



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

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Interim Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 19th March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week, I've had a real chance to get around the school and catch up with a lot of the children. I've been very aware since my return from maternity leave, that there are a lot of new children who have joined St John's, who don't know who I am. So, I've been holding some 'Getting to know me' sessions with the children, where we have spent some time together getting to know a little bit about each other. I think the most important part of my job is to make sure I know all the children as well as I possibly can, and these sessions have allowed me to do that. I am looking forward to meeting with more children next week too.

After School Clubs

Where we have been able to, we have kept the after school clubs in bubble groups. There are some cases, where the clubs will be ran as a Key Stage. In these instances, the clubs will be held outdoors or in a well-ventilated space. In the recent government guidance, the advice on after school clubs states, *'Schools should try to keep children in the same bubble they are in during the school day, as far as possible. Where parents are using external childcare providers or out of school extra-curricular activities for their children, they should be advised; to limit their use of multiple out-of-school setting providers, and to only use one out-of-school setting in addition to school as far as possible.'* As a school we have our own risk assessment procedures in place and have ensured that the external organisers, who are providing some of the after school clubs at St John's, have considered the relevant government guidance for their sector and put in protective measures where necessary.

Counting Covid Art Project

I am very pleased to share that some of our year 5 students have not only made it into the Islington Tribune this week, but were also interviewed by ITV news yesterday and appeared on the 6pm local news. Abigail, and a number of her friends, have been working hard on an art project using Plus Plus Blocks. They used individual Plus Plus Blocks to represent each human life lost to Covid in Islington, they then expanded to include other boroughs. Now they have ambitions to make enough to represent each life lost across the whole of the Capital. Any donations of Plus Plus Blocks would be greatly received.





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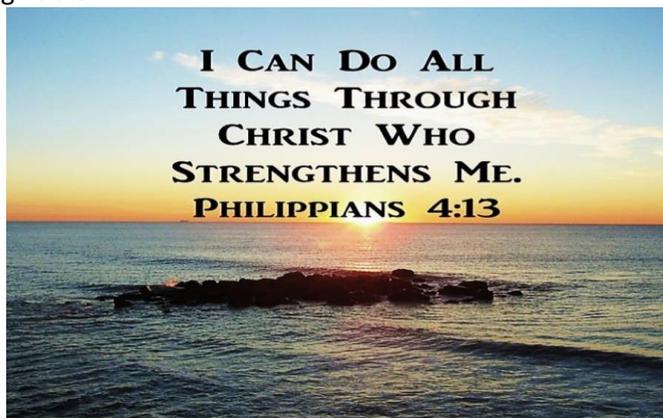
School Snacks and Packed Lunches

There are still a number of children bringing unhealthy snacks to school in their lunch boxes, and to eat at playtime. Please be aware that we are a healthy school and want to keep your children as healthy as we can. Therefore, we ask that the children only bring healthy snacks into school. Please see the list below for advice on what is and is not advised by the NHS. There is also more information available on their website:

[nhs.uk/change4life](https://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

| Healthy Snacks | Snacks to Avoid |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fruit | Confectionary (of any kind) |
| Vegetable Sticks | Chocolate |
| Yoghurt | Chocolate covered snacks |
| Bag of plain popcorn | Crisps (including over baked) |
| Bread Sticks | Cereal bars |
| Rice or Corn Cakes | Cakes |
| Malt Loaf | Sweet Pastries |
| Raisins | Biscuits |
| Olives | Doughnuts |

I am ending this week with the school's biblical verse, and a reminder that we have come so far over the past year, and got through what we never thought imaginable.



Yours faithfully,
Mrs Lindsey Hodgson
Interim Head of School

