



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

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful half term. We have started back this week with children talking about Christmas celebrations! I have heard some classes practising Christmas songs for KS1 Nativity. It is always such a wonderful time in school, but equally very busy, so please put all the key dates in your diary.

Reading

Thank you to all the parents and carers who made sure the children continued to read over the half term. The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. Please encourage your children to complete their reading diaries regularly. This helps the teachers to monitor what the children are reading and how often they are reading. The children who are on the RWI phonics programme, please make sure you listen to your child read every day.

Persuasive writing in Y4

I was invited to Y4 this week to listen to some wonderful persuasive letters written by the children. The children had to write a letter to persuade me to send them to the country Iceland. The letters were incredible! The children read the letters to me, and they had rhetorical questions; emotional language; very strong and clear arguments; repeated words and phrases; and a lot of exaggeration. I was so convinced by what they had written that I went back to my office and researched how much it would cost to send Y4 to Iceland for a week! Sadly I had to say no this time. Thank you, Y4, for your great writing and for making me feel so proud to be your Head of School.

Islington Cross Country

On Wednesday, our children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Islington Cross Country event. The highlight of the day was our children showing a positive attitude and cheering for all. I would like to congratulate Ezra for achieving second place out of all the Y5 schools that took part in the competition. Please look at the school's newsletter, which contains more information. Thank you, Sarah, for organising this event.

Absences

Please try to inform the school office before 8.30 a.m. each day if your child will be absent. You can also do this via email to admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk at any time. If you are absent and have not informed the school, someone from the office will call for a check-in, and if we can not get through to you, we will come and visit the house. Poor attendance is defined as anything below **90%**. The Department for Education expects a minimum attendance rate of **96%**.

Please try to inform the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.





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FOSJ - Quiz night

Thank you, everyone, for your support and commitment to making the night a success. As a committee, you do such great work for the school. Thank you to all the parents who attended. Our children have many more enrichment opportunities due to all the wonderful events organised by The Friends of St John's. Bookfair and the Christmas fair are also coming up.

Ofsted report

If you have any questions about the Ofsted report, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Key dates for next week

Week beginning 6th November

Monday 6th November 9.00 am - Early reading parent workshop (Reception to Y2) **Maberley Hall**

Friday 10th November - Y3 Coffee Morning

Further ahead (subject to change)

Wednesday, November 8th Reception class hearing and vision tests

Monday 13th November - Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 17th November - Y2 Coffee Morning

Friday 24th November - Y1 Coffee Morning

Wednesday 29th November- Flu vaccination (Reception to Y6) catch-up session

Friday 1st December - Reception Coffee Morning

Sunday 3rd December - FSJ Christmas Fair

Tuesday 12th December - KS1 Nativity 9.30 am

Wednesday 13th December- KS1 Nativity 2.30 pm

Thursday 14th December - Christmas Lunch at school

Monday 18th December - Christmas Party Afternoon

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Service at St Augustine's Church

Thursday 21st December - Carols around the tree 9.30 am

Thursday 21st December - Report Cards out

Thursday 21st December - End of term 1.30 pm

As always, thank you for the support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

