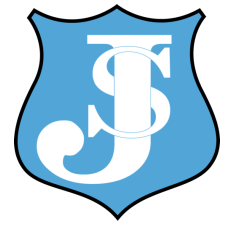


St John's C.E. Primary School

- high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER October 2021



Off to a flying start:

We are already significantly into another action-packed autumn term at St. John's, with lots of fantastic learning opportunities, varied achievements to celebrate and our first few community events after the pandemic. Great to have them back! Please be assured that we are doing our very best under ever changing circumstances to return, or at least attempt to return, to our 'usual' way of doing things. Recently there has been high infection rates across Stockport. We are monitoring this closely and will adapt our systems and procedures to 'minimise the risk of infection' accordingly. Regrettably, this could mean having to make changes to school community events, however we will look to provide as much notice in advance as possible. There is very much an appetite to ensure we do as much as possible to ensure that the children at school don't miss out. Please see the recent letter with recommendations from Stockport Public Health Team.



Year 3 on the MUGA court



School Council Elections



Macmillan Bake Off!

Well Done Children!

Can I take this opportunity to congratulate all our children who have started in Reception. Already, they are settling well and mixing with the other children, including their buddies during lunchtimes and are very quickly becoming a part of the St John's community. Can we also welcome the new families linked to Reception, some of whom are linked with St John's for the first time and also it is great to see many familiar families continuing their link with the school as their younger children also join us.

Ofsted Inspection:

Hopefully, you will have received a copy of the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. We are extremely pleased that recognition has been given for the excellent provision, wide range of opportunities and that St. John's '.....is a happy and vibrant place for pupils to learn and thrive'. None of this is possible without the hard work and commitment that the teachers, teaching assistants, support staff, governors, parents and most importantly the children put in to make St. John's '.....the heart and soul of the community.' We therefore would like to thank you for the highly positive feedback, your ongoing support and reassure you that we will continue to strive to develop and improve the school and feel confident that St. John's will continue to go from strength to strength.



School Development Plan - 'The Intentional Recovery of the school'

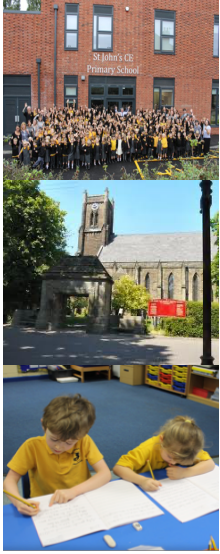
Whilst overall we firmly believe that the entire school community has responded extremely well to the challenges of the pandemic, we feel it is important that we plan for the 'intentional recovery of the school'. Therefore, the areas for development during this academic year are very much related to re-establishing and enhancing the key aspects of life at St. John's that were affected during the last eighteen months:

- **Key Priority 1: Reading** (including oracy, new phonics scheme, monitoring home reading, development of the school library, approaches to vocabulary development, high quality texts & class readers, oracy, love of reading - author visits/reading competitions, embed teaching of reading comprehension skills, etc.)
- **Key Priority 2: Curriculum** (including Meeting our 5 core values, knowledge organisers, identifying & planning to close gaps in core subjects, adapting the curriculum to meet the needs of learners in specific year groups, sharing good practice - across and outside school, hooks & celebrations, holding on to what has worked well during the pandemic, e.g. Google Classroom / remote learning, etc., well-being curriculum - PSHE, etc.)
- **Key Priority 3: Enriching experiences** (including the lunchtime experience - activities, use of the MUGA court, whole school interactions now there are no bubbles, buddy system, trips and visits - yearly overview, theme days & weeks, planning for cultural capital, residentials, year group specific enrichment activities - forest school, Cello, ECO club, using the community as a resource, e.g. illustrator, gardening, male role models, etc.)

