



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, 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a wonderful and productive week. Here at St John's, we've enjoyed another week brimming with curiosity, discovery, and growth, as our pupils enthusiastically engaged in learning new knowledge and honing their skills.

It is always a pleasure to walk around the school and see the children focused and enjoying their learning. We have an excellent morning routine in place. All children come in and take part in maths retrieval practice, which is one of the reasons why it is so important for them to be in school on time.

World of work

This week, one of our key focuses has been on exploring the world of work. Children in Years 4, 5, and 6 had the exciting opportunity to visit The Guildhall, where they engaged with professionals from a variety of fields and learned about different career paths. Additionally, we hosted a special event in school, where several inspiring women with fascinating and impactful careers came to speak to our pupils. These role models shared their experiences and insights, offering our children a glimpse into the diverse opportunities that await them in the future.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following parents and other professionals who generously took time out of their busy schedules to contribute to the success of this event.

Caitlin Bowles – PhD Student studying Cancer Biology
Lucie Celia and Liz Charlton – Business Owners of LC Locations
Rachael Smith – Solicitor
Joanna Aunon – Chief Impact Officer
Sharon Duncan-Brewster – Actress
Cecelie Maurud Barstad – Muralist/Illustrator
Amber O'Brien – Senior Project Manager
Lisa Cummins - Lead Health Economist (NHS)

Your involvement made a significant difference, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Events like these are designed to inspire and motivate our children, helping them to dream big and understand the many possibilities available to them as they grow. We hope these experiences will encourage them to think ambitiously about their futures and the paths they might choose to pursue.





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Mental health week

This week, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week. The children were given time to reflect on how they could support their own mental health. We also ran workshops in KS2, providing the children with valuable tools to manage their well-being effectively.

As part of this, we were delighted to host Time to Talk workshops, coordinated by The BIG Alliance. These interactive sessions, led by volunteers from Islington-based corporate businesses, encouraged children to engage in open conversations about mental health. Through activities such as mindfulness exercises and group discussions, our children explored ways to look after their well-being and how their school environment can support positive mental health.

These workshops form part of a wider initiative that has reached over 100 classes in Islington schools and continues to grow. By working with volunteers from different career backgrounds, the sessions also help to break down stigma and highlight that mental health matters to everyone, no matter their age or profession.

A huge thank you to The BIG Alliance and their volunteers for delivering these valuable sessions and supporting our children in learning lifelong strategies for mental well-being.

Reading Breakfast

We have had three reading breakfasts this half-term, and the support from parents has been absolutely incredible. It was truly wonderful to see not only parents but also siblings and grandparents joining us for these special sessions.

The purpose of these events is to promote the joy of reading together as a family. We firmly believe that reading is the key to unlocking many barriers to learning, fostering creativity, and building essential language and communication skills. To support this, I would strongly encourage you to read to your children every night, if possible, and take the time to listen to them read as well. These small, consistent efforts can make a profound difference in their development and a lifelong love of learning.

Next Friday, Friends of St John are hosting a special Valentine's Day Bake Sale!

Please join us to support this wonderful event and enjoy a variety of delicious treats. The children will have the opportunity to purchase a small gift for their loved ones. All proceeds from the event will go directly to the school, helping to fund essential programs and resources for our children. Your support makes a significant difference—we hope to see you there!

Breakfast and Kidz Club Bookings

A reminder that bookings should be made via the SchoolGateway app - Breakfast club should be booked **by midday the day before** and KidzClub should be booked **by midday on the day**. We do understand that on occasion, plans change and sometimes last minute childcare is needed. We will always do our best to





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accommodate your needs, but please be mindful that the kitchen staff need numbers of children attending in advance to enable them to prepare sufficient food for all the children. Recently, we have had an extremely large number of late bookings, and it is becoming difficult to accommodate the sheer number of extra children that we hadn't accounted for.

Please also ensure that you select the correct time needed for KidzClub - from 3.30pm if needed directly after school, or from 4.30pm if needed after After School Club - and select the correct finish time if your child needs to be taken by KidzClub staff to another club. Selecting the correct time slots helps us to ensure the children are where they are supposed to be at the correct time and allows us to properly safeguard the children in our care.

Key dates for next week:

12th February - Year 3 Reading Breakfast - 8.30 am - 9.00 am (All Y3 parents are welcome)

13th February - Online safety workshop for all parents 9.00am

14th February - Year 4 class assembly 2.50 pm

14th February - FOSJ bake sale and Valentines' gift giving.

Change of date for the Easter service - the new date is 2nd April at 2 pm in St Augustine's Church.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

With warm regards,

Ms. H. Khan

Head of School

