

# St John's C.E. Primary School

- high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER November 2021

## ON OUR WAY TO RECOVERY!

As we mentioned in our last half term's newsletter, the key priority for development for the school this year is to plan for (and hopefully secure!) the intentional recovery of the school after the challenges of the last eighteen months; including lockdowns, bubble closures and remote learning, caused by Covid. Whilst it is clear that the pandemic remains a concern for us all and as last week's letter informing you of the Christmas events at St. John's demonstrates, we all still need to balance the need to minimise the risk of infection whilst gradually returning to the full and varied life that everyone at St. John's aims to provide.

I am delighted to say that the children's attitudes to learning have generally been excellent and if the number of achievement certificates and Headteacher's awards given during family assemblies is anything to go by then we are definitely on course to catch up any lost learning.

## Reading - It's the future!

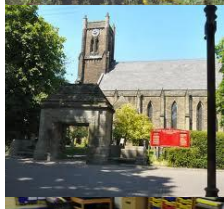
There is a lot of research into the links between frequency of reading and later academic success. At St John's we believe that reading provides a key platform for children to build upon and it is vital that children develop good habits and attitudes to reading early on. As a school we complete reading activities in school developing understanding through the use of VIPERS (Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Recall and Summarising), however regular reinforcement at home is essential in order that children make the progress required. We acknowledge that not every child chooses to read naturally, however we feel that working in partnership between home and school to engage the children in regular reading to ultimately develop a love of reading is in the child's best interests.



## CURRICULUM MATTERS:

Although still 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. 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 - 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Road Safety Week - 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November
- STEAM Week (incorporating St. John's Learning Behaviours) - 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January
- Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February
- World Book Character Day - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Reading Competition – March 3<sup>rd</sup> onwards
- Year 5 & 6 Residential (PGL) – 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Red Nose Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Journey Through Easter Theme Day - Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Easter Service @ St. John's Church – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Religious Theme Day – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April
- Safer Cycling (Year 6) – TBC
- World Maths Day – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May
- 'Great Outdoors Week' – 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Eat Fit, Keep Fit Week - 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July



Harvest Festival



Remembrance Sunday



Raising money for Children in Need!

St John's C.E. Primary School

*'High Standards Through a Caring Community'*

### THE LIBRARY:

The library is now open 4 times a week to give our children the opportunity to either spend some quiet time reading and/or to borrow and return library books:

- Tuesday 12:15 - 1:15 for KS1
- Wednesday 12:15 - 1:15 for Year 3 & 4
- Friday 12:15 - 1:15 for Year 5 & 6
- Golden Time

We are delighted to see so many children using the library (we currently have almost 200 books out on loan which is fantastic) and we would like to thank all of the families and members of our school community who have already supported the library by donating books.

We are always looking to increase our stock and ensure that we have a variety of current books available, so we would be extremely grateful if you feel you are able to send us a book. We have created an amazon 'wish list' which includes books that we (and the children) believe would be valuable additions to the library.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/T7TNWAB274D6?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/T7TNWAB274D6?ref=wl_share)

We would very much like to thank Mrs Nicholson for all her hard work in taking a leading role with our school library and for making it such a valuable resource and place for children to use.

### OUTDOOR GYM:

The newly developed outdoor gym (along with the MUGA court!) has greatly improved the provision for our children, with the aim of keeping them active and engaged.



### PARENTAL VIEWS:

Our 'Parent View Meetings' remain an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with the leadership of the school, hear about current areas for development and have your say about the school. At our most recent meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, we identified the following areas to develop as parental targets:

- 'Please continue to engage closely with parents/carers to enable them to fully support children with their learning at home.'
- 'Please continue to offer a range of wider opportunities for children to engage with.'
- 'Please look for ways to bring the school community together despite the restrictions created by the pandemic.'

The next Parent View Meeting is planned for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February, after Family Assembly. We 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 future communications for details of whether this is to be a face to face or a remote meeting.

### POTENTIAL PARENT GOVERNORS:

The Governors of the school have asked that I draw to your attention the fact that as of March 2022, there will potentially be three Parent Governor vacancies on the full Governing Board. This post allows parents and carers to make valuable contributions to shaping St John's. If you are interested in finding out more about this role, we would very much like to hear from you. Further information will be sent in the Spring Term.

### PARENTS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (PTA):

A massive thank you to our PTA for organising our movie night. We had over 170 children enjoying the film with their friends and it helped raise over £900 for school (before deducted costs!). Thank you for your continued support and helping raise much needed funds to support school.





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. Recently the PTA have supported funding for the Outdoor Gym, Year 6 leavers treats, a visit from the ice-cream on the last day of the summer term, contributed £2,500 towards books for the library and a whole school Christmas trip to the Savoy cinema. The money they raise goes directly into providing more opportunities for the children.

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](mailto: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.

