



# **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](mailto:admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk)

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnies Read

Head of School: Ms Hasina Khan

**24th October 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can you believe we have already completed eight weeks of the new school year? It has been a very busy but extremely productive half-term. Our new Reception children have settled in beautifully — it is hard to believe they have only been with us for such a short time! Across the school, pupils have adapted well to their new teachers, routines, and expectations, and it has been lovely to see how quickly they have embraced their learning.

The classrooms have been full of enthusiasm and hard work, and the children have made a fantastic start to the year. We have enjoyed seeing their creativity, curiosity, and determination shine through in lessons and during wider school activities. Staff have been impressed by the children's positive attitudes and the way they support one another.

## **Quiz night**

Thank you to the wonderful FOSJ team, especially to HA, for organising the event. Thank you also to everyone who attended. The staff said they really enjoyed themselves. All these lovely things you do help our school to provide an education filled with rich experiences that will shape the children's adult lives.

## **Reading over the half term**

As we head into the half-term break, we would like to encourage all our children to keep up their reading at home. Reading little and often makes a big difference — just ten minutes a day helps children build fluency, confidence, and a genuine love of books.

Please take time to share stories together, talk about what your child is reading, and enjoy exploring different kinds of texts - storybooks, comics, information books, recipes, or even signs and posters while you are out and about! Re-reading familiar books is a great way to build expression and understanding, and don't forget to record your child's reading in their reading diary.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children develop a lifelong love of reading.

## **Y6 residential**

The Year 6 pupils have spent the week in Aberdovey and have had the most wonderful time experiencing the great outdoors. They took part in a range of exciting activities, built their confidence, and strengthened their teamwork skills. A number of children even said they want to move to Aberdovey — a true sign of how much they enjoyed the experience! Thank you, Mrs Sharpe, Miss Kirby and Emily - you are amazing!





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## **Diwali**

On Monday this week, the children enjoyed learning about the festival of Diwali, which is a very important festival for Hindus. They also enjoyed some delicious Indian food. While collective worship at St John's Highbury Vale is Christian with Christian prayers, songs, and readings used each time, it is also part of our vision as a Church of England school to foster generous hospitality and encourage our children to grow up with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions and worldviews.

Those families who celebrated Diwali this week, I hope you had a wonderful time.

## **Key dates for next half term (Autumn 2 2025)**

Friday 7th November - Y4 - Coffee Morning - 9am

Monday 10th November - Individual Photos

Thursday 13th November - KS2 Reading Session - 9am

Friday 14th November - Y5 Coffee Morning - 9am

Monday 1st December – Come Celebrate with me morning – YR – 9.00am

Tuesday 2nd December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y1 – 9.00am

Tuesday 2nd December - Choir Singing at Memory Cafe - 12.00pm

Wednesday 3rd December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y2 – 9.00am

Thursday 4th December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y3 – 9.00am

Friday 5th December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y4 – 9.00am

Monday 8th December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y5 – 9.00am

Tuesday 9th December – Come Celebrate with me morning – Y6 – 9.00am

Wednesday 10th December – Nativity Performance – 2.00pm ( Reception and KS 1)

Thursday, 11th December - Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch.

Friday 12th December – Nativity Performance - 2.00pm ( Reception and KS 1)

Tuesday 16th December - KS1 Xmas Party pm

Wednesday 17th December - KS2 Xmas Party pm





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Thursday 18th December – Christmas Service – St. Augustine's – 2.00pm

Friday 19th December – Carols Around the Tree – 9.15am

Friday 19th December - School finishes at 1.30.

As always, we are very grateful for your continued support — whether that is helping with reading at home, attending school events, or simply ensuring your children come to school ready to learn each day. Together, we are ensuring that every child at St John's has the best possible time in school.

I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved rest over the half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning and opportunities and Christmas.

See you on Monday, 3rd November at 8.45 am.

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

