



St. John's CE Primary School

Summer term Newsletter



Greetings from St. John's.

It is with regret that we can't share our final weeks celebrating and sharing with you in person but we've found ways to keep in touch. We are hoping that we can fully open our doors to you all in the not too distant future. With cases of the new variant on the increase in the local area, we have all restrictions still in place and will continue to work in our bubbles. Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation and support.

Vision and Values

Thank you to everyone who helped us refresh the St. John's Vision and Values. More details will follow in the Autumn term along with our new behaviour policy.

Worship

Our focus for the rest of the term: strength, hope, individuality, nurture and excelling, and what's in the news.

PTA

A huge thank you to the PTA for their continued support and donations towards new resources for school. £480 towards new books, £500 for new play equipment for the playground.

Another big thank you to the PTA for funding a special treat for our Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires – prizes will be given in our Summer term awards ceremony.

Safeguarding

We have recently raised awareness of the potential dangers of swallowing button batteries and magnets. If your child swallows a battery or magnet, please seek medical advice promptly.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/05/dangers-of-children-swallowing-magnets-prompts-nhs-call-for-ban/>

Digital Resilience Toolkit for 6-10 Year Olds

Give your child a guiding hand as they start their digital journey online with practical tips to help them build up their understanding of the online world and create a safe space for them to explore. This link is also available on the school website (key information / safeguarding / online safety).

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/digital-resilience-toolkit/digital-resilience-toolkit-6-10-year-olds/>

First Aid Training

We are VERY excited to say that we are winners in the 'First Aid for Schools' competition. The prize entitles us to first aid classes for 60 pupils, so a massive thank you to all those who entered for us. On Friday 9th July, our Year 4s and 5s will come home 'mini first aiders'.



The Summer Reading Challenge

Can you believe it's that time of the year again! Reading for pleasure is more important to children's successes than education or social class. The Summer Reading Challenge gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holidays.

How the Summer Reading Challenge works

Children can read whatever they like in their chosen format - fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks can all be used to complete the Challenge. Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Children can sign up for free at a participating library during the summer holidays.

Click here for more details or to enter:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge/>

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

And next year, look out for the **Summer Reading Mini Challenge** for Nursery pupils.

What we've been up to:

Netball Success

A huge well done to Tiannah in Yr 5 who has made the Under 13s county netball team. A huge achievement and especially considering her age. We are very proud of her!

Swimming Success

Isabelle in Yr 5, who trains and swims for Newcastle Swimming Team, recently smashed 2 PBs for freestyle and breaststroke. Isabelle was placed 3rd fastest in the Under 11s in the whole of Staffordshire and has been invited to swim for the County swimming team. What an excellent achievement – well done Isabelle!

Music Success

Congratulations to Reuben in Year 5 who recently took his first graded exam for the violin. Reuben achieved a high merit with an excellent score of 127/150. An excellent score! Well done Reuben.

New Playground Equipment

Our new playground equipment is keeping our children busy at break time: from train sets to cheerleading pom poms, building blocks to Top Trumps, not forgetting Giant Jenga. Hopefully, there's something for everyone. This will be expanded over the following year.

Year 6 Leavers

Mr Phillips, Head of Year 7, will be visiting Year 6 on **Friday 2nd July** so that they can ask him any questions about moving to Moorside.

On **Friday 16th July**, Year 6 will be having a special goodbye ceremony with Rev Steve where they will be presented with their own bible which they can treasure. On the last day of term, we will have an award ceremony, a class disco and an afternoon picnic where pupils can chill, share memories and say their farewells to St. John's. Pupils can wear their own clothes for this day, but bring a school shirt if they would like it signed.

Currently, there's lots of singing, acting and prop making going on in preparation for their production – can't wait to see it!

Nursery / Reception: A day at the seaside

When you can't go to the seaside, bring the seaside here! That's what our fabulous Early Years team did. Icecreams, bouncy castles, paddling pools – everything you could want from a day out by the sea.



