



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

Acting Headteacher: Ms Khan

Friday 2nd October, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a lovely week. I can hardly believe that we are already in October! September seems to have flown by, but what a wonderful month it has been. It has been great to see our children settling into their new classes, growing in confidence and embracing all that school life has to offer. There has been such a positive energy around school, and we have been incredibly proud of the children and all that they have achieved already.

Working Together as a School Community

As a Church of England school, we are proud to serve our local community and to provide a place where our children can grow, flourish and develop in the fullness of life. When children join our school, we become a community together, and we ask that we all embrace and model the values and vision that underpin our school. Our children learn so much from what they see around them, and we therefore have a shared responsibility to be the role models we want them to become. This means treating one another with kindness and respect, listening to different perspectives, communicating positively and working together, even when we may not always agree. As parents, staff and members of our wider school community, we all have an important part to play in creating a positive and supportive environment for our children. Thank you for continuing to work alongside us, supporting our school and helping us to ensure that our community reflects the values and behaviour we hope to see in our children every day.

Thank you for continuing to support our school, to speak positively about our community and to work with us in the best interests of all our children.

Our New Library

We are absolutely delighted that our new library is now ready, and our children have already begun enjoying this wonderful new space! This is a very special moment for our school, particularly as this year has been our Year of Reading. We have been incredibly fortunate to have the funding to create this beautiful space, made possible in large part through the generous donations and support of our parents and wider school community. We are also thrilled to have secured an additional grant and to be working with the wonderful independent bookshop Pickled Pepper Books, who are helping us to fill our library with lots of exciting, inspiring and wonderful new books.

We want our library to become a place where a lifelong love of reading is nurtured, celebrated and shared by everyone in our school community. It is a space that belongs to all of us, and we are so grateful to everyone who has helped make this dream a reality. Next week, we will be opening our school doors on **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** from 8:30–9:00am so that parents and families can come in and see this wonderful new space for





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yourselves. We would love you to come and have a look, explore the library and see the special place where we hope a lifelong love of reading will be ignited in every child. We cannot wait to see how our library grows and becomes a much-loved part of our school for many years to come.

Harvest

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to church to support the children. I am always so impressed by the engagement and support of the parents and carers in our school community.

We will be collecting donations until the end of the half term, so please donate what you can. Your donations make a real difference and help support people in our local community.

October Holiday Camp

Bookings can now be made for the October Holiday Camp through School Gateway. If you have a Y7 (ex STJHV) sibling who would like to attend, please speak to the office.

Black History Month – Honouring Our Communities

October is Black History Month, a time to recognise, celebrate and learn about the significant contributions and achievements of Black people throughout history and in our society today. This year's theme is "Honouring Our Communities", giving us an opportunity to celebrate the people who help to make our communities strong, vibrant and inclusive.

At our school, our curriculum is designed to promote equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the year. We ensure that pupils encounter a range of texts, people, experiences and perspectives that help them to develop an understanding and appreciation of the diverse world in which we live.

During October, we will have a particular focus on Black History Month through a range of activities and learning opportunities. These will include Collective Worship exploring the lives and contributions of Black Christian figures, listening to and learning about Gospel music, and studying Black individuals who have made significant contributions and positive impacts on our society. We will also be celebrating together with a Black History Month lunch, giving our pupils the opportunity to enjoy and experience a range of food as part of our celebrations.

As part of this year's theme, we would also love to hear from members of our school and local community. If you know someone who would be happy to come into school and talk to the children about their experiences of living and contributing to our community, we would be delighted to hear from you. We want to give our children the opportunity to hear directly from people whose stories, experiences and contributions help shape the community around us.





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We are particularly excited to be interviewing Beverly, who is at the heart of our community, so that the children can hear about her experiences, her connection to our community and the contribution she has made over the years.

Through these activities, we hope to broaden our pupils' knowledge, celebrate diversity and encourage them to recognise the importance of equality, respect, inclusion and community.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and get a chance to enjoy some autumn sunshine before the weather turns. Wishing you a restful few days.

Best wishes,

Ms Khan

Key Dates for next week

Please note that the Y4 parent teacher meetings have been postponed and will not take place next week. We will be in touch later in the term with a new date for these to take place.

Monday 5th October - Y5 Parent Teacher Meetings.

Wednesday 7th October - Parent workshop - Introduction to ITIPS - 9-10am

Wednesday 7th October - Y6 Parent Teacher Meetings

Thursday 8th October - Phonics meeting for Reception parents - 9-10am

Friday 9th October - Y1 Coffee Morning - 9am

