wish to take a rock, may want to send a thank you message or reply with their message of hope.

We will also use this opportunity to teach the children about ways we can continue to preserve our planet and the environment for the future. Although the balloons are biodegradable, this will not prevent them from ending up in the ocean, creating potential hazards to our wildlife and marine life.

I would like to apologise for the change of heart, but I am not too proud to admit when a decision made is not quite right, even if it was with the very best intentions. Thank you for your continued support of the school and the decisions we make, even the misguided ones.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Tonnie Read

Executive Headteacher

