



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

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Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Friday 6th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a wonderful week. The children have been hard at work preparing for a variety of upcoming events, all while continuing to engage enthusiastically in their formal learning.

Advent

This week in assembly, we learned about the season of Advent, an important time in the Christian calendar. The children explored the meaning of Advent as a period of waiting and preparation for Christmas. We talked about the symbolism of the Advent wreath, with its candles representing hope, peace, joy, and love. The children reflected on how they can show kindness and generosity during this special time. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss the spirit of giving and the importance of helping others, both at home and in our community.

Come celebrate with me

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the event; your support means so much to us. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the performances and activities, as the children had a fantastic time sharing their creativity with you. A special thank you to those who have already made the monetary contributions towards the event—your generosity helps us continue providing enriching experiences for the children. If you haven't yet had the chance to contribute, please remember that donations can still be made via the School Gateway.

DecemBAR 2024

At St John's we have been working on bar models for over a year. What are bar models? The bar model is a visual representation used in maths to help children understand and solve problems. It involves drawing bars to represent numbers or quantities, making it easier for children to see the relationships between different parts of a problem.

This method is particularly useful for solving word problems, as it allows children to break the problem into smaller, more manageable steps. For example, they can use bar models to compare quantities, find missing values, or visualize addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

By using the bar model, children develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and improve their problem-solving skills.

This week, children from Year 1 to Year 6 have been working on bar models as part of their morning routine. Our maths curriculum, White Rose Maths, includes daily bar model challenges leading up to Christmas (DecemBAR). We encourage you to talk to your child about how they use bar models—and even better, ask them to teach you!





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To learn more, please check our newsletter, which includes additional information about bar models and how they support mathematical learning.

Parents and Carers, have a go at doing these questions using bar models.

Two friends, Alice and Ben, share £240 in the ratio 2:3. How much money does each friend receive?

A fruit shop sold 245 apples in the morning and 368 in the afternoon. By the end of the day, they had 120 apples left. How many apples did the shop have at the start of the day?

I will share the answers with you in my next letter.

Events next week

We have two exciting events coming up next week: the KS1 and Reception Nativity, as well as Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch.

For the Nativity performances, we kindly request that no more than two family members attend each show. At the end of the performances, we will be holding a collection in support of Whittington Health Charity.

This year, we are joining forces with other Church of England schools in Islington to support this wonderful local charity. Your contributions, no matter how small, will make a difference, so please consider bringing some change to donate.

Key dates for next week

Tuesday 10th - KS1 and Reception nativity performance (10:00 am)

Wednesday 11th - KS1 and Reception nativity performance (2:00 pm)

Thursday 12th - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas lunch (all children)

Future dates

Reception to Y6 parents evening - Monday 13th and Wednesday 15th January 2025

I hope you have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas fair on Sunday.

With warm regards,

Ms. H. Khan
Head of School

