



# 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)

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a week of wonderful performances here at St John's. The Year 6 end of year musical was spectacular; from start to finish the children had the adults both laughing and crying! The sense of camaraderie amongst the class whilst performing was wonderful to see. I am so unbelievably proud of them all and what they can do when they put their minds to it.

We also had the last Reception class assembly on Thursday and Year 1 class assembly this morning. It is always such a pleasure to see the youngest children stand up and perform at the end of Reception and really take in the journey they have been on in their first year of primary school. It is a running joke in the school that I am pretty much guaranteed to cry at any performance or assembly that our children give, and I am always true to form. This is again, as a result of how proud I am of each and every child. I am so proud of what they have achieved, what they are becoming and how wonderfully they are blossoming in the rich environment that we are all working hard to provide here at St John's.

## School Sports Mark Award

On Wednesday, I received a wonderful e-mail from Michael Peet, Islington Schools Sports Development and Competition Officer, to tell me that this academic year, St John's have been awarded the **GOLD AWARD!!!!**

Not only that, at the end of every competition, all schools have to vote which of the schools they played against in a competition played the most fairly, and St John's received the most votes across Islington! Please read a quote from Michael's e-mail below.



*'There are 2 things in particular I would like to highlight; you have produced a number of strong performances and results this year across our competitions and also extra credit with those results as a 1 form entry school competing against a number of 2 form entry schools, but also having approached competition in the right way shown by St John's receiving the highest number of fair play nominations by opposing schools across the year. The second example is with Beat the Street, again the schools sustained engagement with the activity challenge over the entire 6 weeks by your pupils and families blew everyone else away. These are just 2 examples I wanted to highlight from my external position and we've discussed many more at school too, but these clearly demonstrate the strength of you and the schools work and why St John's well deserve their Gold Award!'*

In the last line, when Michael talks about 'the strength of you', that line is aimed at Sarah. It is not just her colleagues, the children and the parents here at St John's that can see how much of a brilliant job she has done for us with sport





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this year, it is other professionals across the borough too. She has really turned sport around this year. It is wonderful that we have won this award and is a real acknowledgement of all the hard work and effort Sarah have given to PE for St John's. We are so lucky to have her!

## **Head of School Update Meeting**

On Monday this week, a collection of parents came along to the update briefing. We shared some of the changes we are putting in place for September and we also had a lengthy discussion around homework and school lunches, two of the things parents scored the school low on in the recent parent survey. I have attached the power point used at the meeting, with some additions, and below I am listing some of the feedback that came out in the meeting around homework and school lunches. Please, if you have any additional feedback to give on those two topics, or anything on the power point, do get in touch.

## **Homework**

The general consciences around homework was that most people liked the weekly reading, writing and maths homework, but the homework bingo was time consuming, and a lot of the time, things that parents may already do with their child, e.g. a walk in nature, a visit to the National History Museum. Homework is supposed to be a consolidation of what has been learnt in class. It is an opportunity for you as parents to see what your child has been learning about and to share some of that learning at home. There was a strong feeling that moving back to something like a half termly project would be better. This could then be a project across the whole school, and something that siblings for all year groups could work on together; or it could be a project with specific pointers from the teachers as to what could be produced as an end outcome, focusing on one subject or topic.



## **School Lunches**

Parents seemed happy with the variety of food on offer and the fact that the food has clearly been looked at in depth to ensure a balanced diet across the week, with a range of different food types. Again, I have attached a copy of the summer term menu for you to see. Feedback we received on Monday, was that children would like to be able to choose the vegetarian option if they wish to, even though they may not be known to the kitchen staff as vegetarian. Older children would like to have the option to choose a large or a small portion of food for lunch. Younger children sometimes feel overwhelmed with the choices and don't necessarily know what the foods are on offer each day. To help with this, we discussed the class teachers talking through what is on offer for lunch every day before they go into the lunch hall. The lunch menu will also be sent home so that parents can discuss the food options with their child throughout the week too.





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## Next Week's Heatwave

As you will be aware, the MET Office has issued an extreme weather warning for the whole of England until Tuesday. Please make sure your child comes to school with a cap, a water bottle and sun cream already applied on Monday and Tuesday. Can I ask that you also send them in with spare clothing on both days and a towel. We are looking at changing the break times so that the children are not outdoors during the hottest parts of the day, opening up classrooms and halls for play. When the children are out in the playground, we will be allowing water play in order for the children to cool themselves down.

If you have been in the playground at all this week, you will have seen we already have three gazebos set up to provide additional shaded areas for the children to access whilst outdoors.

There will be no vigorous PE sessions on Monday or Tuesday. We will put fans in every classroom where possible. In the classrooms any tables normally directly in sunlight will be moved and water will be provided throughout the days.

## What are the signs to look out for?

Heat-related illness can range from mild heat stress to potentially life-threatening heatstroke, which needs to be treated as an emergency.

### Heat exhaustion

Symptoms of heat exhaustion vary but include one or more of the following:

- tiredness
- dizziness
- headache
- nausea
- vomiting
- hot, red and dry skin
- confusion

### Heatstroke

Symptoms of heatstroke may include:

- high body temperature – a temperature of or above 40°C (104°F) is a major sign of heatstroke
- red, hot skin and sweating that then suddenly stops
- fast heartbeat
- fast shallow breathing
- confusion/lack of co-ordination
- fits
- loss of consciousness

That being said, I hope you all manage to have a lovely weekend. Enjoy the sunshine sensibly, have some fun outdoors and I look forward to seeing you all back bright and early on Monday morning for our last week of term.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

