



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

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Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely week. I can't believe we are in October already—the weeks are flying by! This week, we have taken part in many exciting activities, including our harvest celebrations, poetry workshops, and sessions in our school forest school.

Oracy

This week, the teachers have received some training on how to further develop oracy skills in every subject.

Why is teaching oracy important in primary schools?

Oracy means learning to talk well and learning through talk. It helps children share their ideas clearly, listen carefully to others, and join in conversations with confidence. Strong speaking skills support reading, writing, and learning across all subjects, while also building social skills and preparing children for the future.

How parents can help at home:

- Encourage your child to talk about their day and really listen to what they say.
- Ask open questions (e.g. "What was the best part of your day?" instead of "Did you have a good day?").
- Read together and talk about the story, characters, or new words.
- Play games that involve speaking and listening, like 'Guess Who?' or storytelling games.
- Give your child chances to speak in different situations—whether it's ordering food, speaking to relatives, or sharing their opinion at home.

By working together, we can help children find their voice and use it with confidence.

Harvest

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for the service. As always, the children sang beautifully and created a truly special atmosphere. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, and your support makes such a difference to the school. We will continue to collect donations until the end of October, so please do send yours in if you have not already. Your generosity makes a real difference, and we are very grateful for your support.





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Supporting smooth school routines

Please can I ask that you do your best to ensure your child(ren) come to school with everything they need for the day. Recently, we have had many parents calling the school to pass messages to their children, as well as bringing in packed lunches, bags, coats, musical instruments, and snacks. This often results in office staff needing to interrupt lessons to deliver these items.

I completely understand that mistakes can happen from time to time, but if you could avoid this wherever possible, it would be greatly appreciated. This will help reduce disruption to lessons and also ease the workload of the office staff.

Punctuality

In almost all classes, we are doing well with attendance – thank you. However, we do have a number of children arriving late, sometimes by just 5 minutes, but this still makes a difference to the morning transition and can disturb other children's learning.

Key dates for next week

Wednesday 8th October - Number Fluency Workshop Rec - Y2 - 9am

Thursday 9th October - Number Fluency Workshop Y3 - Y6 - 9am

Friday 10th October - Y1 Coffee Morning - 9am

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you on Monday morning - 8.45am!

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

