



# 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 19th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful Easter break and feel rested. It is lovely to have the children back in school. The children look healthy, well-rested, and ready for the summer term. This term will be another busy term. We have a number of events and activities planned for the children. Please look at the key dates.

## Our Christian values

Our core Christian values include **friendship, respect, wisdom, forgiveness, love and courage**. We want to ensure that our school is a place that enables children to learn and play, feel safe, happy and valued, where they are able to flourish and experience God's wonderful world in all its fullness. This term, we are focusing on **Love**. This week in our collective worship, we looked at **1 Corinthians 13**. The children were able to say what love means to them and how we can show love to our friends and family. We also sang 'All You Need Is Love' by The Beatles.

## Green space

We are keen to develop green space across the school at John's. We are currently working with our in-school Forest school teachers, Nina and Sophia, to develop the back garden with Richard's support. We are looking for **outdoor plants, plant cuttings or bulbs** that you may have and are not planning to use. We would love you to donate to the school.

Gardening has many well-being benefits for children, including teaching self-regulation, allowing space for big feelings, encouraging individuality, developing patience, giving skills for the future, promoting a healthy lifestyle, improving social skills, offering a sense of responsibility, and many more.

If you would like to read an article about the benefits of Gardening from The Royal Horticultural Society, please click this link: [Wellbeing benefits of gardening for children](#).

## School uniform

Please ensure your child/children are wearing the correct school uniform. The core components of a school uniform are that staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and that their attire reflects the values and culture of the school, which the pupils represent. If you need any school uniform items because your child has outgrown theirs, please come and speak to the school office - we have spare uniform in school.





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## **Dogs**

Please be reminded that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds at any time. We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many in the school community and as such are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. However, others may find the presence of dogs in the playground and school grounds stressful, even frightening particularly with younger children, and even well-behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when placed in a busy, noisy and crowded environment. Therefore school policy is that no dogs are allowed on school premises (either on a lead or carried).

## **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 best support you 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.

## **Whole class chess teaching**

This week, we started teaching the whole class chess in Y5 and Y6. We are working with a charity called Chess in Schools. The children will receive 30 minutes of teaching time every week and will have the opportunity to practise throughout the week. Playing chess has many benefits: it helps with concentration and focus, teaches teamwork, and can boost maths scores.

## **Come Learn With Me**

I wrote to you before the holidays about this event. 'Come Learn With Me' is an opportunity for significant males in your child/children's life to attend a learning session. Sessions will take place from 9 - 10am - Prepare to get messy and creative!

## **The dates are:**

Y4 - 2nd May

Y3 - 3rd May

Y5- 9th May

Reception- 10th May

Y2 - 17th May

Y1 12th June

Y6 - 14th June





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## **Key dates for next week**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Parent Evening (R to Y6)

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – Parent Evening (R to Y6)

Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

With thanks,

Ms H Khan  
Head of School