Year 1:

Year 1 have been learning about Dinosaurs this term which they have enjoyed hugely. They've made their own fossils and taken on the role of palaeontologists by digging for fossils.



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Year 2: Visit from a Beekeeper

Year 2 were 'buzzing' after their visit from Beekeeper Mr Holdcroft. They asked some brilliant questions, learned so much about honey bees, how important they are and what an amazing job they do! They got up close to the observation hive, found the Queen bee, looked at the bee smoker and bee suit and even tasted the honey the bees had made. Thank you so much Mr Holdcroft.



Year 3: Rock Study and Clay Modelling



Moorside High School Science Department very kindly lent their rock collection to Year 3 recently who spent the afternoon studying, sorting and grouping them. Always best to use a magnifying glass for that extra close up inspection.

Year 3 have also been practising drawing and sculpting faces in their art lessons.

They have learned about facial proportions and how to draw features. Top job Year 3!



Year 4: A visit from Action for Children

Action for Children paid Year 4 a visit last week to give them some advice and training on emotional resilience. Pupils have learned about their 'emotional scale'; the things they can do to deal with their 'red moments'; and developed their own toolbox to help them turn their 'red moments' into 'green moments' We're hoping that they can use their new skills to deal with any challenging times they may encounter in the future. A big thank you to the staff from Action for Children.

Year 5: A visit from North Staffs Mind

A huge thank you to North Staffs Young Mind who came in to work with our Year 5s. We were very proud of our pupils for having the confidence to speak openly about their wellbeing and worries. We all get worried in life over many different things but it's important to recognise it, know how to deal with it and try to not let it stop us doing the things which challenge us. A big thank you to Zoe and Ryan – we hope to see you again in school soon.



We have been blown away by the absolutely amazing solar system projects produced by Year 5 pupils. Well done everyone!



Year 6: A lovely few days at Stanley Head

Y6 had a wonderful experience during their three days Stanley Head, engaging in activities varying from axe-throwing to rafting to high-ropes! Every member of the class adopted a real 'can-do' attitude and in doing so gained a new understanding of what they are capable of achieving. As a group, their behaviour and team work was spot on! I'm sure that Y6 made memories that will last a lifetime.



In Other News:

'Boycott Your Bed' / Action for Children:

Ditch the duvet. Banish the blanket. Pack the pillow.

Boycott your Bed on Friday 9 July and you'll join forces with Marshall in Year 3 to raise money by spending the night in the most unusual place you can think of. You could camp out under the stars or under the stairs or bunk down in the bathroom or the back garden. It's completely up to you. For more information or to register for this great charity event:

<https://boycottyourbed.actionforchildren.org.uk/boards-registration/>

A prayer for Summer...

Thank You

"Thank You" are two little words that can make such a difference. They show our gratitude and joy when someone helps us. They also make you feel good when someone says them to you, you feel valued and good about yourself.



During this pandemic there are so many people to thank. There's so many it's hard to know where to start. There are people we would like to say thank you to but will not see them. A good place to start is the **Finger Prayer**.

Look at your hand. The **THUMB** is closest to you. Pray and give thanks for those who are close to you, for family and friends.

The next finger is the **Pointing Finger**. Pray and give thanks for leaders and teachers, for those who direct and guide us.

The **Middle Finger** is the tallest finger, pray and give thanks for the government and those in authority.

The next finger is the **Weakest Finger**. We are reminded of those who care and give treatment to others who are weak and ill. Pray and give thanks for the NHS, Doctors, medical and support staff. For our local surgeries and care homes.

Our **Little Finger** (Pinky) is us. Give thanks for our lives and for our daily blessings.

The 4th July is a National Thank You Day. What a great day to use our finger prayer. Why not use this prayer daily, it's a great way to focus your prayers.

God Bless you and bring you peace as you come to him in prayer.

We'll leave you with a prayer for Summer.

Take care everyone and we're looking forward to seeing you soon.

Very best wishes.

Mrs Stone and the St. John's team