



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

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a wonderful holiday filled with joy, laughter and sleep! I am excited to embark on a new year of learning and growth together. Let's make 2024 a fantastic academic journey for the children.

The children have come back to school with great enthusiasm and energy. It was lovely to see how quickly the children have settled back.

Curriculum

Spring 1 Curriculum leaflets, as well as updated class timetables, are available on the school website.

<https://stjhv.islington.sch.uk/learning/teaching-and-learning/curriculum-overview-3/>

<https://stjhv.islington.sch.uk/learning/teaching-and-learning/the-school-day/>

Mental health

The mental health and well-being section of the school website has been updated. You will find some helpful resources for self-regulation and the slides from the workshop which took place during the last half term. We have also included some recommended books. Please come and speak to us if you need any support.

Cold Weather

The cold weather is forecasted to continue into next week so please ensure that children come to school with warm layers, hats and gloves.

Attendance

As you know, good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that young people have the maximum life chances - attendance is strongly linked to educational achievement. Promoting positive school attendance is, therefore, everyone's responsibility.

Please note that we will send letters to all families whose attendance has fallen below 95% this academic year, and arrange meetings with those whose attendance has fallen below 90%. The purpose of these meetings is to see how we can help support you best to ensure your child comes to school all the time and on time. Many contributing factors lead to poor attendance and lateness, and these meetings are there to see what additional support we can offer.





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All schools work closely with the local authority to improve attendance for young children. It is a legal requirement for children registered at schools to attend. If improvements are not made, the local authority can issue penalty notices to families whose children continue to have poor attendance. It is also important to highlight that penalty notices can be issued if a pupil has more than 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a twelve-week period.

Please note a few key points to ensure your child's attendance is good or better!

- Gates open at 8.45am, and the register closes at 9.05am. Anyone arriving after that time must sign in at the office and explain their lateness.
- Any absences without a satisfactory explanation will be treated as unauthorised. If a child is persistently absent due to illness, we may request proof of a doctor's appointment or prescription.
- Any child off for more than 2 consecutive days needs a note written from the parent/carer and sent to the office for our records.
- Any absences in either the week before or after a holiday that do not have a satisfactory explanation shared with the school shall be deemed unauthorised.

We will add top tips to our weekly newsletters to support you and your children, so keep your eyes peeled for our weekly updates!

Healthy Eating School

We have always been a healthy eating school, but what better time of year than the New Year to reignite our passion for healthy living and making healthy choices! We will be monitoring this closely. All children are entitled to a free school meal in Islington. Some families are still opting to bring their packed lunches, so we have created a handy helpful guide.

Food brought in from home **must not contain nuts.**

Packed Lunch

Lunches could include:

- At least one portion of fruit and or vegetable (this could include dried fruit)
- Meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, chickpeas, hummus)
- A sandwich that includes a savoury filling (e.g. egg, tuna, cheese, cooked meat)
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, noodles
- Dairy food such as cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais
- A biscuit not coated in chocolate
- A savoury snack such as crackers, breadsticks, baked or other low-fat crisps
- A bottle of water





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Packed lunches should not contain:

- Confectionery such as chocolate bars, chocolate-coated biscuits and sweets
- Fizzy drinks

Bringing Toys to school

I have noticed a number of children are bringing toys into school. I have spoken to the children and explained why they cannot bring them in. I would appreciate your support in ensuring children do not bring toys to school.

Medication in School

Parents can request that their child is given prescription medicine from a doctor in school. If medicines (including asthma pumps) are to be administered in school, parents must come to the school office to complete and sign an agreement form. It is preferable that pupils take medicine at home, before or after the school day. **No pupil will be given medicine without parental consent.** Prescribed medicines must be in date, prescribed by an NHS doctor, labelled with the child's name and provided in the original container with dosage instructions.

It is not permitted for children to carry their own supply of medication, such as painkillers for general use. All medication must be signed in at the School Office.

Parents Evening

Reception to Y6 will have parents' evening next Tuesday and Wednesday; please book a slot. If you are unable to make these dates, please contact the class teacher via Class Dojo to book an alternative date.

Key dates for next week

Tuesday 16th January - Fluoride Varnish (Reception -Y2)

Tuesday 16th and 17th January - Parents evening (Reception to Y6)

As always, thank you for your support. I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Ms H Khan
Head of School

