St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL
Tel: 020 7226 4906
E-mail: admin@stjhv.lslington.sch.uk
Acting Head teacher: Ms Khan

Friday, 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful half term and that you are ready for the darker winter days ahead. It has been lovely to see the children back in school, full of stories from the holiday and ready to learn. The second half of the autumn term is always busy and festive.

Darker evenings and staying safe

Now that the clocks have gone back, it is getting dark by the end of the school day. A reminder to parents of children in Year 5 and Year 6 who have permission to walk home alone: during the winter months, children may only walk home alone if they are leaving before 4 pm. They will not be able to walk home alone after clubs. This is to keep everyone safe, and we are grateful for your support.

Warm and ready for learning

The weather is turning colder, and the children go outside every day. Please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat, and please label all coats, jumpers, hats, scarves and gloves with your child's name so that lost items can find their way home.

Attendance and punctuality

Coming to school every day, and on time, is one of the most important ways you can support your child's learning. Children who attend regularly make better progress, keep up with their friendships and feel a real sense of belonging in our school community. Every day counts, and so does every lesson.

The darker, colder mornings can make getting up and out of the house harder for all of us, but arriving on time really matters. The school day starts promptly at 8.55 am, and children who arrive late miss the calm start to the day, morning routines and the beginning of their first lesson. It can also be unsettling to walk into a class that has already begun. A few minutes may not seem like much, but being just 10 minutes late every day adds up to more than six days of lost learning over the school year.

Please remember that holidays during term time cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. If your child is going to be absent, please contact the school office before 9 am on the first day. If your family is finding mornings or attendance difficult for any reason, please come and talk to us – we are here to help.

11+ preparation for Year 4 and Year 5

We have a few places left in our 11+ entrance preparation sessions, which will run on Tuesday mornings for children in Year 4 and Year 5. This half term, the sessions focus on preparing for the Dame Alice Owen's School entrance assessment. If you would like your child to take part, please email the school office as soon as possible, as places are limited. The sessions will run for 6 weeks from Tuesday 10th November, will be led by Miss Slater and Mr Bello, and the cost will be £40.

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Free 8.30 am Breakfast Club

It has been lovely to see so many families taking advantage of our free 8:30 am Breakfast Club and Morning Fitness Club. Although these sessions are provided free of charge, please remember that **bookings must be made via the School Gateway app by 2 pm on the day before attendance is required.** This is important as it allows us to ensure we have enough food prepared and appropriate staffing in place to make the sessions enjoyable and safe for everyone.

To all the families celebrating Diwali this weekend, Happy Diwali! I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating with your loved ones.

I hope you have a lovely weekend! For those of you who may be going to see a fireworks display, stay safe, enjoy yourselves, and wrap up warm!

Best wishes,

Ms Khan

Key Dates for Next Week

Monday 9th November - **Individual School Photos** - 9 am

Monday 9th November - Diwali Lunch

Thursday 12th November - Flu Vaccination Catch-Up Session

Friday 13th November - Y5 Coffee Morning - 8.55 am