Macmillan bake off and cake sale:

Our Macmillan bake off and cake sale organised by children from Year 5 and Year 6 raised over £300. Thanks to everyone who supported this event and congratulations to our winners in the bake-off competitions:

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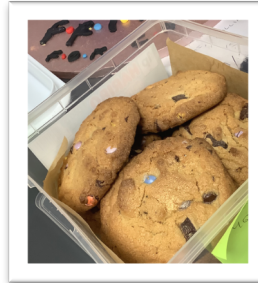
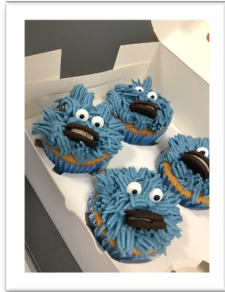


Cake category:



1. Emmi Williams 'Friends Cake' 2. Lily Lowe 'St. John's Chocolate cake' 3. Savannah Hill 'Chocolate Heart Cake'

Cupcake & Biscuit category:



1. Luca Stewart 'Monster cakes' 2. Isla Lowe 'Smarties Cookies' 3. Finley Blessor 'Welsh Lavender Cakes'

A Community To Be Proud Of:

We continue to be bowled over by the contributions being made to our school community, in particular to raise funds for the school to support providing the very best opportunities, resources and outcomes for the children at our school. It was fantastic for us all to come together as a community at the recent PTA Family disco, which raised in excess of £1,200 (before deductions for costs)

Parent information Meetings:

We continue to be committed to involving the parents as much as possible in their child's time at St John's. Now that restrictions have been relaxed slightly we have been able to allow slightly more access for parents than the last 2 years have allowed. So far we have been able to offer the following

- **Meet the Teacher Evening:**
This was a chance to come into school, meet your child's new teacher and hear about the topics and expectations for this coming year. It was also a chance for you to find out how you can support your child this year in school. We are very grateful for those parents who were able to attend.
- **Parent's Evenings:**
These are scheduled for next week and hopefully you have now been able to book your appointment via the School spider APP. These will need to be held remotely as detailed in the recent letter. A reminder to please make your name, that of your child, when joining the Zoom meeting. Codes will be sent out nearer the time.
- **Class assemblies:**
These are a fantastic opportunity for your child's class to share their learning to yourselves and the rest of school. Each class does one a year, with the first of the year being tomorrow for the Year 6 children. We hope you enjoy the chance to see your child perform. Whilst at present we believe we are able to invite parents in for these, albeit without the rest of the school present, we must keep an eye on the infection rates within school and across Stockport and respond responsibly.
- **Whole school events:**
A big part of St John's is the wider community coming together for whole school celebrations and fundraising events. We are very grateful to the PTA who have already been able to host the first disco of the year and raise much needed funds for school. The event was risk assessed and modified to reflect the current position regarding COVID. Moving forward we will have to carefully monitor the rising infection rates in Stockport before being able to confirm further wider community events.

Supporting School:

A schools success is often down to hard work and the partnership between home and school. We rely on strong links and support from home and the school community. If you are able to support the school by volunteering for a couple of hours a week then we would love to hear from you. This may be helping hearing children read, supporting with displays or photocopying, supporting in lesson or helping stay on top of the extensive school grounds. If you are able to help then please contact Mr Clerc who would be happy to give you more information.

Parents Teachers Association (PTA):

St. John's PTA continue to be invaluable in helping provide even better facilities and opportunities for our children. They are a very welcoming group and are always on the look out for new members. Should you be interested then look out for letters and text messages about their meetings or contact them directly via email ptastjohns@gmail.com.

The PTA are a registered charity. Often employers offer 'match funding' for supporting registered charities. Please do consider or recommend St. John's PTA in respect of this.

Please do note upcoming PTA events, including our film night, second hand costume sale, bake sale this term as well as our Christmas Fair. It would be great to see you all at these, if possible!?

Pupil Water Charge:

As in previous years it is necessary to ask for a £5 contribution from each child in order that we can continue to provide children with chilled filtered water throughout the day. This payment is due as soon as possible and is payable via ParentPay.

