



St. John's CE Primary School

Autumn Term Newsletter September 2023



Greetings from St. John's.

Diary Dates:

- Inset days: Friday 27th October / Monday 6th November / Friday 24th May.
- Tuesday 3rd October: Harvest at St. John's Church. KS1: 9:30am / KS2: 11:00am. Donations for the Food Bank greatly appreciated.
- Tuesday 17th October: PTA meeting at 6:30pm – all welcome!
- Saturday 4th November: The Leek Rotary Club Swimathon. Our time slot is 3pm-4pm. Further information to follow.
- Thursday 23rd November: PTA Christmas Wreath Making evening at St. John's Methodist Church at 6:30pm – more information to follow.
- November: donate a pre-loved toy to support the Dougie Mac. Donations (in a saleable condition please) can be left in the office please.
- Tuesday 5th December: Christmas Service at St. John's Church. KS1: 9:30am / KS2: 11:00am.

2023-2024 Statutory Assessments / SATs (Standard Assessment Tests):

- Reception Baseline Assessment: within 6 weeks of starting school.
- Year 1 / Year 2 Phonics Screen: Week commencing Monday 10 June 2024.
- Year 2 SATs: May / June 2024.
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check: the 2-week period from Monday 3 June 2024.
- Year 6 SATs: Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024.

Internal School Assessments: Assessment weeks for all years take place during the second half of each half term.

Attendance:

Attendance improved over the last academic year so a huge thank you to everyone. Please remember the importance of children being in school and the effect that absence can have on your child's attainment. We are aware of the increased cost of holidays during holiday time so making use of inset days is a great way to try and reduce the cost.

Absence due to illness: If you child is unwell, please refer to the following information for guidance <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The school Attendance Policy is available on the school website.

Clubs:

We're really excited to offer a range of clubs to our pupils this year:

	Lunch Time	After School
Monday	Year 5 / 6 Chess Club Year 1 / 2 BeeActive Sports Club	BeeActive KS2 Football Choir
Tuesday		
Wednesday	Recorder Club	Homework Club Recorder Club
Thursday		Drum Club
Friday		

Please click here / see the school website to sign up for after school clubs.



Reading at St. John's:

Pets love reading too! We LOVED your 'read to your pet' pictures on our school Facebook page – please continue to add them and watch out for our next reading challenge.

To ensure that pupils develop into competent, confident and fluent readers who love books, every class has:

- Daily phonics / guided reading time which focuses on learning to read.
- Daily 'story time' to encourage reading for pleasure.



Additional Support for Reading:

For those pupils who need some additional support, we have additional phonics sessions, one to one reading, and we look forward to using a new and improved version of the KS2 intervention 'Accelerating Reading' called 'EPATT' which will start in the next few weeks. EPATT stands for 'Educational Psychology Assessment Through Teaching' and is an intervention which focuses on mastering fluency in reading.

There is a child / adult **Book Swap** in the school entrance, so if you fancy a new read, please pop in and have a browse.

For more information about Reading at St. John's, click here.

Pastoral Support / ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant):

We continue to support the wellbeing and emotional health of pupils with Pastoral Support led by Mrs Simcock. Mrs Simcock has mental health qualifications and works with the SENDCo (Mrs Stone), and the Wellbeing Lead (Mrs Graham). We are delighted to also be able to offer ELSA support (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) from Miss Cooper who completed the training last year. ELSA offers support for: friendship, bereavement, anxiety, self-esteem, conflict managing feelings and social skills.

If you have any concerns about your child and would like them to receive some additional support, please contact us: sstone@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk

Parent Forum / Suggestions Box:

We are holding an informal get together every half term with parents / carers, so if you'd like to come along for a chat and a cuppa, we'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions. There is also a suggestion box in the school entrance if you'd like to suggest anything.

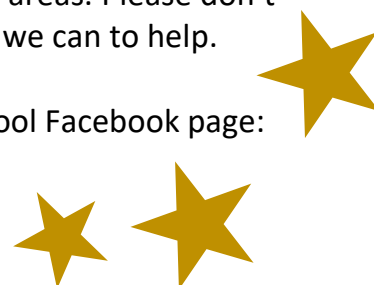


Parent Pay:

A polite reminder to keep your accounts in credit please. Outstanding amounts that are not paid come out of the school budget which takes resources away from other vital areas. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you're having any difficulties and we will do what we can to help.

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

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



Curriculum:

What will your child be learning about this half term? Each year group has a 'Curriculum Map' detailing the outcomes for each subject for the half term. These can be found on the 'curriculum' section of the website. Click here to see the [Curriculum Maps](#).

PTA:

Our PTA does invaluable work for St. John's raising funds which helps to reduce the cost of school trips and funds new resources and experiences for pupils. The next PTA meeting will be **Tuesday 17th October at 6:30pm**. If you'd like to join our fabulous PTA, please come along – we'd love to see you! The 'Treasurer' position will be vacant so please contact the school office if you're interested.

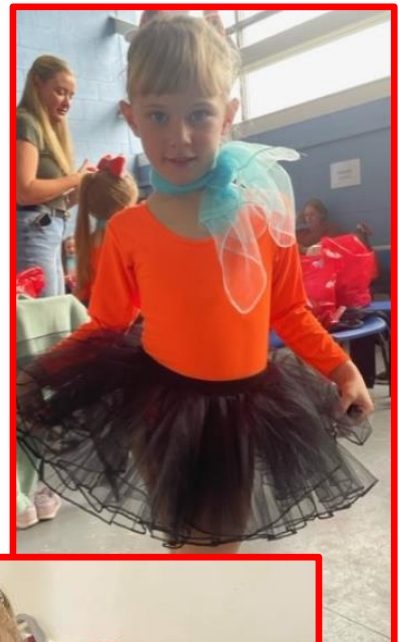
Staffing Changes:

We'd like to welcome new lunch time staff to the team: Mrs Halfpenny and Mrs Davies. Sadly, Miss Goodwin is due to leave us this half term. Miss Goodwin has been at St. John's for many years and has been a hugely valued member of our team. We will miss her hugely and wish her the best of luck with her next chapter – we look forward to her popping in for the occasional cup of tea.

Shine like the star you are...

Dancing Stars

A huge well done to all of the SUPERSTAR pupils who starred in the Express T Dance Show last weekend at the Rep Theatre. I've heard fantastic reports about the performance and the hard work that's gone in to the show.



Swimming Star: A huge well done to Sea Cadet, Harry who hard work has paid off in the swimming pool. Harry has won the district swimming competition for breaststroke and front crawl and has qualified for NW area swimming competition in Blackpool next month.



We would love to hear about the achievements and success of pupils outside of school, so if you have anything for our next edition, please get in touch. headteacher@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk

SHINE like the star you are.

Very best wishes. Mrs Stone and the St. John's team