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, 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we have already come to the end of the first half term. The seven weeks have flown by, with many highlights.

Our children have settled into their new classes, and it has been lovely to see the energy and curiosity they bring to their learning each day. Music has rung out across the school this term. Through our partnership with the St Paul's Cathedral Choral Partnership, Miss Grace has been developing the children's singing, and Miss Kirby has introduced recorders in Key Stage 1 and keyboards in Key Stage 2.

It was lovely to hold our Harvest Service at St Augustine's Highbury, and we are very grateful to Gabriel for welcoming us so warmly. Thank you also to every family who contributed so generously.

Our Reception children have settled in well, and it feels as though they have been part of our school for a long time.

Across the school, our pupil leaders, including our house captains, learning council, eco team, digital leaders and well-being ambassadors, have taken up their roles with real responsibility, ensuring children's voices shape life at St John's.

Next half term is set to be just as busy, with lots of wonderful things planned as we start to get ready for Christmas (yes, I said it!). We have trips booked, a theatre company coming into school to run workshops, anti-bullying workshops, and a chance for the children to perform with a live band. We are also looking forward to our music concert, a Diwali lunch and a visit to St Paul's Cathedral, along with many other events, and, of course, all the festive celebrations that Christmas brings.

Reading

Over the half term break, I would love to encourage you to spend some time reading with your child. Sharing a book together, whether it's a bedtime story, a comic, a recipe or a trip to the local library, is one of the most valuable things we can do for our children. Reading helps children academically by building their vocabulary, understanding and confidence across every subject. It supports them emotionally too, giving them a way to relax, explore their feelings and understand the experiences of others. Socially, stories open up conversations, help children develop empathy and give them ideas to share with friends and family. Most importantly, reading together is a chance to slow down and enjoy time with each other.

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Quiz night

Thank you to everyone who attended our quiz night, and a special thank you to everyone involved in organising such a well-run and enjoyable evening. I am pleased to report that the teachers' team claimed victory once again, making it two years in a row! I hope you all had a lovely time.

As we come to the end of this half term, I would like to say thank you to our whole school community. To our children, thank you for your enthusiasm, kindness and hard work; you make St John's the special place it is. To our staff, thank you for your dedication and the care you show every child, every day. And to our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, both at home and in school; your partnership makes such a difference. I wish you all a safe, restful and happy half term, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

With thanks,

Ms Khan

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Key Dates for Next Half Term - Please note new and amended dates highlighted in December

November

Monday 2nd November - Return to School
Friday 6th November - Year 4 Coffee Morning - 8.55am
Friday 6th November - Year 4 - Trip to St Paul's
Monday 9th November - Individual School Photographs
Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day
Thursday 12th November - Flu Vaccination Catch Up Session
Friday 13th November - Year 5 Coffee Morning - 8.55am
Thursday 19th November - RSE Parent Consultation Meeting - 9.00am
Friday 20th November - Year 6 Coffee Morning - 8.55am
Monday 30th November - Reception "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am

December

Tuesday 1st December - Year 1 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Wednesday 2nd December - Year 2 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Thursday 3rd December - Year 3 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Friday 4th December - Year 4 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Monday 7th December - Year 5 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Tuesday 8th December - Christmas Concert in School - 9.15am
Wednesday 9th December - Year 6 "Come Celebrate with Me" - 9.00am
Wednesday 9th December - Nativity performance - 2.00pm
Thursday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 11th December - Nativity performance - 2.00pm
Monday 14th December - Christmas Church Service at St Thomas' - 2.00pm
Tuesday 15th December - Key Stage 1 Christmas party
Wednesday 16th December - Key Stage 2 Christmas party
Friday 18th December - Carols Round the Tree - 9.15am
Friday 18th December - End of Term - 1.30pm