



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjiv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Friday 3rd November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

The children have all been very excited this week as we started the beginning of advent and the official countdown to Christmas. Although we have had to make a number of changes in school, due to the announcements made by the Prime Minister over the weekend, I would like to assure you that all of the staff at St John's will be working hard to make sure the buzz around Christmas continues with the children so that they have a wonderful ending to the first term of the year.

Saying Goodbye

Unfortunately, last week we had to say goodbye to Mrs Owusu, one of the schools supply support assistants. Due to confidentiality, we were unable to share this information with parents in advance, however, please be assured she was thanked for all of her hard work in and across the school.

We will also be saying goodbye to Janet Wooden in January, who has worked at St John's for the past 37 years as one of our dinner ladies. Many of you may be more familiar with her in her role as the lollipop lady on the crossing, at the end of Conewood Street. Janet will be retiring after Christmas to spend more time with her grandchildren. However, she is still reluctant to leave her lollipop lady role, so we will still see her there every day!

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas parties have been arranged for our children to enjoy in the last week of term. **Monday 13th is the Christmas party for Year3, 4, 5 and 6. Tuesday 14th is the Christmas party for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.** We will be holding a Christmas service in school on Wednesday for both key stages separately. Gabriel Anstis will lead the service on Wednesday morning for Key Stage 1 and Andy Chrich will lead the service for Key Stage 2 on Wednesday afternoon.





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Islington Food Bank and Soup Kitchen

This year, I really wanted to make sure that our Harvest donations went to people in our local community. After doing some research, I was put in touch with Nick Wilkinson, who coordinates the soup kitchen and food bank at St John's the Evangelist, Brownswood Park. I was able to see firsthand, when I delivered our donations, the real need that there is in our local community, it really made me want to do more. So, I am reaching out to you to support us in giving something back to those who are less fortunate than us, and to those that are our neighbours. I asked Nick what those that visited the food bank were in most need of and he provided me with the list below. If you could help with a small donation of any of the below items, it would be hugely appreciated. I will be taking the House Captains with me on my next visit, so they can get involved in giving back to the local community and report on it to the rest of the school.

Items Needed:

- Tea
- Coffee
- Toiletries; shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Women's sanitary products
- A small Christmas gift for an adult or child

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas fayre will still be going ahead tomorrow with additional measures put in place to try to keep the school community safe. Both the main hall and Maberly Hall will have a one-way system put in place, this will be clearly indicated on the day. Both halls will also have a set capacity amount, in order to reduce large amounts of people gathering at once. There will be a number of events held outside in the playground and on the pitch for those who do not wish to go indoors, but for those who do, we must ask that you wear a mask at all times and sanitise regularly whilst you are in the school building.





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Thank You

A huge thank you from all of the staff and children here at St John's to James Peach, dad of Louis in Year 1. He spent a whole day of his own time to clear the garden area at the back of the school grounds. An area that had not been touched since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The area looks absolutely amazing now, and will be able to begin being used again by the children. The House Captains have great plans for that area of the school and have already pitched their ideas to the Friends of St John's to help them achieve their goals.

Parent Governors

I am extremely pleased to say we have four nominations for the two parent governor roles we currently have available. Each candidate will now put together a brief statement about themselves, which will be shared with the school community. An election will be held by secret ballot, using the 'first past the post' voting system – this would be the two parents receiving the largest number of votes. A tied vote will be resolved by choosing the candidate with the youngest child in the school. All parents will have an opportunity to vote next week after the statements have been sent out.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

