



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

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely and productive week. The children have worked incredibly hard on their assessments and are really beginning to show just how much they have learned. Their focus and determination have been wonderful to see, and we are very proud of the progress they are making.

Reading for Pleasure

It has been a pleasure to see so many children at the book fair and to hear them discussing which book they want to buy. I don't know if you've seen the article this week about MPs launching a new inquiry to explore how to keep the joy of reading alive. There is a worrying decline in the number of children reading for pleasure.

A survey by the National Literacy Trust this year found that just one in three children aged eight to 18 read in their spare time (33%) – a 36% decrease from 2005. The survey also indicated a particularly steep drop over the last year among primary school children, and that reading continues to be less popular among boys than girls.

I am highlighting this because we are a school where reading is still pleasurable for our children, and this is mainly thanks to the parents who continue to prioritise reading and recognise its value. Please come and speak to me or any of the teachers if you are looking for book recommendations. We cannot let reading for pleasure disappear.

Benevity

I wrote to you last week about the many ways families support our school, and I wanted to offer a quick reminder of Benevity. As a registered charity, FOSJ is now listed on **Benevity**, a platform used by many employers (such as Google, Microsoft, AXA, SAP and others) to manage charitable giving, including donation matching and volunteering programmes.

If you, or someone you know, works for a company that uses Benevity, please consider searching for FOSJ on the platform and supporting the school through this scheme.

If you have any questions about Benevity or other corporate matched-giving or volunteering options, please speak to a member of the FOSJ team.





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Kidz club

Thank you for your support this week in making alternative arrangements on Wednesday so that all staff were able to attend the trauma-informed practice training.

As a reminder, our staff Christmas party will be on **17th December**. We kindly ask that you collect your children from Kidz Club at **5pm**. This will give staff time to get changed into their party clothes and allow time to set up the hall. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We really appreciate it.

Book Fair

Thank you to all the parents who helped run the book fair. The school receives a very generous percentage of the total amount raised to buy new books.

Christmas fair 7th December

We need your help for the Christmas Fair! If you are able to offer your support, please speak to a member of the FOSJ team. The fair brings our whole school community together, and it is always a wonderful event. Any help you can give, big or small, would be greatly appreciated.

Please look out for raffle ticket books coming home with your children this afternoon. Raffle grand prizes are a Nintendo Switch II with Mario Kart game, and an Arsenal training top worn by Leandro Trossard.

Key dates for next week

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

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

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

Sunday 7th December - Christmas Fair

I hope you have a wonderful weekend, and I look forward to seeing you on Monday at 8.45.

With thanks,

Ms H Khan

Head of School

