



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, 4th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you've had a great week and managed to stay dry despite the rain! I can't believe we're already in week 5 of the autumn term, and I've even heard a few people mention Christmas. As they say, time really does fly when you're having a wonderful time!

In last week's letter, I mentioned that this year, we will be focusing on teaching children about neurodiversity. Some parents reached out to me and suggested organising coffee mornings where parents can share their experiences of raising neurodiverse children and learn more about neurodiversity from one another. I've taken your feedback on board and have contacted several professionals to help facilitate these sessions. I am pleased to say that we will be able to offer these termly, with the first session scheduled for November.

Harvest Service

We had a truly wonderful service on Tuesday at Christ Church. The children's singing was beautiful, and I couldn't be more proud of them. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended; it was amazing to see so many of you there. Your generous donations are deeply appreciated, and we will continue collecting them until the end of October. Special thanks to Andy for the lovely message about why we celebrate Harvest.

Black History Month

What is Black History Month?

Black History Month began in the UK in 1987 and is celebrated every **October**. It's a chance to learn about black people's history, culture, and achievements, especially those from Africa, the Caribbean, and black British communities. From scientists and artists to activists and leaders, Black people have made important contributions that have helped shape the world we live in.

What We're Doing at School

Throughout the month, we will be exploring the lives of inspirational black figures and their contributions to history, science, art, music, and more. We will take part in fun and educational activities, such as:

- Storytelling sessions featuring books about black history and culture.
- Art projects inspired by the work of black artists.
- Classroom discussions about fairness, kindness, and how we can celebrate everyone's differences.





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At St John's, we believe that understanding and celebrating different cultures and histories helps us become more understanding and kind to each other. Black History Month is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the diversity in our community and how people from different backgrounds have worked together to make the world a better place.

We encourage you to ask your children about what they're learning this month and join us in celebrating Black History Month at home.

Our curriculum is designed to celebrate diversity, ensuring that all children can see themselves represented in the books they read, the artists they study, and the music they listen to. This October, in celebration of Black History Month, we will be incorporating some additional activities to deepen our pupils' understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Please refer to the newsletter for more details on what we have planned.

Key Dates

Understanding the EYFS - Thursday 10th October, **9:00 - 9:30 am**

Phonics in Reception class - Monday 14th October **9:00 - 9:30 am**

Y5 Coffee Morning - Friday 11th October **9:10 am**

Exciting Key date reminder - Quiz night 17th October, organised by FOSJ (for adults only)

Have a lovely weekend.

With warm regards,
Ms. H. Khan
Head of School

