



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 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, on a personal note, I would just like to say thank you so much to all of you who have sent e-mails and spoken to me at the gate since the news of my departure was announced on Wednesday. The response has been overwhelmingly kind and I really appreciate that. St John's holds a very special place in my heart and it was a very difficult decision to make, but one that is right for myself and my family at this time. I feel the school is in a very strong position and that I will be leaving it in great shape for whoever is lucky enough to take over my role.

Numbers Day

Friday 3rd February is NSPCC Number's Day and at St John's we will be taking part in the Dress up for Digits incentive. It will be a fun-filled day of maths activities and games. As Safer Internet Day is the following week, we will combine both days together and promote online maths activities to the children. Mrs Slack, Maths and Computing Lead, will run an Online Safety Parent Workshop in the morning as well as workshops throughout the day for classes.

Chinese New Year

A big thank you to Beverly, Janet and team for providing a wonderful spread yesterday to celebrate Chinese New Year. Also to Jackie, who in her own time, travelled to China Town to get extras for children across the school to sample, including some wonderful fortune cookies. The children enjoyed tasting the noodles, the spring rolls and prawn crackers.



Reading Scanner Pens

As a school, we have many children who struggle with reading for a number of reasons. Something that has been brought on the market to help children with this is Reading Scanner pens. The pen is moved over the text and then the words are read aloud to the child. These scanner pens are quite expensive and before we invest in purchasing any, we wondered if any members of the school community has one we would be able to try or any that they no longer need and may be able to donate. If this is you, please get in touch with Miss Jones. We would really appreciate any opportunity to try before we buy.

Lunch Time Games Club

The House Captains have been very keen to introduce Games Club at lunch time for all children across the school. In order for this to happen, the House Captains do need to be supported by the volunteer adults. Both this week and last, we have had to cancel the Games Club for the children, as the volunteer adults have not turned up. The children have been very upset by this. If you are volunteering please only do so if you can be committed and regularly attend, so as not to let the children down.





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Tania Witter

It was a sad day on Wednesday, when many members of the school community gathered at Christ Church to remember the life of Tania Witter, who had served at the church and in the community for many years. Tania was a very active member of the Open the Book Collective Worship sessions previously run here at St John's for the whole school community. She would really help bring biblical readings to life and delivered them, alongside the rest of the team, in such an engaging and creative manner. We are very grateful to Tania for her commitment to the school over many years and she will be dearly missed by all.

Our school value this half term is Wisdom! I often think having time to reflect paves the way for wisdom as it allows us to make the right choices and appreciate what has gone before. I hope in your busy schedule you can allow for some time for reflection.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

