

St John's C.E. Primary School

- high standards through a caring community -



PARENT'S NEWSLETTER November 2022

OFF TO A FLYING START:

As always, it's fantastic to see such enthusiasm and engagement from the children in their lessons, assemblies, wider opportunities, and overall life at our school. I do believe that the many varied and enriching experiences that are available for everyone at the school helps bring learning to life and gives children the chance to thrive and succeed in an element of school life. In addition, this supports children with developing the perseverance and concentration when being challenged in other aspects of their learning. This is one of the reasons why we hold our 'St. John's Learning Behaviours' in such high regard and weave these through everything we do at school.



Year 4 building dens at forest school



School Council Elections



Year 1 walk around the local area

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.



Macmillan bake off and cake sale:

Our Macmillan bake off and cake sale organised by children from Year 5 and Year 6 raised approximately £500. Thanks to Year 5 & 6 & everyone who supported this event and congratulations to our winners in the bake-off competitions.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Each year we evaluate the current position of the school, take on board the views of all members of the school community and formulate a school Development Plan (SDP). Within the SDP there are a range of targets and associated actions at different levels, however we also identify three Key Priorities. The key priorities for development during this academic year are:

- **Key Priority 1: Early Reading** - Embed an early reading curriculum, across all key stages, which allows children to become fluent, competent readers and in which all staff are confident to deliver
- **Key Priority 2: Curriculum** - Continue to develop the coherence of the curriculum offer to ensure sequential, rigorous teaching resulting in learning that is retained by all
- **Key Priority 3: Inclusion** - To continue to refine practices at each stage of our graduated response to allow full access to the curriculum for all learners

DIFFICULT & CHALLENGING TIMES:

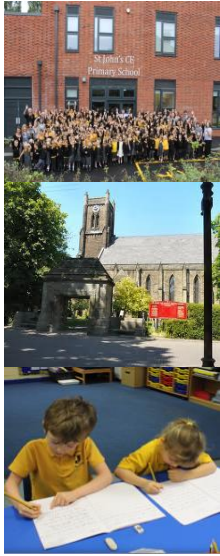
As I am sure you are aware, public services are facing increasing difficulties with regards to their finances. This has been highlighted in several news articles in recent weeks. I am very aware that the current financial position that we are all facing is challenging for everyone. However, I do feel that I need to make you aware of the current position of our school budget. The increase in costs of resources, paper, energy bills, food, staffing etc. over the last seven months have taken what was a tight, yet balanced budget in April 2022, to a position of considerable deficit, all without any increase of school funding from the DFE or government.

I would like to reassure you, that the nature of St John's is that we always aim to provide the best education and provision for our children. I am confident that children's learning will continue to progress well, through the high standards of teaching and opportunities provided on a daily basis.

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Therefore, we are ever grateful for the dedication and commitment of the staff providing many additional opportunities free of charge for the children such as after school clubs and other wider opportunities. In addition our PTA, who in conjunction with our wider parental community, do a fantastic job of raising a considerable amount of money to supplement our budget and allow us to continue to provide developments to the grounds and learning environment, opportunities for children and purchase much needed resources to support subjects such as reading books.

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Mr Middlebrough, our longest serving member of teaching staff has decided to retire at the February 2023 half term. He will be hugely missed and has worked hard to support many of our families and children over the years, especially through his role as inclusion leader.

Due to the financial position of the school, it means we are unable to recruit a new member of staff and Mr Middlebrough's responsibilities will primarily be taken on by Miss Emma Smith, a highly valued member of member of staff who will bring much experience to the important role of inclusion leader.

We are pleased to share the news that Miss Monnelly is expecting her first child and will be taking her maternity leave from January. I am sure you will join us in wishing Miss Monnelly and her partner all the best at this exciting time. We are potentially looking to recruit to cover Miss Monnelly's maternity leave. If any members of our school community are interested in this position please look out for the advert on Stockport MBC's jobs website:

<https://www.greater.jobs/career-sectors/education-schools/>

We understand the financial position is presenting increasing challenges for everybody. Can we take this opportunity to remind you that we are a Foodbank School and are able to issue food vouchers to members of our school community who are in need of support. Please make contact with us should you require help. In addition, the school is able to access pupil premium funding / free school meals to support your child if you are in receipt or qualify for benefits. If you believe you may be eligible, please contact the school office, who will be able to support you with the application process. Please be reassured that any support offered by the school will be provided in a confidential and sensitive manner.



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 PTA Family disco, which raised in excess of £1,589 (before deductions for costs) The Movie night, which raised £720., and today the children are breaking a whole plethora of rules, again to raise money for our school. THANK YOU, THANKS YOU, THANK YOU!

Letting Opportunities:

Increasingly, as a school we are exploring opportunities to generate income for the school through letting of the school grounds and premises. Should you be aware of any group, club or society who may be interested in a letting of the school grounds or premises, please encourage them to contact the school office.

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. 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 took place prior to half term and hopefully provided the opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher and discuss the progress your child is making.
- **Curriculum Information Evenings:**
We look to provide advice and support at these meetings related to specific curriculum or learning areas. This week there was a Reading & Phonics information Meeting for Reception and KS1 parents, providing what we think is invaluable information on both how we teaching reading and how parents play such a valuable role in support children in learning to read. Later in the year there will be further meetings for parents, such as a SATS information evening for Year 6 & Year 2 parents.
- **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. We hope you enjoy the chance to see your child perform.
- **Parent Forum:**
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. The next parent forum meeting is planned for Friday 18th November at 10.00am. Please join us for a drink, biscuit and a chat about the school.

