



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

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: [admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk)

Interim Head of School: Mrs Alice Shaw

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Christmas holidays are upon us! I am sure that you are all looking forward to some time with your families over the festive period. This is certainly not how we would have liked to have ended the term, but it is a sign of the times we live in.

This unusual ending should not detract from what has been a successful term where hard work, flexibility, and progress for all have been top of the agenda. The children have enjoyed their time at school and progressed in their learning. The school community have rallied together and supported each other to adapt to new ways of working, including remote learning, and the staff have shown a relentless commitment to providing the best education for the children. The parent body have continued to show support for the school and we have appreciated all the kind words and prayers that we have received over this past week.

## Covid-19 Update

We now have 17 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school. New cases are still being confirmed each day. Thankfully, many of the confirmed cases are starting to feel better. We know that the virus affects people differently and I am pleased to say that the children who contracted Covid-19 had mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. Over 20% of the staff contracted Covid-19 and the impact of the virus on the staff was more severe. The school has been in regular contact with the affected staff members who are all at home and mostly on the mend. I am sure that you will join me in wishing a speedy recovery to those who are still suffering.

At this stage I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff at St John's who have continued to come to school throughout the pandemic, putting themselves and their families at an increased risk. They are an amazing team and I hope that they all get a much needed rest over the Christmas break.

**January return - planned opening for all pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**





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On the advice of Public Health, Islington council asked all schools to close before the end of term and to delay opening in January by one week. This was to provide two mini fire breaks following the sharp increase in cases in schools, and a predicted further rise in cases in January following the easing of restrictions over the Christmas period. The day after the council issued their advice to schools, the Department of Education issued a legal directive for schools to remain open until the end of term and to open again from the first week of term. Therefore, St John's plans to **open to all pupils on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

St John's, along with the support of the Governing Body, have followed the guidance and health advice throughout the pandemic and we will continue to do so. We will update parents and staff if the Government issue different advice before the start of term.

We are aware of the exponential rise in cases in Islington and in London. We are all being urged to be careful over the Christmas period and to limit our interaction with others as much as possible. Please adhere to all the Covid-19 social distancing guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus when the children return to school.

**Please do not send your child into school in January if you, or anyone in your household, or anyone that you have had contact with is showing any symptoms of Covid-19 or has tested positive.**

## Track & Trace During the Holidays

As we have now been out of school for over a week, children testing positive for Covid-19 now will not impact the wider school community, however, it is still important for the school's track and trace records that we know if your child has contracted Covid-19.

**If your child develops symptoms and/or tests positive for Covid-19 during the holidays, please follow the steps below;**

1. You must **seek a test** for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.
2. If the test result is positive for Covid-19 you must **contact NHS Test and Trace** and follow the advice given by them: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/)
3. **If the test result is positive for Covid-19**, you must also inform school via email [admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk)





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## Report Cards

Our end of term report cards will be distributed after the Christmas holidays. There will then be a short time before we organise a virtual Parents Evening, where you will be able to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous festive winter break. Please take care of yourselves and your families. We look forward to welcoming our whole school community back on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Let's hope that 2021, brings a little less fear and a lot more cheer into our lives.

I leave you with some inspirational quotes below and our school vision 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' I know that it is these words that help me to keep going.



Merry Christmas everyone and a prosperous new year!!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Tonnie Read

Interim Executive Headteacher

