

St John's C.E. Primary School

-high standards through a caring community-



PARENTS' NEWSLETTER July 2021

END OF AN UNUSUAL BUT SUCCESSFUL YEAR

As the academic year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to everyone who has helped to make this such a successful year despite the changing circumstances. We also wish all children, parents and families who are leaving us for various reasons, the very best for the future. Whilst we are all ready for a break we are already planning for the new academic year, which I am sure will be equally exciting and engaging, as this year and hopefully more 'normal'.



Making bread at Forest Schools.



Freddie Fit in EFKF week.



Reception's Class Assembly.

CORONAVIRUS ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

Firstly, we want to thank you for supporting the changed systems and procedures this year, which have enabled us to protect the whole school community to the best of our ability.

In light of the Government announcement yesterday, I wanted to further clarify arrangements for the duration of this school year. As the number of positive COVID cases in the Greater Manchester area remains high, the advice from the Local Authority is to maintain all current systems. As a school, we understand the impact that isolation periods have had on family and school events for everyone across the last 18 months, and want to ensure that all our children are able to enjoy the end of their school year and the start of their school holidays, without the risk of further isolation.

As a result, we have decided to maintain all the current systems until the end of term. Drop off and pick up times will remain staggered, as will all bubble arrangements in school. Assemblies will remain remote and we are still asking parents and carers to arrange any appointments in advance and communicate by telephone or email where possible.

Although the legal requirement to socially distance and to wear face masks will end on the 19th July, the advice is that caution should prevail and that these measures are still recommended in crowded areas. Government guidance states that 'in order to minimise risk at a time of high prevalence, you should limit the close contact you have with those you do not usually live with... This includes minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.' As such, we ask that parents and carers still socially distance on the service road at drop off and pick up times please.

If a child or family member displays symptoms of COVID, has a positive lateral flow test or is awaiting the results of a PCR test, then they must isolate until they have no symptoms or a negative PCR result. From the 19th July, schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing and therefore full bubble closures will not always be necessary. Instead, NHS Track and Trace will work with the family to identify close contacts, which may include contacts from school. We still remain under the advice of Public Health England, however, who may enforce additional measures.





Further information regarding systems for September will be issued at a later date.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this very different, disrupted school year and with all the changes in procedures. Your actions and support have helped us to have very few bubble closures throughout the period and we believe that maintaining the current practice until the end of term will ensure that **all** children get to experience and enjoy the end of term and, in the case of year 6, the end of their time at St John's, this year.

HIGH STANDARDS AT ST. JOHN'S:

As our school motto 'High standards – through a caring community' suggests, we do aim for high standards of achievement in all aspects of school life at St. John's. This includes one of our five values of 'Core Standards' in reading, writing and maths. We are very proud of how well the children have adapted to the mixture of home learning and in school learning this year and grateful for all the support you have provided. This has undoubtedly affected our youngest children the most, as they have missed a much larger proportion of their formal schooling, however, all children have continued to make pleasing progress. Internal assessments have been carried out in order to inform the next class teacher and enable a smooth transition, however, these will not be reported. Early indications are that the children have performed equally as well as previous years at the end of Key Stage 2.

READING COMPETITION

We were very pleased to still be able to run our annual Reading Competition this year and to celebrate the love for reading that is evident throughout school. Congratulations to all our winners!



Whilst we do acknowledge that the children are ready for and deserve a holiday, we do hope that the children continue to read for pleasure and most importantly 'FUN!' over the summer holidays. The Heaton's Library Summer Reading Challenge is running once again this year, with children able to borrow digitally or from the libraries. This year's theme is Wild World Heroes and is all about the environment in conjunction with the WWF. Children from St John's have been keen participants in the past, winning the inter schools competition for several years running and we hope to maintain that this year! For more information visit: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

ATTENDANCE

As you know we actively encourage positive attitudes to attendance and punctuality at St. John's through monitoring and celebrating high standards of attendance. These have remained very high this year, despite the challenges that the COVID pandemic have added. As a school our average attendance this year is an impressive 98%.

PTA

We would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA who have worked extremely hard to raise a very impressive amount this year for the benefit of the children at St. John's, despite not being able to hold many of their established, successful events. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them for the invaluable contribution they make and look forward to being able to reinstate the usual events next year. Recent funding has:

- Made financial contributions to the Year 6 Leavers' celebration
- Purchased reading book bags for our new Reception children to encourage positive attitudes to reading.
- Purchased copies of our 'St. John's Learning Behaviours' Book for new Reception children to become familiar with prior to joining our school in September
- Contributed £6000 towards replacing school iPads.
- Financial contributions towards updating reading books in school.
- Provided the virtual Pantomime for the whole school at Christmas.



END OF TERM EVENTS

Key Dates for Summer Term 2021			
Month	Date	Event	Time
July	1 st	High School Induction Days	
	5 th – 9 th	Eat Fit, Keep Fit Week	
	5 th	Year 6 'It's Your Move' Project	
	7 th	First Steps Session 3	1.45pm – 2.45pm
	9 th	Year 3 and Year 4 Signing Concert	1030am – 11.30am
	12 th	Inspirational Artists Day	
	14 th	Year 5 and Year 6 Kooth Wellbeing session	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	14 th	KS1 Pirate Project	1.30pm – 2.30pm
	14 th	First Steps Session 4	1.45pm – 2.45pm
	14 th	End of Year Reports	
	16 th	Art Exhibition for Parents	
	20 th	Year 6 Production Filming	1.30pm – 3.00pm
	21 st	Transition Day	
	21 st	First Steps Session 5	1.45pm – 2.45pm
	21 st	New Reception Parents Information Evening	6.00pm – 7.00pm
	23 rd	Year 6 Leavers Activity	
	26 th	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.30am – 10.30am
	27 th	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	9.30am - 10.30am
27 th	End of Term		
28 th	INSET Day		
September	1 st	INSET Day	
	2 nd	Term Begins @ 8.45am	



