



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 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The penultimate week before the end of another half term, and already we've done so much! We had a wonderful trip to the O2 last week to join the Young Voices choir. It is always such a fantastic evening, not only for the choir but for parents, carers and staff members. A huge well done to all involved and a shout out to Emma, the school's music teacher, for working the choir so hard since September. Also to Mrs O'Connor, Ruth and Edita, for accompanying the children on what is always a very long, yet rewarding, day.



Luna New Year

In the last Head's letter and in recent newsletters, Luna New Year was referred to as Chinese New Year. I want to take this opportunity to apologise to all of the many cultures here at St John's who celebrate Luna New Year and were excluded by this recent error. We are aware that this event is celebrated across several countries and other territories in Asia and that should be acknowledged. We promise to work harder to ensure that we fight harder to move away from these still very publicised historical stereotypes, and ensure we work to create an inclusive view of the world for all of our children here at St John's.

World Book Day

This year, World Book Day falls on Thursday 2nd March. Currently, the next teachers strike is also due to happen on that day. If the strikes do go ahead, we have decided to move the World Book Day celebration to Friday 3rd March, so that the children do not miss out. Miss Bullen, the school's English lead, will be sending out a letter next week detailing all out plans for the event.

VIP Day

Another brilliant term for team points. The children have worked very hard and with a total of 678 points across the whole half term, Yellow team have won the VIP Day this time around. VIP Day will be held next Thursday, 9th February. Children can come to school in their own clothes, will be first in the lunch hall queue and will receive extra playtime.





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FOSJ Update

A huge thank you to the FOSJ team, who allowed us to use some money from the pot at the beginning of the spring term in order to purchase some new PE mats. The old ones had become quite worn over time, and now, not only do we have lovely new ones, which attach together, but we also have more than we have had previously. A great use of the additional funding you as parents contribute to the school, and one in which all children can benefit from.



Stephen Lawrence Day

For the last few years, we have celebrated Stephen Lawrence Day, this year will be no different. However, this year, we will be remembering 30 years since Stephen's death. We have already started planning events in school and have applied to enter an arts competition organised by the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at De Montfort University, Leicester. The theme is Hopeful Futures and is all around creativity. Stephen was very creative and on the path to becoming an Architect. I would really like to plan a collaborative project with an architectural firm for this anniversary and was wondering if any parents are, or know of any architects, who would be interested in working with us. If you do, please point them in my direction.

I will be spending my weekend preparing for another school journey, this time with Year 5. We are headed off to Marchant's Hill for three days. I am looking forward to being in the outdoors and spending three days away from my computer.

I hope you all have a brilliant weekend, whatever you do.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Head of School