▪ **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.

Supporting School:

Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to support school, Mr Clerc will be in touch shortly to arrange an induction with yourselves.

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 a bake sale this Friday 11th November as well as our Christmas Fair on Friday 2nd December. 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 - :

We are hoping to run our Holiday Club from Tuesday 3rd January to Friday 6th January. There will be many activities on offer including baking, cooking, film and book club, games and arts & crafts, as well as opportunities to play and learn outside. Mrs Longworth will be providing further booking information shortly. In the meantime if you have any questions

please contact Mrs Longworth: fabsbookings@st-johns.stockport.sch.uk

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

We continue to be 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. Clubs change on a termly basis so look out for the new clubs letter early in the Spring Term. Progressive Sports run some of our clubs after school, which are chargeable. Bookings for these must be made through Progressive Sports.

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 6th to Friday 10th March) is for Year 5 and 6 and has been booked for the 55 children who returned deposits before the summer break. The final outstanding payment for PGL is due by 9th January.

With regards to a residential for Year 3 and 4, we are still looking 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 2023:

This year's Young Voices concert is taking place at Manchester Arena on Tuesday 31st January 2023. We have 50 children registered to be involved in the event and are currently placing the orders for T shirts and audience tickets. Once these have arrived they will be distributed by Mrs Garner in the school office. The children (and adults!) are very excited about learning the songs and dance moves and are very much looking forward to the concert.

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.

Safeguarding:

Please can we remind all families that children should not be left on the playground unsupervised before or after school, with the exception of the year 6 children with written permission to travel to and from school independently. We would also ask that for insurance purposes that the play and gym equipment is not used out of school hours

Attendance:

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 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 continue to look 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.

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 2022			
Month	Date	Event	Time
September	5 th	Term Begins	8.45am
	12 th	Year 5 & 6 Ancient Egyptian Workshop	1.30pm – 3.00pm
	16 th	PTA Family Disco	5.30pm -7.30pm
	20 th	Meet the Teacher - Year 1, 3 & 5	5.30pm-6.30pm
	21 st	Meet the Teacher – Reception, Y2, 4 & 6	5.30pm -6.30pm
	22 nd	School Council Elections	9.00am-12.00pm
	30 th	Macmillan Coffee Morning	9.00am – 10.00am
October	3 rd	Black History Month	
	4 th	Individual and Sibling Photos	9.00am – 12.00pm
	4 th	Year 3 & 4 Ancient Greece Workshop	1.15pm – 3.15pm
	6 th	Year 1 & 2 Local Area Walk	9.00am – 3.00pm
	10 th	Year 6 Class Assembly	9.00am-10.00am
	14 th	PTA Cinema Night	3.15pm - 5.45pm
	18 th	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	9.00am – 3.00pm
	18 th	Parent Teacher Consultations	2.30pm-5.30pm
	19 th	Parent Teacher Consultations	5.00pm-7.30pm
	21 st	Harvest Festival – St John’s Church	9.15am-10.15am
	24 th – 28 th	Half Term Holiday	
	31 st	Term Begins	8.45am
November	2 nd	EYFS & KS1 Parents Reading Workshop	5.30pm – 6.30pm
	4 th	PTA Break the Rules Day	
	7 th	Year 1 & 2 Legoland Trafford Centre	9.30am -3.00pm
	11 th	PTA Bake Sale Year 2, 3 & 6	3.15pm – 4.15pm
	14 th	It’s Cool to be Kind Week	
	14 th	Road Safety Week	
	15 th	Anti-Bullying Drama Performance	1.30pm-3.00pm
	16 th	Year 3 Anti-Bullying Workshop	1.15pm – 2.45pm
	18 th	Children in Need Day	
	18 th	Parent Forum Meeting	10.00am-11.00am
	25 th	Non-Uniform Day – PTA Chocolate Donations	
	28 th	Year 1 Class Assembly	9.00am – 10.00am
30 th	Year 6 Crucial Crew	12.00pm – 3.00pm	
December	1 st	Reception 2023 Open Day	10.00am – 11.30am
	2 nd	Non-Uniform Day – PTA Bottle Donations	
	2 nd	PTA Christmas Fair	5.30pm – 7.30pm
	5 th	St Nicholas Day Service at St John’s Church and Lantern Walk	3.15pm – 4.45pm
	7 th	Lion King at The Palace Theatre – Whole school	1.30pm – 5.30pm
	14 th	Year 1 & 4 Christmas Workshop	9.00am – 12.00pm
	14 th	Nativity Performance for Parents	1.30pm – 2.30pm and 5.30pm -6.30pm
	18 th	Christingle and Carol Service at St John’s Church	11.00am – 12.30pm
	20 th	Dolce Christmas Lunch	12.00pm – 1.15pm
	20 th	Golden Oldies – Choir Performance at Heaton Mersey Community Centre	2.00pm – 3.00pm
	21 st	Carols by Candlelight	1.00pm-3.00pm
	22 nd	End of Term Achievement Assembly	9.00am-10.00am
	22 nd	Term Ends	3.15pm
23 rd	INSET Day		
January	9 th	Term Begins	8.45am

