

# St John's C.E. Primary School

-high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER November 2017



## The holidays are coming!!

As we move ever nearer to Christmas, preparations are well under way for the many special events and celebrations, including: Reception & KS1 Nativity, 'Carols by Candlelight', Christmas parties, Christingle service at St. John's Church and Christmas lunch. We would like to thank you in anticipation of your support to the school and children in helping make this such a special time of year for everyone at St. John's.

## Rebuild of the School:

Good news! Progress with planning for the rebuild of St. John's continues with the contractual issues between the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the building contractor (Eric Wright Construction) and Stockport MBC now resolved. The ESFA, who are responsible for the oversight and management of the project, have instructed the contractor to engage with the school in the design process. You may well have noticed that there have been site investigations being carried out in school. These investigations are to inform the design and layout of the rebuilt school. Next steps include completion of site investigations and the continuation of the design process. This can hopefully lead, subject to planning, to the build process beginning mid summer 2018. I will look to keep you informed of significant developments as we progress with the process.

## Learning at St. John's:

It has been another term full of a wide variety of learning opportunities for our children, which we hope they have enjoyed and gained invaluable experiences from. None of this would be possible without the dedication of staff and support from you at home. As a school we are very grateful to be able to continue to offer a curriculum to be proud of. Highlights this term include:

- Year 5 & 6 Trip To Roman Dewa Centre
- 'Meet The Teacher Meetings'
- School Council Elections and Meetings
- Mad Scientist Assembly & Club
- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- PTA October Disco
- Teens and Toddlers Programme in Reception
- Individual School Photographs
- Year 1 & 2 Trip to 'Dinosaurs in the Wild'
- Black History Assembly – Natasha Neild (EDS)
- Year 6 Class Assembly
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Parent Teacher Consultations
- Parent Volunteer Induction
- Harvest Festival Service at St. John's Church
- Priestnall Dragons Den Assembly
- PTA Bags to School
- Remembrance Assembly and Service at St. John's church
- PTA Christmas Cards

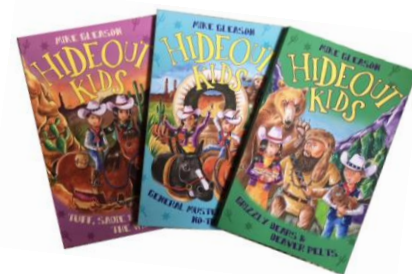
## Author and illustrator visit:

We have exciting news! On February 1st, the *Hideout Kids* are coming to St. John's.

Not the real kids, of course, but the author of this brilliant new fantasy adventure series, Mike Gleason, and his illustrator, Victoria Taylor (a close relative of one of our families!), will be making a visit to the school. *Hideout Kids* books tell stories of ten-year old Sheriff Tuff Brunson and his best friend ten-year old Deputy Sadie Marcus. Tuff and Sadie work for a powerful good witch, Judge "June" Beak, in a mysterious town where only children can live and adults can't find. They bring outlaws to justice and keep order throughout the Wild West and points beyond, helped by a happy group of talking animals including Wild Thing, a pink fairy armadillo, and Mr. Zip, a polite beaver.

These are wonderful books, beautifully illustrated, which I'm sure the children will enjoy reading. Mike and Victoria will share some of their secrets behind the creation of the books and keep the children laughing and engaged with a discussion of "behind the scenes" action.

Author visits are always enhanced if the children have read a series book or two beforehand. They'll know the



characters and can suggest new stories to tell. Here is a link to Mike's Author Page on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/-/e/B0773TKPQ7>. There are three books available now with the fourth being released before Christmas. The visit coincides with our 'Creative Arts Week' as part of our effort to gain 'The Arts Mark Award'. We hope the children will be as excited as we are to host Mike and Victoria.



### Thanks for your support:

- \* **PTA** - We would like to express our appreciation to the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for all their hard work this term, culminating with the Christmas Fair on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00 – 8.00p. These community events help raise invaluable funds that provide opportunities such as the PTA organised whole school trip to Parrswood Cinema planned for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December to see Paddington 2. The PTA is always looking for new members who can offer as much or as little support and time as possible. The PTA meet approximately every half term and organise and run much needed fund raising events for school. Should you be interested then look out for letters and text messages about their meetings or contact them directly via email [ptastjohns@gmail.com](mailto:ptastjohns@gmail.com).
- \* **Parent Helpers** - In addition can we take this opportunity to express our thanks for the invaluable support we have received this term from Parent helpers, lifts on trips and our Governors.
- \* **Harvest Festival** - Thank you also to those of you who generously sent in items for our harvest collection. As in previous years, the tins, packets and jars of food have been taken to Stockport Foodbank to support those in need throughout the winter months and beyond.



### School Uniform:

Many thanks for your support in ensuring your child turns up in the correct school uniform. It has been very noticeable that children are no longer wearing trainers or fashion boots for school. We feel that this has a significant impact in supporting positive attitudes to school rules, behaviour and learning. Should you have any difficulties sending your child into school in the correct uniform due to a specific reason please liaise with your child's class teacher.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs:

All teacher led clubs finish next week on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. A new list of the clubs on offer will be circulated after the Christmas holidays, with teacher led clubs beginning the week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Activities organised by Primary Sports Coaching differ in their start and end dates and they will keep parents informed of the relevant dates.

