



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

12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first full week has been busy and very productive. The children are back to following their normal routine, settling in with confidence and enthusiasm. It is lovely to see the children already building a close relationship with their new teaching team and beginning to show a real sense of belonging within the classroom.

This half term, our school value is **Friendship**. In our collective worship, we reflected on the story of David and Jonathan, considering what their friendship meant to each other and how we can become better friends ourselves. We also thought about how true friendship helps us feel that we belong. Over the next few weeks, we will continue exploring the theme of belonging.

This year, in our RE lessons, we will be focusing on asking more philosophical, theological, and human and social science questions to help children think more deeply about the religion they are studying. You may have seen the characters during your visit to the classrooms at your meet-the-teacher meeting this week.

To support this, we have introduced three characters:

- Philly, who helps us think about philosophical questions, such as *"What is the difference between knowing and believing?"*
- Theo, who helps us explore theological questions, such as *"What does this story tell Christians about God?"*
- Lofty, who helps us consider human and social science questions, such as *"How do different communities celebrate this festival?"*

We would love for you to talk to your children about these three characters and the types of questions they represent.

Illness

If your child is unwell, please call the school by 9:00 am to let us know why they are unable to attend. If you are calling before 8:00 am, leave a message on the answering machine, or you can contact us by email. Please remember that you must notify the school each day your child is absent, not just on the first day. If we do not hear from you, Clare will call to establish the reason for your child's absence. This procedure is in line with our safeguarding and attendance policy.





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Appointments during school hours

If your child has an appointment (dentist, doctor, optician, etc.) during school hours, please ensure you provide evidence of the appointment (email or letter) so that it can be recorded. The absence will be authorised if proof is provided. Wherever possible, we ask that such appointments are arranged outside of school time.

Administration of Medicines

If a child needs to take medication (e.g. antibiotics, Calpol, antihistamines, etc.), the medicine will be kept in the office. Parents must complete and sign a parental consent form, available from the school office, and hand both the form and the medicine to Clare.

The medicine container must be clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage, and timing. Please note that this includes inhalers for asthma.

No child will be allowed to take or be given medication in school unless the above procedure has been followed.

Emergency contact numbers

As you know, it is very important that we have an up-to-date emergency contact number in case your child is ill or injured and we are unable to reach you. If your emergency contact details change during the year, please complete the Google form - if you are not sure how to do this, come and speak to Clare.

Nut and sesame seeds free school

We are a **nut-free school** at all times. This includes lunchtimes and packed lunches (no Nutella, chocolate hazelnut spread, peanut butter sandwiches, or coconut products), as well as food brought for trips, club snacks, fairs, and cake sales. In addition, products containing sesame seeds are not allowed in school.

We have a number of children with allergies, and your support in keeping our school environment safe is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the teacher meetings. If you were unable to attend and would like to see your child's new classroom, please contact the teacher via class.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