Children will need to bring a clearly labelled water bottle in each day, or alternatively one can be purchased from school (including our school logo!) for £1.00

St John's Holiday Club - October Half Term:

We are hoping to run our Holiday Club from 25th to 29th October. There will be many activities on offer including baking, cooking, film and book club, games and arts & crafts and we will have full use of the MUGA Court so the children can be outside in the fresh air.

Please contact Mrs Longworth to make your booking at: fabsbookings@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

Over the last 3 years we have been trying to increase the range and number of clubs on offer at St Johns and we are very grateful to the staff who willingly give up their time to run these clubs for free. We regularly modify our offer based upon the children's interests and the demand which different clubs experience. A letter outlining Teacher Led clubs has been sent out and these clubs are now underway. The Primary Sports Coaches run some of our clubs after school, which are chargeable. Bookings for these must be made via their website.

Contact Details:

Please may we remind all parents of the importance of keeping the emergency contact details that school has up to date. If you are new to the school, have moved or changed phone numbers please ensure school has the new and correct details as soon as possible. Increasingly we are sending text messages to alert parents to important messages and events and therefore without a working mobile number, information could be missed.

Residentials:

PGL (Monday 9th to Friday 13th March) is for Year 5 and 6 and has been booked for the 54 children who returned deposits before the summer break. The next payment for PGL was due by Monday 13th September and is £65, with the final outstanding payment due by 10th January.

With regards to Nantglyn, the residential for Year 3 and 4, sadly after a very uncertain past two years, the residential provider, Education Away, have taken the difficult decision to cease providing residential holidays for schools. Personally, having taken children to Plas Nantglyn for the last twenty-three years, this is a real shame. We will of course look into alternative locations and providers; however, we want to be certain that the venues and provision meets are needs, especially bearing in mind the age of the children attending and the fact that often these children are staying away from home for the first time. Miss Wyatt and myself will keep you informed.

Young Voices 2022:

Young Voices is the largest school choir organiser in the world and organises over 14 capacity concerts a year in the UK & Ireland's leading Arenas. St John's will continue to be part of this fantastic national project and we are offering the opportunity for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to join in this wonderful event. The children gain a tremendous amount of musical listening and performance skills but most of all will be able to enjoy singing with thousands of children. This year's Young Voices concert is taking place at Manchester Arena on Tuesday 8th February 2022. Thank you to those who have already confirmed their child's involvement. Should your child be interested, please let us know as soon as possible so we can register our numbers of children participating in the event.



Home School Agreement:

We firmly believe that in order to secure the best outcomes for our children we need to work in partnership. Baring this in mind we continue to use a St. John's Home School Agreement. We recently asked that you read this agreement, discuss it with your child and return a signed copy to your child's class teacher. If you haven't already done so, please return the signed agreement and return it to school.

Children with Medical Needs:

We support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. If your child has asthma please inform school and provide an inhaler and spacer to be used if needed. If your child requires other medication please discuss this with the school office and complete relevant forms. The school office monitors expiry dates and will contact parents where replacements are due.

Attendance:

Although understandably affected by the pandemic, monitoring of the school's attendance last year indicates that the whole school community continues to have very positive attitudes towards ensuring children are in school, on time and ready to

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'High Standards Through a Caring Community'



learn. The clear link between positive attitudes to punctuality and attendance and outcomes for children are well documented and we will continue to reward all children who have excellent attendance.

Can we politely remind you of Department for Education regulations, which state that “headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.”

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>

and you may receive an education penalty notice or fine of £60 per parent, per child if a child is taken out of school for holidays or other unauthorised reasons

School Uniform

We are very pleased to report that most children have returned to school looking very smart in their school uniforms. Please can we remind parents/ carers that children should also have black, flat shoes (not trainers or boots please) that are comfortable and appropriate for school. All children are expected to wear their uniform every day for school except on non-uniform days. It's really important that all items are clearly labelled to enable us to return them to their owner if they are lost. Please check labels regularly to ensure they can still be read. You can buy name labels from many online providers at very reasonable prices. Jewellery, other than stud earrings and watches, must not be worn in school. Thank you to all those parents who support us with this school rule.

