

St John's C.E. Primary School

- high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER November 2020

A GOOD START TO THE YEAR!

Whilst it might come as no surprise to hear that this has been an altogether 'very different' term so far, it has none the less been a productive one. Our initial focus has been on ensuring that all children, staff and members of the school community have felt safe and happy returning to school after a long break for many children. More recently we have been assessing where children are with their learning and planning ahead to ensure that children are making progress and, where necessary, addressing potential gaps of knowledge and skills. This was hopefully shared with you this week at parent/teacher meetings, which although not through face to face meetings have provided an opportunity to discuss where the children are at. I would like to thank both parents for fully engaging in the meetings (parental attendance compares favourably with prior parent/teacher meetings!) and the teachers, who have put considerable effort into organising remote meetings on a new format and ensuring that they made the meetings informative and effective.

WELL DONE CHILDREN!

Can I take this opportunity to congratulate all our children for the way they have returned to school since September? With many children not having been in school for nearly six months, it has been great to have the school full again and very pleasing to see children happy to be back. In particular I would like to congratulate the Reception children, who have settled extremely well into life at St. John's, are enjoying their learning and already feel very much part of the furniture.

CURRICULUM MATTERS:

Although needing to adapt, change and be creative with our provision and curriculum, we are still looking to provide learning opportunities based around our five core values: Core standards, Life skills, Wider opportunities, Christian Values & Community. Hopefully, many of you will recognise many of the usual events and activities that shape our school, often having to be altered to meet the government restrictions, but I am truly proud of the way the entire school community is pulling together to make the best of a difficult situation for us all. Whether it's the staff and children working hard to celebrate a Harvest Festival with you through a remote service or the PTA organised 'Family Run' which raised £1,936 for our school. There are many other examples over the last nine months that have been truly humbling. Thanks to you all!



Year 4 Forest Schools



School Council Elections



Year 6 Class Assembly-Ancient Egyptians

One of the ways we try to bring our curriculum to life at St. John's is through our thematic curriculum, including a number of theme days and weeks. One way or another we are looking to include these throughout the academic year: highlights include:

- Anti-Bullying Week - 16th – 20th November
- Road Safety Week - 14th to 18th December
- St. John's Learning Behaviours Days - 7th & 8th January
- Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 9th February
- World Maths Day - Friday 12th March
- DT Day 'Wood Project on a Page' - Thursday 18th March
- Journey Through Easter Theme Day - Thursday 25th March
- 'Great Outdoors Week' - 24th to 28th May
- Eat Fit, Keep Fit Week - 5th to 9th July
- 'Inspirational Artists Day' & Art Exhibition - Monday 12th July & Friday 16th July

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EYFS OUTDOOR AREA:

The newly developed outdoor area for the EYFS (including a climbing frame, all weather surfacing and a canopy) has greatly improved the provision for our youngest children and allows them to access outdoor learning opportunities all year round.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

As always, and especially in these challenging times, we are continually looking to develop and enhance the learning opportunities that we offer. In light of the experiences of the children, parents and families over the last eight months, it seems very clear that 'minimising the impact of Covid 19' should shape everything we do in terms of development and therefore be the overarching priority for this year. With this in mind, we have identified the following areas for development during this academic year:

- **Key Priority 1:** 'To minimise the impact of Covid 19': focus on Well Being, Personalisation and Removal of barriers.
- **Key Priority 2:** 'To minimise the impact of Covid 19': Planning for a Curriculum to reengage the disengaged.
- **Key Priority 3:** 'To minimise the impact of Covid 19': Identifying and addressing gaps in learning.

PARENTAL VIEWS:

The next Parent View Meeting is planned for Friday 1st December, after Family Assembly. Although this will need to be a remote meeting, we are still very keen to gain the views of parents and hope that parents will join us for a chance to express your views on how to further develop St. John's. Please look out for the email / communication for details of how to join the meeting.

PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (PTA):

St. John's PTA continue to be invaluable in helping provide even better facilities and opportunities for our children. Many of the fundraising events, unfortunately cannot go ahead as usual, however, ever a determined and resilient group, the PTA have developed a number of different ways to raise funds, which currently are looking to support among other areas the much needed ICT infrastructure at the school. The recent requirement for developing Google Classrooms to support remote learning has unfortunately highlighted a real need for investment in our devices, including a new class sets of iPads and Chrome Books. Alas, the school budget is such that without this fantastic support from the PTA, we will struggle to find the necessary funds to meet the needs of remote learning at St. John's. Your support with this is hugely appreciated.



The PTA are a very welcoming group and are always on the lookout 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.

At the last PTA meeting Mrs Lynsey Williams and Mrs Alison Rowlands, who have worked tirelessly for the last seven years as key members of the PTA (including the roles of chair/ vice chair, secretary and treasurer) announced their intention to step back from these key roles, within the PTA. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them both for their support, commitment and hard work for the benefit of so many children at St. John's.

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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.

SCHOOL MEALS (DOLCE – SCHOOL GRID):

After the half term break, we have returned to the tasty hot full menu choice. Ordering remains the same, either order from home or in the classroom, as does the cost - £2.30 per day £11.50 per week. Schools meals are still very good value and Dolce use fresh ingredients for a nutritious and balanced meal. The Dolce (School Grid) website has information on the weekly menus and how to pay for school meals. Parents can pay direct to Dolce via Direct Debit. The menu is on our school website also. (Please see menu on school website)

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 to the school office. Children will need a water bottle in order that they may be able to access water whenever they need it. Please send one in clearly labelled with your child's name, or alternatively one can be purchased from school (including our school logo!) for 50 pence.

