# St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL
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Acting Headteacher: Ms Khan


*Friday 16th October, 2026*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely week! I hope you and your families are keeping well. As we come to the end of another week, I wanted to share a few updates and highlights.

**Family Activity: Creating Our Own Family Rules**

This week, Andy led our Wednesday Collective Worship, where we explored the topic of The Ten Commandments. The children were challenged to see how many of the commandments they could name, and together, we managed to name all ten!

What was particularly lovely to hear was how the children related the commandments to their own lives and the importance of being kind and caring towards others. Some of their wonderful suggestions included, "Be kind to each other," "Respect your elders," "Forgive each other," "If you see someone needing help, help them," and "Be a friend."

What a wonderful reminder of the kind, thoughtful and caring children we have in our school!

**Family Activity for the Weekend**

This weekend, why not spend some quality time together as a family creating your very own set of family rules? Sit down together and talk about what is important to you all. How can you show kindness, respect and forgiveness at home? How can you help one another and make sure everyone feels loved and valued?

Write down a few family rules that everyone agrees to try to follow. You could even display them somewhere at home as a special reminder for everyone!

Have fun working together to create your own family rules and remember that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference.

**Maths homework**

Maths fluency includes being able to recall number facts quickly and confidently, helping children tackle more challenging maths problems without having to stop to work out every calculation. Regular practice at home can make a real difference to your child's confidence, speed and enjoyment of maths.

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We encourage you to use the White Rose Maths 1-Minute Maths app with your child. It's free, fun and easy to use, making it a great way to build maths skills together. Children can practise a range of skills, including subitising (recognising amounts without counting), counting, number bonds, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The activities are short and interactive, with visual representations to help children understand mathematical concepts while developing their accuracy and speed. Children can choose activities suited to their age and ability and repeat them regularly to help strengthen their recall of number facts. Little and often is the key. Just one minute a day can make a big difference!

**Author Visit**

As you know, this year the National Literacy Trust is promoting reading for pleasure. At our school, reading is one of our greatest strengths. Our reading outcomes are very high across the school, but we never become complacent and always keep reading as one of our top priorities.

We recently welcomed a visitor from Islington Library, who was very impressed by how well-stocked our book corners are and the variety of books available to our children.

Of course, we also had a special author visit! Neal Zetter came to our school and met the children during a special assembly, inspiring them to enjoy reading and celebrate the joy of books.

I have also been showing our library to a number of visitors, including colleagues from the Local Authority, and they have all commented on what a wonderful space it is. It truly reflects how much we value reading and the importance we place on creating a love of books throughout our school.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success and to those who continue to support and develop our reading spaces. Your contributions make a real difference!

**Attendance**

We are really pleased to share that our whole-school attendance is currently **96.9%**, which is a fantastic achievement and a slight improvement on last week! Those of you who read my weekly letter will notice that our attendance has increased slightly, which is great news. However, we know we can do even better, and our aim is to become one of the top-performing schools for attendance in Islington.

This achievement reflects the commitment of our children and families to making every school day count. Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Our challenge now is to maintain this positive progress and continue to improve our attendance. Every day in school matters, helping children to learn, build friendships and thrive. Let's keep working together to give our children the best possible opportunities and make our school attendance something to be proud of!

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**October Holiday Camp**

We have now finalised the timetable, bookings and staffing for October Holiday Camp.
We have limited availability for some last minute bookings, you can book on gateway up until next Thursday 22nd October. These will be on a first come, first served basis.

**Scooters/Bikes and Lost Property**

Please ensure that all bikes and scooters are removed from the front of the school by Thursday 22nd October, in time for the half-term break.

A large number of bikes and scooters have been left at the front of the building for several weeks. Any bikes or scooters remaining over half term will be presumed to have been abandoned and will be removed.

Lost property will be left out in the playground every day, after school, until half term. Items not claimed by Thursday 22nd October will be placed in the spare uniform cupboard.

**Clubs next week**

Please be reminded that there are no after school activity clubs next week. Kidz club will be bookable as usual through School Gateway. After school activity clubs will recommence from Monday 9th November.

Best wishes,

Ms Khan

**Key Dates for next week**

Tuesday 20th October - Flu Vaccinations
Friday 23rd October - INSET day

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - Half Term
Monday 2nd November - Back to School