



# St. John's CE Primary School Autumn Term Newsletter



Seasons greetings from St. John's

## **Diary Dates:**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** It's PANTO time! The ice cream van will also be paying us a visit.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** Please join us at St. John's Church for our Christmas service. KS1 9:30am / KS2 11am. So that there's room for everyone, please note that there's only guest per family.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** It's Christmas dinner day, rewards afternoon and the school disco. KS1: 6-7pm – please enter and leave via the main entrance at the front of the school. KS2: 7:15pm-8pm. Please arrive via KS2 entrance at the side of the school; pick up from the main entrance.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** We will start the last day with a celebration of pupil achievements, followed by Christmas makes (funded by our fabulous PTA).

**We are going 'Christmas jumper crazy' this week. Wear your Christmas jumpers any day you like – why not go for it and wear it everyday!**

School will reopen for pupils on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - school will be closed on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January for staff training.

## **Attendance:**

Our attendance figure for the first half of the Autumn term was 95.9% so we're not far off our school target of 96%.

***Please note that research shows the link between attainment and attendance: the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.***

Please note that fines may be issued for holidays taken during term time by the Education Welfare Team. All holiday requests will be referred to the Education Welfare Team as they cannot be recorded as authorised absence unless there are very exceptional circumstances.

## **Statutory Assessments / SATs (Standard Assessment Tests):**

- The Year 1 Phonics Screen will take place during the week of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- Year 2 SATs will take place during May 2023.
- The Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check will take place over a three week period from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- Due to the additional bank holiday in honour of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the **Year 6 Statutory Assessments dates have changed:**
  - Tuesday 9 May: English grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS) papers 1 (questions) and 2 (spelling)
  - Wednesday 10 May: English reading paper
  - Thursday 11 May: mathematics papers 1 (arithmetic) and 2 (reasoning)
  - Friday 12 May: mathematics paper 3 (reasoning)

### **School assessments:**

Assessment weeks for all year groups usually take place during the last 3 weeks of each term.



### **Wellbeing:**

This term saw the return of **Anti-bullying week** and odd socks galore! This year's theme 'Reach Out' began with a celebration of what makes us unique, and focused on what we can do to support ourselves and others in times of need – a topic which embraces all of our school values. All pupils have access to school 'worry boxes' and 'Pastoral Support' and our Mental Health lead, Mrs Graham continues to monitor this regularly to ensure that pupils are feeling healthy and happy.

Please remember that you can refer your children for Pastoral Support if you think they'd benefit from talking to Mrs Simcock, our trained Pastoral Support lead.

### **St. John's Choir**

I'm so pleased to say that we have a 'St. John's Choir' once again - thank you to Miss Parish and Miss Plimmer. It's been an absolute delight to see pupils enjoying singing (and dancing).

The choir will be performing as part of the Moorside Christmas Carol Concert, and during our Christmas Church services this week.



### **Early Years and KS1 Nativity**

We are so proud of our little ones and the amazing job they did performing their Nativity shows – all those words and actions learned, songs sung and confidence built. A massive thank you to everyone involved.



### **Parent Teacher Association (PTA):**

A huge thank you to our PTA members who have secured the existence of this valuable resource for St. John's.

The PTA Christmas raffle was drawn on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – there were some fabulous prizes! A massive thank you to everyone who has made donations.

The PTA have funded ice creams for our pantomime, rewards for the Dojo shop and our class Christmas makes.

**Swimming Gala:**

Our 16 participants from Y5 and Y6 all represented St John's brilliantly. We had lots of super performances and lots of support and encouragement. Well done to all!

Thank-you to all parents / carers for your support in getting the children to and from the event and for staying to cheer the children on!



**Remembrance Day:**

A huge well done to all of the pupils who took part, both in and out of school, in the Remembrance Day services – you represented the school and your local communities brilliantly.



**Forest School:**

Tree swings, marshmallow toasting, fire lighting, den building, rope swings – just a few of the fun filled Forest School activities that Mrs Williams, our Forest School lead, has been busy planning and delivering over the Autumn term for our Early Years pupils and Forest School lunch time club.



## Finally, more examples of our pupils shining just as brightly out of school...

### Singing in Church

Beth, Eve and Myla have been singing with the Young Phoenix choir in Leek on Monday evenings. They had their Christmas concert recently where they sang in front of a church full of people – well done ladies!

### Express T Dance Show Sell Out

Well done to the stars in Year 2 who took part in their first ever dance show this term. They had raving reviews and looked just the part in their fantastic costumes. The show was a sell out and we look forward to hearing more about their future success.



### Caring for the Community

A huge thank you to those who made donations for Fletcher and All Things Werrington's Christmas Gift collection for the Elderly. Fletcher and his helpers are busy organising the gifts and distributing in time for Christmas.



### Sporting Success for KS2 ladies:

A huge well done to Lily in Yr 6 for achieving 'swimmer of the week' at Cheadle Swimming Club.

Ruby, in Year 5, attained her white belt in kickboxing after only going to classes for 7 weeks (usually it's a 6-month period before they are entered for grading). AND she also received her stage 5 swimming certificate. Excellent job Ruby.

### Reports / Pupil Support Plan Reviews:

Due to staff absence, Year 4 and 6 reports and reviews for pupils with PSPs (Pupil Support plans) will take place during the first half of January. Thank you for your patience.

We love to share the success our pupils are having out of school, so if you have any news, please let us know: [headteacher@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk)

Keep up to date with our news and what's been going on with our school Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnswetleyrocks>

**Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Take care and keep safe. We're looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

***SHINE like the star you are.***

**Very best wishes.**

**Mrs Stone and the St. John's team**