



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 Hasina Khan

2nd September 2026

Welcome Back: Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a good summer, whether that meant time away or simply time together as a family. I am writing ahead of the start of term to welcome you back to St John's and to share a few things you will want to know before the children return on Thursday 3rd September.

A particularly warm welcome to our new Reception children and their families, and to any children joining us in other year groups. Starting at a new school is a big step, and I hope you will quickly feel part of the St John's community.

What has changed over the summer

There have been several exciting improvements at St John's over the summer. Most significantly, our **new library** has been built from scratch and is almost finished. It will be a wonderful space that reflects the importance we place on reading, and we look forward to the children enjoying it once the final touches are complete. Parents and carers will be invited to an official opening later this term.

The children's toilets have also been partially refurbished, providing brighter, cleaner spaces. We have also replaced the **school boilers**, helping to keep everyone warm as the weather gets colder.

Finally, you will notice our **new front door**, which is fitted with a maglock for improved security. Visitors during the school day should continue to use the buzzer, and the office team will let you in and sign you in as usual. This may take a little longer than before, and we thank you for your patience.

Staffing

I am delighted that Ms Quinn and Mr Drysdale will be joining the teaching team this September. Munir and Sade will also be joining us, working with some of our children in Reception and Year 1. They have already made a very positive impression, and I know you will make them feel at home.

Before Thursday

Key Stage 2 children should have their summer holiday work completed and ready to hand in on the first day back submitted on Google Classroom. Teachers will use it to see where the children are and to plan the first weeks of learning. Please also check that uniform and PE kit are named and ready, and that the school day begins at 8.55am; children who arrive on time settle more quickly and miss nothing. Above all, please keep reading together, as ten minutes a day makes more difference than anything else you can do at home.





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The first two weeks

The term begins busily. Unfortunately, and contrary to what was previously advertised, we will not be able to hold the Welcome Back Service at Christchurch on Friday 4th September at 2.00pm as we had hoped. Instead, Andy, our vicar from Christchurch, will kindly come into school to lead a welcome service for the children on **Thursday 3rd September at 2.00pm**. I apologise for any inconvenience this change may cause. On Friday, the children will have an assembly introducing the new behaviour policy, and the Year 6 children then leave for their Outward Bound residential on Monday 7th September. Each year group will also hold a curriculum parent meeting at 9.00am during the first fortnight, where teachers will explain what the year holds and how you can support at home. I would strongly encourage you to attend yours:

Thursday 3 September	Children return to school at 8.55am; welcome service for the children in school, 2.00pm
Friday 4 September	Year 6 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am; behaviour policy assembly for children
Monday 7 to Friday 11 September	Year 6 Outward Bound residential
Monday 7 September	Year 1 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Tuesday 8 September	Year 2 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Wednesday 9 September	Year 3 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Thursday 10 September	Year 4 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Friday 11 September	Year 5 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Tuesday 15 September	Reception Class Expectations meeting, 9.00am

A full list of key dates for the autumn term is attached. Please note that dates are subject to change, and we will let you know of any alterations as early as we can.

Keeping in touch: a change to how we communicate

From the beginning of this academic year we will no longer be using Class Dojo. We have migrated to a new management system named Arbor, which will handle our communication with families, and full details of how to register and get in touch will follow shortly. In the meantime, please direct any questions or messages to the school office at admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk, and the office team will make sure they reach the right person. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we move to this new way of working; we are confident it will make communication between home and school simpler and more reliable.

Raising concerns

My door is always open, and I would always rather hear about a concern early than late. To make sure it is dealt with quickly and by the right person, please follow the usual route: speak to your child's class teacher first, as





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they know your child best and can resolve most matters straight away. If the matter is not resolved, please contact the office to arrange a time with Ms Bullen (EYFS/KS1 Phase Leader) or Mrs Shapre (KS2 Phase Leader).

Should your queries not be answered at this point please direct your questions to Ms Slater (Assistant Headteacher), and after that with me. Following this route means nothing is lost along the way and the people closest to your child are involved from the start.

Looking ahead

Last year was one of real success for St John's, and none of it happened by accident. It rests on committed staff, supportive governors and clergy, the work of FOSJ and, above all, you. My hope for this year is simply that we build on it, so that every child continues to make excellent progress, is challenged and stretched, and feels known, valued and safe.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. I look forward to seeing you all at the gate tomorrow morning, Thursday 3rd September.

With best wishes,

Ms H Khan
Acting Headteacher





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Autumn 2026 Key Dates - *Subject to change*

September

Thursday 3 September	Children return to school Welcome Back Service in school, 2.00pm
Friday 4 September	Year 6 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am Behaviour policy assembly for children
Monday 7 to Friday 11 September	Year 6 Outward Bound residential
Monday 7 September	Year 1 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Tuesday 8 September	Year 2 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Wednesday 9 September	Year 3 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Thursday 10 September	Year 4 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Friday 11 September	Year 5 curriculum parent meeting, 9.00am
Tuesday 15 September	Reception Class Expectations meeting, 9.00am
Friday 18 September	Year 3 Coffee Morning
Wednesday 23 September	House Captain and School Council elections
Friday 25 September	Year 2 Coffee Morning
Monday 28 September	Year 1 Parents' Meeting Day
Tuesday 29 September	Reception Parents' Meeting Day
Wednesday 30 September	Year 2 Parents' Meeting Day

October

Monday 5 October	Year 5 Parents' Meeting Day
Wednesday 7 October	Year 6 Parents' Meeting Day
Friday 9 October	Year 1 Coffee Morning
Friday 16 October	Reception Coffee Morning
Friday 23 October	INSET day (school closed to pupils)
Monday 26 to Friday 30	October Half-term holiday

November

Friday 6 November	Year 4 Coffee Morning
Week beginning Monday 9 November	Inter Faith Week
Monday 9 November	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Friday 13 November	Year 5 Coffee Morning
Week beginning Monday 16 November	Anti-Bullying Week (theme: Break the Silence)
Friday 20 November	Year 6 Coffee Morning
Monday 30 November	St Andrew's Day; Reception "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am

December

Tuesday 1 December	Year 1 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Wednesday 2 December	Year 2 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Thursday 3 December	Year 3 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Friday 4 December	Year 4 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Monday 7 December	Year 5 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Tuesday 8 December	Year 6 "Come Celebrate with Me", 9.00am
Wednesday 9 December	Nativity performance, 2.00pm
Thursday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11 December	Nativity performance, 2.00pm
Tuesday 15 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas party
Wednesday 16 December	Key Stage 2 Christmas party
Thursday 17 December	Christmas Service, 2.00pm
Friday 18 December	Carols Round the Tree, 9.15am

