



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

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 16th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Walking round the school the week, it was lovely to see the children out having fun in the sunshine at playtime and lunchtime play. The adults have set up some lovely water based activities for the children to play with, as well as a range of activities in the shaded areas. Please do continue to send your child to school with sunscreen, a water bottle and a sun hat/cap for the next few weeks. I am also more than happy for children to come into school wearing sandals to keep their feet cool. However, they can not be sliders, open toe sandals and must be securely fastened to the children's feet by a buckle, laces or Velcro. This is to avoid injuries to the children's toes or feet.

Pride Month

Throughout the month of June, events take place around the world aimed at raising the visibility of the LGBTQAI+ community like parades, festivals, speeches and advertisements. The month is a time when LGBTQAI+ community remembers the fight they have been on in order to gain equal rights in today's society, and demonstrate celebrating differences amongst society, without prejudice. In school, the children will all have a short introduction, or recap, into what Pride month is, and will complete an artistic activity about the understanding of the word Pride. They will look at ways in which they have pride in themselves, and how everyone in society is different, and differences can be celebrated not feared or questioned.

Home Time Pick-Ups

We understand that within our school community a lot of families support each other at the end of the day by collecting more than one child from one or multiple classes. Some families have long term arrangements and sometimes this happens as just a one off. If another adult is collecting your child from school to help with childcare arrangements or for a playdate, please inform the school office. If the school office has closed for the evening – which is around 4pm – there is an option to be transferred to Kidz Club. The Kidz Club staff will take your call and pass on the information to the relevant person. It is against safeguarding practices for the school to hand a child over to an adult when we have not been informed to do so by the child's parent.

Scooters and Bikes

We think it is wonderful that so many of the children are coming to school on their scooters and bikes. Unfortunately, so do the opportunist thieves. In recent weeks, we have had a child's bike taken from the school and I am concerned about the many that are left here, unlocked overnight. The school building is cleaned after the children and staff have left every evening, which means the school gates are not locked until around 8pm. As I left the building on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm there were a number of very expensive scooters left at the front of the school. Please, if your child comes to school on a bike or scooter, remember to take it home at the end of the day. I would hate for another child's property to be stolen again.





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Term Time Holidays

Islington Council have been in touch with all schools this week to remind us as schools that we are not able to authorise term time leave for holidays and that we should be requesting additional evidence from parents and carers if children are absent in the week before summer holidays or the weeks after the summer holidays. Please note below information, which has come directly from Islington.

The threshold for issuing term time leave Penalty Notices is 10 sessions, so 5 full days of absence. The fine itself is £60 if paid within 3 weeks, rising to £120 if paid in the 4th week. Parents should bear in mind that the fines are per child, per parent; so for example a two-parent family with two children will in fact receive four fines.

An Act of Kindness

I would like to take time to acknowledge a wonderful act of kindness that was brought to my attention this week. Emily, in Year 1, spent last weekend baking cakes with her mum. Once they had finished baking, Emily took it upon herself to have a cake sale outside of her front door. She very quickly realised that if she moved her stall to the end of the road, which is at a cross road, there would be more footfall and a higher chance of selling her cakes. Well, she was right! Within fifteen minutes all of her cakes had gone and she had raised a total of £77. Emily has decided to donate the money to the school to purchase some more cushions for the reading corner in her class. I was blown away with Emily's kindness and we have arranged a time for Emily to come to the front office and have a say in choosing the cushions she would like for the reading corner.

Golden Book

Well done to all of the children listed below who have made it into the Golden book either this week or last week.

<u>Week beginning 26th May</u>	
<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
Naomi	Barnaby
Victor	Leonidas
	Jibreel

<u>Week beginning 5th June</u>		
<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
Clara	Imogen	Sofia
Abelard	Lisa	Ari
Lucia		



I hope you have a wonderful weekend enjoying the sun and hopefully dodging the thunderstorms.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