#### WIDER OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Extra-Curricular Clubs:** We are pleased to have been able to offer both sports clubs through Primary Sports Coaches Limited and a range of teacher led clubs this term. Teacher led clubs end on Friday 3rd December.

- **YOUNG VOICES 2022:**

We are very much looking forward to the Young Voices concert on 8th February 2022, organisation and arrangements are well under way. Young Voices have launched an online resource called My Classmate, which allows children to access all the songs and dance moves to practise at home. Please use the following link to create a parent account, you can then create a code for your child to access the platform:



<https://myclassmate.ai/parentRegisterReferral?code=YSmmIWpGO10sbuml>

Don't forget to keep practising!

- **RESIDENTIALS:** The PGL residential for Year 5 & 6 is planned for March 2020 and the final remaining balance is due January 2022. Unfortunately, with regards to the residential for Year 3 & 4 and the disappointing news that Nantglyn has ceased offering residentials, we are still trying to find a suitable alternate that meets the needs of the school and the age of children that we take.

- **FABS HOLIDAY CLUB – CHRISTMAS 2021:**

We will be running the FABS Holiday Club for two days during the Christmas holiday, at a cost of £30 per day. The hours on offer are full day sessions from 8.00am to 4.00pm. This includes breakfast, freshly prepared lunch and afternoon snack. Fresh fruit will be available throughout the day.

The Holiday Club will be available on the following days:

- Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Wednesday 5th January 2022

Children will have the opportunity to take part in various activities led by Mrs Longworth and the FABS team including: · Football · Tennis · Baking · Cooking · Film club – Disney plus · Book club · Board games – Giant Connect4, Guess Who, Chess, Draughts, Who Am I? · Lego · Jigsaws · Arts & crafts – Hama Beads, bracelets, masks, crowns · Colouring · Xbox and laptops

There will be a limited number of places available on a first come first served basis. If you wish to book a place, please email: [fabsbookings@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:fabsbookings@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk)





**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. Our school councillors recently took your kind donations and used this as an opportunity to find out more about the work of Stockport Foodbank. The children then fed this back during last week's family assembly



**STAFFING:**

Mrs Proctor will be leaving St. John's at the end of this term, as she has taken the decision to set up her own dog walking business. She has been a highly valued member of staff at St. John's for the last six years and has fulfilled a number of different roles at the school, always looking to make a difference to the children's learning and time at the school. We wish her every success with her new venture. She will be greatly missed!



We would also like to thank Mrs Moulton, who has decided to step down from working in FABs after school, although she will remain in her role as a Mid-Day Assistant. We welcome Miss Danielle Saha to the after school FABs team, who is already familiar to the children as she is our cook at lunchtimes working for Dolce, our school meals provider.

**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 Miss Imogen Bower is teaching in Y1 and Miss Nabila Naushin is teaching in Year 2.



**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 - 15TH - 19TH NOVEMBER:**

This year the national theme of anti-bullying week was "One kind word." During our anti-bullying week children had the opportunity to engage in a number of activities, including 'Anti-bullying presentation - You, Me, Us' provided by Altru Drama and focusing on celebrating difference. The week built upon our Restorative Approaches work and focussed upon enabling children to develop positive relationships, tolerance, respect and understanding of each other. Children showed their support by wearing odd socks on Monday 15th November.



As a school we have high expectations of behaviour, take incidents of poor behaviour seriously and do not tolerate bullying or any form of Peer on Peer abuse. 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:

As mentioned in the 'Christmas Events' letter last week, due to the advice from the Local authority in response to COVID rates within Stockport and nationally, we have to restrict the majority of our Christmas events to children only. We will aim to allow parents opportunity to see their children perform through live streaming or recordings being uploaded on YouTube. We understand this will be disappointing news to many of you, but hope you appreciate the reasoning and our attempts to minimise the risk to our children, families and staff in the lead up to Christmas.



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2021			
Month	Date	Event	Time
November	24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Crucial Crew	9.00am-12.00pm
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform Day - PTA Chocolate Donations	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Movie Night	3.15pm-5.45pm
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Parent's Reading Meeting	3.30pm-4.00pm
December	1 <sup>st</sup>	Reception 2022 Virtual Open Day	10.30am-11.30am 1.30pm-2.30pm
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	PTA Christmas Fair	5.30pm-7.30pm
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Reception & KS1 Nativity - Dress Rehearsal for School	1.45pm-2.45pm
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Reception & KS1 Nativity	1.45pm-2.45pm
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch	12.00pm-1.15pm
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Golden Oldies - Choir at Heaton Mersey Community Centre	2.00pm-3.00pm
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party Day	
	20 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Whole School Cinema Trip	
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Carols by Candlelight	9.15am-12.00pm
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.00am-10.00am
January	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Term Ends	
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Term Begins	8.45am

Finally, we look forward to working together during these ever changing 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

*Koller*

Mr A Clerc  
Deputy Headteacher

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

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



St Johns CE Primary



@stjohns\_primary

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