



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

Friday, 24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely week here at school, and despite the chilly weather, we've managed to stay warm and continue with our exciting activities and learning. The children and staff have been as productive as ever, and I want to share some of this week's highlights with you:

- Reception Class Reading Breakfast Session: We were thrilled to see so many parents joining us to promote a love of reading. The children loved sharing stories and showing off their developing reading skills.
- Year 3 Intense Swimming Course: Year 3 began their swimming lessons this week with great enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see their determination and confidence growing with each session.
- Choir Performance at the O2 Arena: Our school choir had the incredible opportunity to perform at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices concert. They represented the school beautifully, and we are so proud of their talent and hard work. Thank you to all the adults who made this happen.
- Year 6 Junior Citizenship Programme: Our Year 6 pupils participated in sessions designed to help them understand their roles as responsible and active members of the community. They learned important life skills and explored what it means to be a good citizen.
- Year 4 and 5 drama workshop with Josh Picton and Seb Gardner from the Almeida Theatre.
- World Religion Day Assembly: To celebrate World Religion Day, we held a special assembly where the children learned about different faiths and **the importance of understanding and respecting diverse beliefs.**

Thank yous

Thank you to Enny (Jaan's mum), Cat (Remy and Amelie's mum), Hima (Anny and Naiya's mum), and Nigel (Isobel's dad) for taking the time to visit us and talk to the children about your respective religions. Your willingness to share your personal experiences and insights provided the children with a unique opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of different faiths and cultures.





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Parent skills audit

Please take the time to complete the skills audit. As I said in my previous letter, this audit aims to identify opportunities for collaboration, and to harness these skills in ways that support the school and enhance the learning experience for our children. Thank you to those who have completed it already. The questionnaire is linked again [here](#) for your convenience.

Chess Webinars

Year 5 and Year 6 are currently enjoying whole-class chess lessons on Thursdays. We work with an organisation called Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) to deliver these sessions.

CSC is also offering 10 free chess webinars designed for children aged 7–13 who already know the basics of chess and are ready to advance their skills by learning tactics and strategies. Each webinar will be held twice a week, on Tuesday evenings and Sunday evenings, and there is no need to sign up in advance. These are drop-in sessions, so you can choose which ones you attend based on your availability.

The webinars will take place on Zoom. If you're interested in these sessions, please visit the CSC website for more information. <https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/webinars>

ADHD parent workshop

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend the ADHD workshop. Your participation and engagement were greatly appreciated. For those who were unable to join or would like to revisit the content, we will upload the presentation slides to the school website shortly.

Key dates for next week:

- 27th January Holocaust Memorial Day
- 29th January 2025 - Year 1 Reading Breakfast - 8.30 am - 9.00 am (All Y1 parents are welcome)
- 29th Lunar New Year (A special lunch will be provided for the children)

A few new dates to add to your diary.

- Friday 7th February - NSPCC Number Day - Dress Up as Digits (all children)
- Thursday 13 February - Online Safety Parent Workshop 9:00 - 9:30 (all parents)





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I hope you have a wonderful weekend filled with relaxation and quality time with your loved ones.

With warm regards,

Ms. H. Khan

Head of School