### Communication:

- **Issues receiving texts or emails via ParentPay** - A text was sent out recently regarding changing your email address or mobile number. Any changes are required to be completed on ParentPay, through the edit account details. This ensures that your personal account data is only visible to yourself. The message will always go out to priority contact 1 as indicated on the Pupil Information Pack completed on admission to the school. We will only send paper copies of letters if we require a reply giving consent for trips or permission to attend events.
- **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.
- **WhatsApp** - We are increasingly aware of queries regarding school being discussed through WhatsApp groups. This has on occasion led to inaccurate information being circulated. As always, if you have any concerns or queries we would encourage you to contact school so that these can be dealt with.

### URGENT - Parent Governor Needed!

At St. John's, Governors play a vital role in deciding the strategic direction of the school. We have two parent governors; Mary Lorigan (parent of Y4 child) and Javier Gomez-Alonso (parent of Y4 child),

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and we currently have one vacancy, which so far we have been unable to fill. If you have a keen interest in the school and would be prepared to play an active part in the governing board's work do let us know. We would particularly welcome interest from parents of children in the reception and Key Stage 1 (year 1 and year 2) classes. If you would like an informal chat about this role do come and speak to myself or other Governors at the school. The remaining full governing board meetings this school year are on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

### Parental Views:

The next Parent View Meeting is planned for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, after Family Assembly. We are very keen to gain the views of parents and hope that the timing of this meeting will encourage those parents who attend the assembly to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to express your views on how to further develop St. John's.



### CHRISTMAS:

- **Choir** – the school choir will be singing at a number of school and community events listed in the calendar below. A letter highlighting the arrangements, dates and times has been sent to all choir members.
- **KS1 - Reception Nativity** – KS1 and Reception are working very hard on learning songs, lines and actions for their nativity production 'A king is born'. There are three performances:
  - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm – Grandparents Performance
  - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00pm – Family Performance
  - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm – Parents Performance

Tickets are available from the office at £1.00 each, with the raised money supporting production costs. See the separate letter sent to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents for further details.



- **Christmas Dinner** - The children will be having a special Christmas lunch in school on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. If your child has a packed lunch you may like to pack them a few special surprises in their lunch box. If your child usually has a packed lunch but would like to have a Christmas dinner (turkey or vegetarian option) please order your meal and pay £2.20 by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December through Dolce Live Kitchen.
- **Christmas Parties** – Parties are planned for all children and the dates can be seen on the calendar below. On the day of their party children can come to school in their party clothes. Please do however be mindful of the need for sensible footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- **Carols By Candlelight** – this very popular event is planned for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm, where the whole school community comes together to sing carols and for our musicians to perform at the end of a very busy term

Should you wish to get more information or contact us our details are below. It just remains for us to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mr P Rayner  
Headteacher



Mr A Clerc  
Deputy Headteacher

Contact: [Headteacher@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk)

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



St Johns CE Primary



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## Key Dates for Autumn Term 2017

Month	Date	Event	Time
	30th	New reception Parents Tours of School Nasal Flu Vaccination – R, Years 1, 2,3,4	10.00am
December	1st	Parent View Meeting	10.00am
	1st	PTA: Non Uniform Day–chocolate for the Christmas Fair	
	5th	Choir: Golden Oldies Community Centre	2.00pm
	6th	Year 4 Class Assembly	9.00am
	8th	PTA Christmas Fair (Including the school choir)	6.00 – 8.00pm
	12th	Main Steelband at Handforth Dean	12.00pm
	12th	Nativity Performance for Grandparents	2.00pm
	13th	Main Steelband at Sainsbury's	12.00pm
	13th	Nativity Performance	2.00pm
	13th	Nativity Performance	6.00pm
	14th	PTA: Whole School Trip to the Cinema	
	14th	KS 2 Christmas Parties (non uniform for KS2)	1.30 – 3.15pm
	15th	Reception and KS 1 Christmas Party – NO FAMILY ASSEMBLY	9.00 -11.30am
		Children's Christmas Lunch	12.15pm
15th	Christingle Service @ St John's Church (including the school choir)	6.30 -7.30pm	
18th	Carols by Candlelight (including the school choir)	2.00pm	
19th	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.00am	
	School Closes for Christmas	3.15pm	

## Key Dates for Spring Term 2018

Month	Date	Event	Time
January	4th	School Reopens	8.45am
	9th	PTA Meeting	7.00pm
	10th	Governors: Presentation to Governors	3.30 – 5.30pm
	11th	PGL final payment due	
	22nd	SATS Information Meeting for Parents (Year 2 & Year 6)	6.00pm
	23rd	Young Voices, Manchester Arena	1.00 – 9.00pm
	31st	Year 2 Class Assembly	9.00am
February	6th	Internet Safety Day	
	7th	Year 5 & Year 6 Trip to Air Raid Shelters	
	9th	PTA family Disco	6.00 – 8.00pm
	13th	Parent/Teacher Meetings	5.00 – 7.30pm
	14th	Parent/Teacher Meetings	2.30 – 5.00pm
	15th	PGL Meeting for Year 5 & 6 Parents	5.30pm
	16th	Parent View Forum	10.00am
March	16th	School Closes for Half Term	3.15pm
	26th	School Reopens	8.45am
	1st	World Book Day	
	12th - 16th	PGL: Year 5 & 6 Residential	
	21st	Year 5 Class Assembly	9.00am
	26th	Nantglyn Meeting for Year 3 & 4 Parents	6.00pm
	26th- 29th	Bikeability Year 6	
	28th	Easter Egg Raffle	10.45am
	29th	'Journey Through Easter' Themed Day	
	29th	Easter Service at St. John's Church, including End of Term Achievements	9.30am
29th	School Closes for Easter	3.15pm	
16th	School Reopens	8.45am	