P.E. and Sports

As part of the curriculum each class has 2 P.E. sessions every week. This may be gymnastics, dance, outdoor games or swimming. Please make sure that your child has their labelled P.E. kit in school every day. We expect all children to have an appropriate kit. See the school website if you are unsure of the kit needed.

Parental Engagement:

As a school that wants to provide the best for all its stakeholders, we are constantly looking to seek the opinions and views of our parental community. We are looking to continue our 'Parent Forum' meetings as an opportunity for parents to raise questions and issues for the benefit of all children. These meetings are held periodically throughout the year and last for about 1 hour. These meetings are also a great opportunity to meet other parents and some of the school staff. In a change to previous years, the first of these meetings will be Monday 18th October at 7.00pm as part of the PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM). An opportunity to meet the members of the PTA as well as the parental community of the school.

Finally, we look forward to working together for another successful year. Should you wish to get more information or contact us our details are below. Many thanks for your continued support.



Mr P Rayner
Headteacher



Mr A Clerc
Deputy Headteacher

Contact: admin@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk
Website: <http://www.st-johns.stockport.sch.uk>



St Johns CE Primary



@stjohns_primary



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2021			
Month	Date	Event	Time
September	2 nd	Term Begins	
	6 th	Year 3 & 4 Tatton Park Anglo Saxon Experience	
	9 th	KS1 Toy Museum Workshop	
	13 th	Year 5 & 6 Dewa Centre Roman Experience	
	21 st	Meet the Teacher - Year 1, 3 & 5	5.30pm-6.30pm
	22 nd	Meet the Teacher – Reception, Y2, 4 & 6	5.30pm - 6.30pm
	23 rd	Macmillan Cake Sale and 'The Great St John's Bake Off'	
	23 rd	School Council Elections	9.00am
October	1 st	PTA Family Disco	5.30pm-7.30pm
	4 th – 8 th	Black History Week	
	5 th	Individual and Sibling Photos	8.30am

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	12 th	Year 6 Class Assembly	9.00am
	15 th	Year 2 Bake Sale and Halloween Costume Sale	3.15pm
	19 th	Parent Teacher Consultations (virtual)	2.30pm-5.30pm
	20 th	Parent Teacher Consultations (virtual)	5.00pm-7.30pm
	21 st	Harvest Festival – St John’s Church	9.30am
	22 nd	INSET Day	
	25 th – 29 th	Half Term Holiday	
	31 st	High School Application Deadline	
November	1 st	Term Begins	
	5 th	Non-Uniform Day – PTA Bottle Donations	
	12 th	Children in Need Day	
	12 th	Anti-Bullying Drama Performance	1.30pm
	15 th – 19 th	Anti-Bullying Week ‘One Kind Word’	
	15 th – 19 th	Road Safety Week ‘Road Safety Heroes’	
	16 th	Year 3 Class Assembly	9.00am-
	18 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	9.00am
	19 th	Year 5 Bake Sale and Christmas Jumper Sale	3.15pm
	22 nd	Reception 2022 Open Day	
	24 th	Year 6 Crucial Crew	9.00am
	26 th	Non-Uniform Day – PTA Chocolate Donations	
26 th	PTA Movie Night	3.15pm-5.30pm	
26 th	Reception 2022 Open Day		
December	3 rd	PTA Christmas Fair	6.00pm
	10 th	Christingle Service – St John’s Church	6.30pm
	15 th	Reception & KS1 Nativity	1.45pm and 6.00pm
	17 th	PTA Whole School Cinema Trip	9.30am
	20 th	Carols by Candlelight	1.45pm
	22 nd	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.00am
	22 nd	Term Ends	