



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 Tonnies Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

12th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this week has been kind to you. It has been a very busy week for us - KS1 Nativity, Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper day, choir singing in different places and many more events.

Chess

Last week, we took a number of children to a chess tournament at the Emirates. Many schools from across the area took part, and I am pleased to say that our school won gold for the second year in a row. This is a fantastic achievement for our pupils and a real testament to their hard work, focus, and strategic thinking.

Not only does this result reflect the dedication of the children who took part, but it also shows that our approach to teaching chess is having a significant and sustained impact. Chess continues to strengthen pupils' problem-solving skills, resilience, and concentration, and it is wonderful to see these benefits translating into success in competitive settings.

Communication

We know that both families and staff juggle very busy days, and that sometimes the only chance to send or check a message might fall outside the normal school day. We really appreciate the care and thought that goes into these communications, and we want to make sure our approach supports everyone as well as possible.

With this in mind, and to help create a healthy balance for staff, we are introducing a consistent school-wide expectation for response times. All staff, including our leadership team, will now be replying to Class Dojo messages and emails only between 8:00am and 5:30pm on school days. Families can, of course, continue to send messages whenever it suits them; we simply ask for understanding that you may not receive a response until the next working day.

Our hope is that this shared approach supports staff wellbeing while also giving parents a clearer sense of when to expect a reply. If an urgent matter arises outside these hours, Miss Slater and I will continue to be available to help.

Thank you for working with us and for your continued support. We truly value the positive partnership we have with our families.

Kidz Club

A gentle reminder that Kidz Club will finish at **5 p.m.** on Thursday, the 18th December. Please make sure you pick up your child on time. I am sorry that I made a mistake in my previous letter and said it was Wednesday 17th December- that is not correct. Thank you for your support.





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Christmas lunch

A huge thank you to our wonderful catering team for preparing such a delicious Christmas lunch. The children had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. When you see the team, please do take a moment to thank them—Bev and her colleagues were in very early on Thursday to make the magic happen.

Thank you also to the fantastic team and HA, our super mum, who transformed the hall and made it look beautifully Christmassy. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

Choir

The STJHV choir performed at the Memory Café, Islington Square, and Highbury Square this week. They were wonderful, and several parents and members of the public commented on what amazing singers they are.

Our Choir meets every Tuesday from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. to sing together. To be part of the choir, children must commit to attending every week. We have a number of pupils who are keen to take part in events but are not attending the weekly rehearsals. Unfortunately, this will not be possible without their regular participation on Tuesday lunchtimes. If your child would like to be part of the choir, please speak to them about the importance of making this weekly commitment.

Nativity

Our KS1 and Reception classes performed their nativity three times this week, and each time they grew more confident. We are so proud of our wonderful young performers.

Thank you to the parents for helping your children learn and practise their lines and songs. I am sure you felt very proud watching them.

Thank you also to the KS1 and Reception teams for all their hard work in putting the nativity together.

Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christmas Fair. I am really pleased to announce that we raised £3113.

Key dates for next week

Wednesday 17th December - Church service at St Augustine's - 2 pm

Thursday 18th December - Kidz club finishes at 5 pm

Friday 19th December - Carols around the tree - 9.15 am - all welcome!

School finishes at 1.30 pm on Friday the 19th December





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Have a wonderful weekend. I hope you get some time to rest and don't have to spend all your time Christmas shopping!

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

