



# **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)

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term at St John's, we had a huge focus on handwriting and presentation in books. I am so proud to see so many children trying hard to improve their handwriting and taking the advice given by the adults to receive a pen license. Many of the children I have spoken to told me that they are very proud of the progress that they have made since September. Well done everyone, your effort is greatly appreciated.

## **RE lessons**

In RE lessons this week, the children started to learn about Christmas and why it is so special for Christians. In every class, the children will learn what incarnation means and how it is linked with Christmas. If you would like to help your children further understand the definition of incarnation, please come and see me, and I will share the definition from the LDBS.

## **Diwali**

Last weekend, some families celebrated Diwali, the festival of light. In our RE lessons this week, we thought about why the festival is important to Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. In some classes, children made Diya lamps.

## **Anti-bullying week**

The children learned the definition of bullying and what they can do to ensure that everyone feels safe and heard in our school. In year 1, children wrote a recipe about how to be kind.

## **Children In Need**

Thank you for your kind donations. We have raised £493.60 for children in need.

## **Situation in the Middle East**

Some children have been talking about the situation in the Middle East, asking questions about war and conflict. When answering any questions from the children, we have been using a humanitarian approach in order to respond in a neutral and impartial way.

Coverage of world conflict in mainstream news media and social media means children are increasingly exposed to news events and turn to parents and teachers to discuss and explain the stories they have seen and heard. It might be helpful for young children to have limited exposure to news coverage, as the images and content are incredibly distressing. Adults should be mindful of conversations at home, as children may overhear your worries and this may worry them.





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Here are some helpful resources you can use to talk to your children:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-hard-things>

[https://pscentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/how\\_2\\_talk\\_to\\_children\\_about\\_war.pdf](https://pscentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/how_2_talk_to_children_about_war.pdf)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/20wBRVpNcn0q5pgCPhpzT3b/how-to-talk-to-children-and-teenagers-about-israel-gaza#:~:text=Keep%20them%20safe%20in%20the%20world%20of%20media&text=Katharine%20suggests%20getting%20together%20with,conflict%20in%20Israel%20and%20Gaza%3F%E2%80%9D>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## **Key events next week**

Friday 24th November - **Y1 Coffee Morning**

## **Additional date for your diary**

Wednesday 6th December 9:15 - **Emotional regulation workshop** led by colleagues from The Bridge and New River College. This workshop is open to all parents.

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

Yours faithfully,

Ms H Khan  
Head of School

