



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Executive Head: Mrs Tonnice Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Friday 6th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely week. The children are working incredibly hard and showing kindness to each other. I have seen some great letter writing in Y4. Y6 children used emotive language in their diary entries, and in Y3, the children used fronted adverbials correctly. We have some talented writers here at St John's.

Our fantastic house captains show their excellent leadership skills, especially at playtime. They are playing with the Reception children and showing them how to be good friends. Thank you, House Captains.

Black History Month

In October, many schools will focus their attention on black history for a month. Black History Month grew from a weeklong celebration that started nearly 100 years ago.

The idea of having a month dedicated to the teaching of Black History, originated from a backdrop of minimal, or no, representation in the curriculum, of Black people and their lives, their achievements, and their invaluable contributions to society. More recently, however, teachers and educators have become increasingly concerned by the narrowness of this time frame. It is on this basis that St John's has made a very clear decision to focus time, thought and teaching about Black History across the full school year.

We are doing this for the following reasons:

- (1) As a Church of England School, we teach the children that always, in the eyes of God, all humans are created as equals.
- (2) That school has a duty and a desire to formally interweave Black History into our 'ordinary' curriculum throughout the year in order to better represent the black community in its fullest sense.
- (3) That school has a duty to continually offer the experiences and images of people of black and other heritage to our pupils.
- (4) That school has a duty to challenge stereotypes. We are beginning to consciously plan for this, through the development of our Curriculum Maps, so that the children recognise the contributions of black people in the 'broadest' sense.
- (5) That we have a duty to support our parents & carers understanding of **unconscious bias** and the difference between **equality and equity** alongside the education of our children.
- (6) That we have a duty as a school to operate on a daily basis as an anti-racist institution and not non-racist.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do contact me.

Harvest Donation

Our Harvest service on Wednesday was excellent. The children sang and spoke beautifully. Thank you, Father David, for delivering the message of Harvest. Thank you for the donations that you have made so far. We will continue to accept donations until 10th October. Please donate generously. I have added the prayers the children wrote for our Harvest festival in the newsletter.





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National Poetry day

National Poetry Day is the annual mass celebration on the first Thursday of October that encourages everyone to make, experience and share poetry with family and friends. This year focuses on the theme of **refuge**. The children read, performed and wrote poems. We will be making anthology poetry throughout the year. Parents, if you have a favourite poem, please share it with your children.

World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. In our PSHE sessions, we explored the theme 'Mental health is a universal human right'. Why not come together this World Mental Health Day for tea and talk in Maberley Hall. Ms Slater and I will be there from 9am to 9.45. I know it is short notice, but we would love to see you there.

Year 5

Year 5 will be starting their swimming lessons next week. Please make sure the children have their swimming kit for Monday. If you have any questions, please see Sarah or the class teacher.

School Wellbeing Service

I have attached information about 'School Wellbeing Service' to this letter. Please let me or Ms Slater know if you would like further information.

Key events next week

Everyone is welcome for tea and talk - Mental Health day on Tuesday, 10th October 9.10am.

Year 5 coffee morning – 13th October 9.15am

Reception class - 10th October Forest school visit

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully,
Ms H Khan
Head of School

