



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 24th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after what I hope was a restful half term break for you all. It was wonderful to see all of the children smiling as they came through the school gates this week, it is always a lovely way to start my day when possible. As always, another busy week for us all. We've had orienteering trips to Gillespie Park for Years 1, 2 and 3. Year 1 also took part in an excellent workshop about season changes linked to their Science learning, earlier in the week. Today, the whole school saw a drama performance of Alice in Wonderland, which links to the theme we are following for World Book Day this year. Our Year 5 and Year 6 footballers took part in a competition yesterday, where, although they didn't come away with a medal, they were congratulated by other schools on what an excellent team they were.

Strike Action

Just a reminder, that next Thursday 2nd March, is a national strike day for teachers. On this day, we will be running a reduced service and the Year 3 and Year 4 classes will not be open. All other classes will be in school as normal. There are still two proposed strike days ahead on the 15th and 16th March. We will advise you nearer the time, if the strikes are confirmed, how this will affect classes.

World Book Day

For World Book Day, the whole school will participate in an Alice in Wonderland dance workshop on Friday 3rd March. During the dance workshop, children will work alongside a professional choreographer to explore the book through movement, in order to create a dance that retells the story from beginning to end. Children will learn a range of dance movements and techniques, alongside music that is tailored for the story. There will also be a quiz and treasure hunt, which will involve the children looking for images around the school, and of course the children can come to school dressed as a book character of their choice, or a word. Miss Bullen, the school's English lead, has planned a great day for us all. A huge thank you to FOSJ who have funded the dance workshop for the day.

LGBTQIA+ Month

February was LGBTQIA+ month. To acknowledge this in school, each class looked at a historical figure who had to really show the school value of courage in overcoming the fear of being truthful about who they really were, trying to fit into a world that they knew would not accept them, or for speaking up for what they knew was right. We looked at people like Alan Turing, who was a code breaker at Bletchley Park during WW2, who was arrested for his sexuality.





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Eat Them to Defeat Them

It is back! Eat them to defeat them is a multi-award-winning national campaign, which looks to help encourage children to eat more vegetables and also to try new ones at school. We have posters up in the hall, alongside the stickers, which will be given out to children who do eat or try vegetables during lunch. We will also bring back the tasting table, where a range of different fruits and vegetables will be on offer for the children to sample. The children should have brought their packs home at the beginning of the week. To help keep the motivation going at home, they can collect the stickers they have received during the day at school in their packs.



Golden Book

We had some excellent examples of children demonstrating our school values of Friendship, Respect, Wisdom, Forgiveness, Love and Courage in the Golden Book. A huge well done to all of the children listed below who made it into the Golden Book last half term.

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Malachi	Leah Vienna-Grace Archie Woody Success	Remy Theo A Willem Felix Zayd	Naomie Zoe Charlie Alberto Filippos	Dorian Lily Ezekiel Henry Evie Ezra	Farrah Krivaidh Jianing Jesse Maggie Leonidas Farrah Brandon	Lacey Aizah Monika Jeremiah Lucas

As we begin the season of Lent, may we all take the opportunity to ponder and reflect on the things that are important to each one of us in life. Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

