



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 September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

After staggering starts for our new Reception cohort, this week, we have welcomed the final few children into St John's and we now have a full class. It has been lovely to see all the new faces on the playground at the beginning and end of the day. We had the first of our 'New to Reception' parents meetings last night and the second will be held next Tuesday 20th September, at 9.05am in the main hall.

Last night, Caterlink also came and shared some of the food the children eat during lunchtime in the lunch hall. There was an opportunity to discuss the menu and find out more about how all dietary needs are catered for. There will be another session like this held for parents of children across the whole school in the next few weeks. I will advise you of the date once it is confirmed.



Golden Book

I am very pleased to say the Golden Book is well and truly up and running and last Friday we had our first ever entries. Children who made it into the book for the week beginning 5th September are listed below. A huge well done to them all.

Year 1

Nell, Dexter, Vienna-Grace and Emily

Year 4

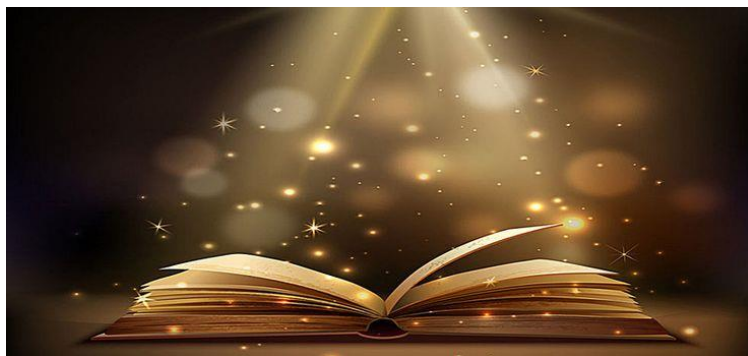
Evie and Dorian

Year 5

Miles and Maggie

Year 6

Dania





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Parents Evening

It seems there was no mention of a face to face meeting in the letter that went out earlier this week regarding parents evening. Just to clarify, we ARE offering face to face meetings and these will be held in your child's classroom, unless you are advised otherwise. If you would prefer to have a phone call or a zoom meeting rather than come into school, please do request this with the class teacher.

International Day

We will be celebrating International Day in school on Friday 30th September. International Day celebrates the wide cultural diversity that we have at St John's. The idea is that the day broadens the student's horizons and affords them opportunities to learn more about different cultures, food and languages. The children are invited to come to school in colours that represent their culture, flag or traditional dress. We love to have parents come into class during International Day and speak to the children about the country they are from, sharing images on the class whiteboards, foods, traditional stories or other cultural items. Please do contact your child's class teacher to arrange a time to come in if you are available.

Early Reading - Phonics

At St John's, we aim for all our children to become fluent, confident readers who are passionate about reading. The scheme we use to do this is called Read Write Inc. We stream the children across Key Stage 1. This week we have been organising the children into their new Read Write Inc groups.

Within all the RWI sessions/books children will be exposed to red and green words to learn to help them to become speedy readers. Red words are words that are not easily decodable and challenge words to extend children's vocabulary. Green words are linked to the sounds they have been learning and are easily decodable. Dots and dashes represent the sound each letter makes.

During the RWI session children will read the book three times and at each new reading they will have plenty of opportunities to practise using their developing comprehension skills. In our school, children read each Read Write Inc. book at least three times in class with their partner. Re-reading the same book helps children to become confident readers. Each time they re-read, they build their fluency/speed and comprehension. They love reading and want to read because they **can** read all of the words in the book.

We do not send stories home the children cannot read because we always want them to be set up to succeed in their reading. We want to make sure they enjoy reading so that they want to read. The more they read, the faster progress





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they will make. So after the third read in class, children bring the same storybook home in their book bag. They love this because they feel confident about reading it and can't wait to read it to you, their grandparents or even their teddy bear! Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!" They are meant to be able to read all of the words as the book is at the correct level.

Due to the sessions not starting until next week, your child will not be receiving a home reader book until they have completed their 3rd read in class next week.

What can you do to help at home?

1. Listen to your child read the same *Read Write Inc. Storybook* again and again.
2. Encourage them to use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', 'read the word'.
3. Discuss the story and encourage their storyteller voice.
4. Record their reading, by dating and initialling in their reading record.

For more information, there are free video tutorials on the website – www.ruthmiskin.com

You can of course also ask your class teacher!

The school will be closed on Monday for the bank holiday, which has been called for the Queen's funeral. I for one, will be tuning in to watch the monumental event take place and witness the sending off of such an inspirational woman.

Dear God,
Let us pray for Queen Elizabeth and her exceptional reign,
for her deep affection for her people,
for her lifelong desire to serve the common good,
for her humility and grace, hard work and dedication,
we thank You, Lord for all that she was.
Amen



Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

