



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

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another wonderful week at St John's! During our singing assembly, it was lovely to hear the children singing *Three Little Birds*. Singing really brings us together as a school. It helps to lift our spirits, boost confidence, and create a sense of belonging. Singing also supports children's language development, memory, and emotional well-being. There is something truly special about hearing every voice join in – it reminds us of the joy and power of coming together as one school community.

Belonging at John's

In our collective worship this week, we have been reflecting on the theme of *belonging*. The children shared some thoughtful ideas about what it means to belong and how we can help others to feel included. We also explored belonging in the wider world and looked at the passage from **Galatians 3:28**, which reminds us that God loves everyone equally. No one is better or more important than another — we all belong. At St John's, we want every child to know that they are a valued part of our school family.

I have also been speaking with our Friends of St John's group, who are keen to make sure that all parents and carers feel part of this wonderful community. Some families are able to make donations, while others offer their time and support at events — both are equally valued and appreciated. However you are able to contribute, please know that it makes a real difference. Together, we make St John's a warm, welcoming, and thriving community for all.

Lost property

Almost every day, we find items such as jumpers, lunchboxes, and water bottles left in the playground. Our staff do their best to return these belongings; however, many are not labelled with children's names.

At St John's, we are keen to nurture a sense of responsibility for our environment and our planet. Unfortunately, there are times when we have to dispose of unclaimed bottles, containers, and other items. Please could we ask that all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name so that we can return them promptly. Thank you for your support in helping us care for both our school and the environment.

Black History Month

At St John's, our curriculum is designed to ensure that all groups are represented throughout the year — not just in October. Since the start of the academic year, our KS2 teachers have been sharing extracts from Black History for Every Day of the Year by David Olusoga et al. as part of their lessons.

On Wednesday, we had a special lunch to celebrate Black History Month. Thank you to the wonderful catering team!





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Prayer space

We have a wonderful group of parents who meet regularly to pray for our school community. They also support the school in running our prayer space, which takes place once every half term. The group would love to invite you to join their prayer meetings and to help build connections with new parents. Everyone is welcome, whether you are new to the school or have been part of our community for a while. If you want more information, please speak to Jo Beynon, Emma Anstis or Kirsty Hannah, or ask at the school office to be put in touch with these school mums.

Pick up after clubs

Clubs finish at 4:30 pm, and as you are aware, we run a number of after-school clubs. We have noticed that some parents are arriving by car to collect their children, but remain in their vehicles while the children come out to them. Parking opposite the school and calling children to the car is a dangerous practice that causes traffic congestion, blocks the road, and creates a significant safety hazard for children by obscuring their visibility. Parents are strongly encouraged to park a minimum of 5 minutes away from the school to reduce congestion and pollution, and to ensure the safety of all children and pedestrians.

Key dates for next week

Friday 17th October - Reception Coffee morning - 9am

Friday 17th October - FOSJ Quiz Night - 7pm -9pm

Have a wonderful weekend! I'll see you on Monday at 8:45 a.m. Thank you for everything you do to support the school.

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School



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