TERM DATES AND INSET DAYS

Please see the term and INSET day dates below for the next academic year. Please note that in order to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year, there will be an additional bank holiday day in June. As this falls in the half term holiday, schools have been granted an additional day to be taken during term time. We intend to take this day on July 28th, meaning school will finish for children on Tuesday 26th July

	School opens:	School closes on:
AUTUMN 2021	Thursday 2 nd September	Thursday 21 st October 2021
	Monday 1 st November	Wednesday 22 nd December 2021
SPRING 2022	Thursday 6 th January	Friday 11 th February 2022
	Tuesday 22 nd February	Friday 1 st April 2022
SUMMER 2022	Tuesday 19 th April	Friday 27 th May 2022
	Monday 13 th June	Tuesday 26 th July 2022

Inset Days:

1. Wednesday 1st September 2021
2. Friday 22nd October 2021
3. Monday 21st February 2022
4. Friday 29th April 2022
5. Wednesday 27th July 2022

FOOD BANK VOUCHERS

We appreciate this has been a challenging year for families and may have put substantial financial pressure on families. Therefore, can we remind all our families that as a school we are able to issue Foodbank vouchers to those finding themselves struggling at present. Please do get in touch in confidence so we can support if this applies to yourselves or a school family you are aware of.



St John's C.E. Primary School

'High Standards Through a Caring Community'



FABS HOLIDAY CLUB

Following the introduction of our holiday club provision during the last school holiday, we are pleased to confirm this will be on offer for 3 weeks of the summer holiday. If you are interested in using this service please refer to the letter sent out a couple of weeks ago or contact FABS directly on fabsbookings@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk.

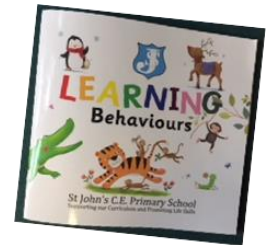
GROUND DEVELOPMENT WORK

MUGA Court: We are very excited that the work on the MUGA court is well underway and expected to be completed by the end of term. This will further improve our facilities and sports provision for all children during PE lessons, after school clubs and at lunchtimes.

Capping of the field: Over the summer holidays, work will be carried out on the school field to resolve the remaining landfill issues. This involves removing the top layer of earth and relaying the soil and turf. We expect that this will be completed during the first few weeks of the Autumn term.

ST. JOHN'S LEARNING BEHAVIOURS BOOK'

Just a reminder that we have our own published book all about our six chosen learning behaviours, with the associated characters, illustrations and stories available to purchase from the office at the price of £4.99. A great bedtime read!



VOLUNTEERS:

Although we have been unable to welcome volunteers and parent helpers into the school building this year, we are hoping to be able to reinstate this next year. We will be looking for volunteers to support us through in September. In the meantime, if we have anyone able to support with our school garden we would welcome any willing volunteers.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

As a school we continue to make a concerted effort to ensure all children and families are very clear on our policy regarding school uniform and we would like to thank all the families that have worked in partnership with the school to ensure their child arrives at school in the correct uniform, which includes **no trainers, nail varnish or elaborate jewellery or accessories**. We would like to reinforce that in order to bring a fair and consistent approach to all children, in September we will pursue our approach to children wearing the correct school uniform and will ask children wearing items that are not part of the whole school policy to remove them. This includes trainers and fashion boots. Earrings are discouraged to help prevent injury, but if worn should be simple stud earrings, not hoops. All earrings must be removed for PE and left at home to prevent them being lost. Exceptions to this can only be made during the initial six-week period after a child having their ears pierced. We acknowledge that occasionally there may be a short term issue but ask that as always you speak to your child's class teacher. Should you be unclear about the school uniform then please see the school website or prospectus. We thank you for your support.

STAFFING NEWS

We are very fortunate at St John's to have a committed staff who rarely choose to move on. We are sure however, you will join us in thanking Mrs McDougall for her 19 years of dedicated service to the children of St John's and the teaching of Steel Band. She retires at the end of this academic year and we wish her all the best for her future.

Miss Taylor will also be leaving us, albeit temporarily, at the end of this academic year to begin her maternity leave. Again, we wish her and baby all future happiness and we look forward to hearing news of her new arrival.



The staffing arrangements for each year group will have been shared in the letter which accompanied the end of year reports. There will be opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher early in September at Meet the Teacher.

SO LONG AND GOOD LUCK!

It is very nearly time to say goodbye to our Year 6 children and their parents/carers who will be moving onto Priestnall and other high schools. Everyone here at St. John's CE Primary School wishes them good luck and all the very best for the future. We look forward to welcoming them back at some point and hearing how they're getting on.

As we near the end of another highly productive academic year, I would hope that you would join me in thanking all the staff, Governors and school community for their commitment, drive and considerable efforts to provide the very best for the children at our school, despite the varied and unique challenges that this year has presented. We really can be extremely 'pleased and proud' of the many experiences, achievements and high quality outcomes of the children at St. John's.

Should you wish to get more information or to contact us, our details are below. It just remains to wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer break and we look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 2nd September.

Best Wishes,

Patrick Rayner *A Clerc*
 Mr P Rayner Mr A Clerc
 Headteacher Deputy Headteacher

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

 @stjohns_primary