WIDER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Extra-Curricular Clubs:** We are pleased to have been able to offer sports clubs after school through Primary Sports Coaches Limited. It was our intention to look at reintroducing teacher led clubs after half term, however the combination of the second lockdown and the additional time that staff are having to devote to developing remote learning in the event of children isolating and/or the potential closing of bubbles has led us to take the decision to postpone these for the time being.
- **Residentials:** Unfortunately, after numerous attempts and considerable hard work from Miss Wyatt, we were unable to run last year's residential to Nantglyn for children in years 3 & 4. This was due to Government advice that residential trips should not go ahead in the current situation. We are in the process of reclaiming costs and hopefully will be in a position soon to inform parents where we stand with regards to a potential refund. With regards to planning future residential trips, again on government guidance, we are currently unable to plan any residential trips until the guidance changes. This is hugely regrettable for us at St. John's, as both our residentials for are very popular



with both children and staff and are significant events in our school calendar. Should the situation change, we will of course look into the possibility of organising a residential and communicate this to parents.



- **YOUNG VOICES 2021:** This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Young Voices event and children in KS2 have the opportunity to join in the celebratory concert on 25th May 2021. If you have indicated that your child would like to take part in the event you should have received your Choir T-shirt order form. Please remember to return your form to school as soon as possible and make payment via Parent Pay by Friday 13th November at the latest.



19th - 25th November 2018

MATHLETICS NOVEMBER CHALLENGE:

Miss Taylor, our Maths Leader, is pleased to announce that St John's will be taking part in the Mathletics Numeracy Challenge which will run from Monday 16th November to Sunday 22nd November. It would be great if your child could log on to Mathletics during this week and complete activities to help earn points for the school!





THANK YOU:

A HUGE thank you to the entire St. John’s school community for your generosity in sending in items for our harvest collection. The tins, packets and jars of food will be used to provide meals for those in need in Stockport via Stockport Foodbank.



TRAINEE TEACHERS:

At St. John’s we work in partnership with Manchester University to provide placements for post-graduate trainee teachers. They work under the guidance of our more experienced staff and they are monitored by a mentor and a tutor. This half term Mr Jefferson-Brown will be teaching in Y5.

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.

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.

NATIONAL ANTI-BULLYING WEEK - 16TH – 20TH NOVEMBER:

This year the national theme of anti-bullying week is “United Against Bullying.” At St. John’s we are going to promote anti-bullying week through engagement in a number of activities, including ‘Anti-bullying workshops’ provided by Altru Drama at a cost of £2 per child, payable through Parent Pay. The week will build upon our Restorative Approaches work and focus upon enabling children to develop positive relationships, tolerance, respect and understanding of each other. Children can show their support by wearing odd socks on Monday 16th November.

As a school we have high expectations of behaviour, take incidents of poor behaviour seriously and do not tolerate bullying. We think it is important for children to be aware of issues around bullying and be involved in preventing bullying within school. The school Anti-Bullying

Policy which is based upon Stockport Local Authority’s model policy can be found on our website in the ‘Policies’ section. Bullying is defined as ‘Behaviour by an individual or a group, usually repeated over time, where an imbalance of power is used to intentionally hurt another either physically or emotionally.’ Our school approach to bullying is supported by the accompanying poster, which



includes a **definition** and **action** related to bullying. Hopefully all children are aware of this at St. John’s:



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.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

We usually organise a range of events to which parents and carers are invited, such as our Christmas Fair, KS1 & Reception Nativity and our Carols by Candlelight Service. Clearly this will not be possible this year. However, we are beginning to plan different ways of doing things and will let you know our plans as soon as we can.



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2020			
Month	Date	Event	Time
November	2nd	School Opens	
	3rd	Parent/ Teacher Consultations (Remote meetings)	2.30 – 5.30pm
	4th	Parent/ Teacher Consultations (Remote meetings)	5.00 – 7.30pm
	10th	Poetry Workshop KS2	
	11th	Remembrance Day	
	13th	Children in Need Day	
	16th – 20th	Anti-Bullying Week (Wear odd socks on Monday 16 th November!)	
	17th	Year 3 Class Assembly (Remote assembly)	9.15am
	18th	Anti-Bullying Workshops: Year 1 to Year 6	
	19th	Full Governing Body Meeting	6.00 – 8.00pm
	20th	Parent View Forum (remote meeting)	10.00am
	24th	New Reception Parents: Remote Tour of the School	9.30am & 1.30pm
December	26th	New Reception Parents: Remote Tour of the School	9.30am & 1.30pm
	3rd	Full Governing Body Meeting	6.00 – 8.00pm
	4th	Putting up Christmas Tree & Decorations	3.30pm
	9th	KS1 Nativity Performance (within school only with DVD Recording)	1.30pm
	10th	KS 1 Nativity Performance (likely to be remote)	1.30pm
	14th – 18th	Road Safety Week	
	14th	Step Outside: Year 2	9.00 – 12.00pm
	15th	Headsmart: Year 4	9.00 – 10.30am
	15th	Children's Christmas Lunch	12.00 -1.15pm
	16th	Child Speedwatch: Year 6	9.00 – 12.00pm
	16th	Christmas Parties: Reception & KS1 (non-uniform)	10.00 – 11.45am
	16th	Christmas Parties: Year 3 & 4 / Year 5 & 6 (non-uniform)	1.30 – 3.00pm
	17th	Carols by Candlelight (likely to be remote)	2.00pm
	18th	End of Term Achievement Assembly (likely to be remote)	9.00am
18th	School Closes for Christmas	3.15pm	

Finally, we look forward to working together during these challenging times for the benefit of the children and school community. Should you wish to get more information or contact us our details are below. Many thanks for your continued support.

Patrick Rayner

Mr P Rayner
Headteacher

A Clerc

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

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