



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 17th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a strange week! The school felt very quiet on Wednesday and Thursday, due to the partial closure of the school for industrial action. We really missed those of you who weren't here. At present, there are no further strikes announced, however, there still has not been any movement from the government in terms of discussions with the NEU teachers union.

We have also had a lot of sickness this week. There are an awful lot of bugs going around at the moment. Please continue to encourage the children to practice good hygiene routines to stop the spread.

School Uniform

A reminder that we still have lots of school uniform in storage that we would love to be able to get to those of you who may need to top up what you already have. Please drop an e-mail to Edita or complete a slip at the front office stating what items you require and in what size, and we will package them up and send them home with your child at the end of the day.

Book Amnesty

We are currently taking part in the Islington Reading Road map challenge, the selection of books we have need to be shared amongst classes. In order for us to swap the books around, we need them all back in school. Please check that there are no school books laying around at home and return them to school next week. If I could ask the same for any phonics books also, as the schools resources are dwindling and these books cost a lot of money to replace.

Parent Survey

Earlier in the week, I sent out a letter to the whole parent community including a link to a parent survey. This survey asks specific questions about the provision we offer here at St John's. If you haven't yet completed the survey, I would really appreciate if you could spend five minutes completing this before **Monday 20th March**. Once the results are collated, I will be sure to share the feedback with you.

<https://www.qdpsurvey.co.uk/OnlineQuestionnaire?code=90277-60625-29766085>

The Martha Mills Young Writers Prize

The London Review Bookshop has launched the Martha Mills Young Writer's prize. Martha was a student at St John's and well-loved within the school community. Martha sadly passed away in 2021, aged 13, which had a devastating effect on her family, the members of the school community and across Highbury. Martha was an avid reader and an exceptionally talented writer. This competition is open to 11-14 year olds, so specifically aimed at our Year 6 pupils. If your child enjoys writing this could be something for them to take part in. Please find more information on this by following the link below.

<https://www.londonreviewbookshop.co.uk/blog/2023/march/the-martha-mills-young-writers-prize>





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School Art Competition Reminder

A reminder that we are looking for some excellent sport inspired art work to have transferred onto the back wall of the pitch. We have had very few entries so far, so we have changed the deadline to **Friday 24th March**. This is an excellent opportunity for your child's work to be on display for the whole school to see and no doubt be in prime position in the pitch for many years to come. All entries need to be handed into the front office by next Friday please.

Homework

Homework is always quite a contentious issue. I've had many a discussion with parents about what we expect, the quantity, the quality and the frequency. The homework your child receives will always be a consolidation of the work that has been taught in class. It will never be new learning for them. Children engaging in weekly homework at primary school, is helping them prepare for the expectations of secondary school and any further academic learning they choose beyond that. Giving homework a space and time over the course of the week builds good habits, promotes learning at home and can give you, as parents, a regular insight into what your child is learning at school and an opportunity for them to 'teach' you. Homework should not be stressful, it should be accessible and something which we should be helping to promote the children to do independently as they move through the school. If you have any questions about homework, please discuss them with your child's class teacher.

Golden Book

Well done to all of the children listed below who made it into the Golden Book this week.

Year 2

Abelard
Kason
Pearl

Year 5

Bea
Etta
Rosa



Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson
Head of School

