



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 28th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Covid-19 has hit the school hard again this week. We have a large number of children absent from school having tested positive with the virus, as well as members of staff. We continue to try and keep the school running as efficiently and effectively as possible but there may be times within the school day/week that changes have to be made to accommodate absences. Our kitchen team have been left very short since the retirement of Janet and Caterlink, our lunch time staff provider, have not regularly been able to send replacements. This means more often than not this week our lunchtime staff are working through without any break. School staff are doing everything we can to help support our lunch time ladies, but it can mean the children may be missing five minutes of their lunch time play here and there due to timings not being met as we would like. Please be reassured that your children are still receiving wonderful lunches from Beverly, Janet and Toshiba.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those families who have previously tested positive for Covid-19 for keeping the children at home for the full ten days isolation period. I completely understand that this is not the guidance from the government, but is something we have been continuing in school. There are a number of reasons for this, first and foremost to keep our more vulnerable children and adults in school as safe as possible. Although the chance of passing on the virus from someone who has tested negative on day seven is small, there is still a small chance of infecting others. The environment in which we work; large amount of people in one space, unable to socially distance and within close contact of others, makes it very difficult for us to keep those more vulnerable safe.

As soon as I have any more information on updated guidance for schools, with regards to the isolation periods I will inform you. Currently, it still sits as the Head teacher's discretion as to what works best for the school at this current period of time.





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FOSJ

At the AGM meeting last week, it was announced that the current president and vice president of FOSJ would not be standing again for their roles this year. Therefore, FOSJ are looking to appoint a new chair and vice chair. If this is something you think you may be interested in, please do contact the school and we can put you in touch with the right people. FOSJ are a vital part of our community, raising thousands of pounds for our school every year. They give us the opportunity to enrich the curriculum in ways we would not be able to, in this current financial climate. Some of the amazing things the money raised by FOSJ has paid for this academic year includes; Rocks workshop in Year 3 to support a Science and History topic, Caterpillars and Butterfly Garden Kit for Year 2, a workshop of Toys from the Past for the Year 1 History topic, multiple cooking resources, art resources and Christmas crafts. These are just some of the things the teachers use the money towards, but we also use the money to help with the Year 5&6 PGL trips, to pay for Music teachers from Islington Guild Hall, for the Year 5 Shakespeare project and other equipment and resources needed within the school.

Sports

Finally, a huge congratulations to our Dodgeball team for coming back with a silver medal this week. We have been really trying hard to make sure we can take the children to as many sporting events as possible this year. It is important in so many ways, particularly the well-known benefit exercise has on mental health.

Safety in Finsbury Park

An online petition has been launched to have more lights added in the park, so that it feels safer on an evening. A number of families travel through the park to and from school and have noted how unsafe this can feel in the dark. If you are interested in signing, please click on the link below.

<https://www.change.org/p/haringey-council-make-finsbury-park-n4-safe-to-use-for-children-families-everyone-inc-dusk-and-dawn>

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

