



St. John's CE Primary School

Autumn Newsletter October 2024



Diary Dates:

[Click here for the school calendar](#)

- **Thursday 24th October:** last day of Autumn term 1.
- **Friday 25th October:** Staff inset day / School closed.
- **Friday 25th October – Friday 1st November:** October half term.
- **Monday 4th November:** School open for Autumn 2.

** More detailed diary dates are available on the 'school calendar' page.*

2024-2025 Statutory Assessments / SATs (Standard Assessment Tests):

- Year 1 / Year 2 (resit) Phonics Screen: Week commencing Monday 9th June, 2025.
- Year 2 Optional SATs: May 2025.
- Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check: the 2-week period from Monday 2nd June, 2025.
- Year 6 SATs: Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May, 2025.

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

St. John's Church:

Thank you to those who were able to join us for the Harvest service at St. John's Church, and a huge thank you to everyone for your very generous donations. We collected an amazing 127kg of food to help Stoke on Trent Foodbank. To find out more about the fabulous work of the foodbank, please see:

<https://stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk/>



We have been thinking about the value of 'thankfulness' as part of this half term's Worship. We have considered being thankful in light of our school Vision and SHINE values, and considered what and who we are thankful for. We included meditation in our Worship sessions so we could spend some quality time reflecting.



Thank you to Reverend Michael and Reverend Steve who we love seeing in school to lead our Collective Worship.



PTA:

During the recent annual general meeting, it was decided that the PTA would cease to continue. We'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has given their time to support our PTA from helping at school discos, arranging raffles, to wrapping selection boxes, and of course fundraising. You really are STARS!

The money raised from the PTA helped to fund our teachers2parents text system, helped to lower the cost of school trips, funded pupil rewards for celebration Worship and the Dojo Shop and Year 6 leaver's gifts, and brighten pupils' days with Easter, Christmas and other special gifts.

St. John's will endeavour to continue with fund raising events, and would very much appreciate your support with this in the future. School discos will continue at the new, earlier time.

Parent Survey Feedback

Thank you to those who were able to complete our parent survey back in the Summer Term – we had nearly 80 responses! This really helps us to celebrate what's going well, reflect and focus on areas that can be improved.

Further parent surveys will be sent soon to help us make St. John's SHINE as brightly as possible.

After School Clubs for Autumn 2024-2025:

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
<i>Choir with Miss Parish</i>	<i>Recorder Club with Mr Oxborrow</i>	<i>Drum Club with Mr Oxborrow</i>
<i>BeeActive Sports Club: Dodgeball Years 3-6.</i>		



BEE ACTIVE

On your marks... Who'll be first off the line in our dodgeball sessions?

Open to children in years 3-6. Our fun sessions will give your child the opportunity to develop their fitness, confidence and social skills.

Meet your coach
Cory

Years 3-6 Mondays
3:30-4:15pm

Book now at beeactive.co.uk

Places are limited and will be secured on a first come, first service basis

ONLY £3.50 PER SESSION

Sessions for children of all abilities!

Search: 'Bee Active'

Read our reviews ★★★★★



BEE ACTIVE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Book now for Autumn Term Bee Active After School Clubs!

We are delighted to be able to offer your child the opportunity to participate in extra curricular after school clubs at St John's CE Primary School.

We welcome children of all abilities and guarantee that your child will have a blast in every session.

Year 3-6 Dodgeball

Mondays (15:30 - 16:15)
From: 04/11/24
To: 16/12/24

£3.50
per session

Maximum: 20 children

If you would like your child to participate in the above sessions, you can book now by visiting:
www.beeactive.co.uk or call us during office hours on **01782 205 915**
Places are strictly limited and will be secured on a first come, first served basis.

Children will need to be changed in to PE kits and should be collected from the main reception following the sessions. Please note that sessions will take place outdoors so clothing should be appropriate for the weather forecast on the day.

We value the importance of your child's health, our services will help to encourage your children to lead active and healthy lives.

Kind Regards,
The Bee Active Team

Places at BeeActive are limited. Secure your place at www.beeactive.co.uk

Attendance:

Attendance for the new school year to date (2.9.24-11.10.24) is 96% which is on target.



Please remember the importance of children being in school and the effect that absence can have on your child's attainment – attendance below 90% means that children are missing the equivalent of over half a day each week. Please refer to the 'Attendance' section of the school website for further information.

Please note that the DfE updated their statutory guidance regarding attendance in August 2024. Our updated school policy reflects the changes and can be found on the school website:

<https://www.st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk/parents/attendance/>

Absence due to illness: If your child is unwell, please refer to the following guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> If your child is going to be absent, please leave a message on our absence phone line before 9am (01782 550309).

Separating better co-parenting support app

Separating better, a groundbreaking mobile app from a team of experts, is developed to support parents navigating the challenges of separation. This child-centric app provides essential guidance on co-parenting and managing disagreements, and has been designed with the wellbeing of the family in mind.



<https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/news/separating-better-the-story-so-far>

There's also a link on the 'Wellbeing' section of the school website:

<https://www.st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk/key-information/wellbeing-and-mental-health/>

St. John's Sport:

We've had another super half term of sport: competitive football and cross-country events; the Leek Rotary Club Swimathon; Bikeability training for our Year 5 and 6 pupils; a Scooter Skills workshop for our Year 2s; topped off with a visit from one of the Great Britain mountain bike team!



Another year, another **Leek Rotary Club** Swimathon and another group of super star swimmers that just kept on swimming for a full hour - an absolute inspiration! We're so proud of you all.

Thank you to our fab Office Managers, Mrs Beverley and Mrs Swift-Holdcroft, for organising and swimming with us. Thank you to families for supporting the swimathon, and thank you to Leek Rotary Club for the opportunity to take part in such a lovely event.

Some truly amazing resilience was shown at Oakamoor Cricket Club for the CADSSA Cross Country

relay. Fantastic effort from everyone who participated with St John's being placed 2nd in the Year 3/4 boys, 5/6 boys and 5/6 girls races. Great work everyone!

Well done to all of our footballers who have represented our wonderful school with pride over the half term playing their socks off!





Year 5 / Year 6 Bikeability and Year 2 Scooter Skills:

Pupils really enjoyed spending time improving and refining their bike riding and scooter skills this half term. Pupils reported having great fun, being more road aware and safer whilst riding – don't forget your helmets!

Danny Butler Visit:

We welcomed champion mountain bike trials rider Danny Butler to St John's for sponsored fitness circuit sessions! Each class had a great time, worked really hard and learned some really important lessons from Danny who left us inspired. He told us all about the power of hard work and overcoming challenges to achieve success.

A huge thank you to everyone for your sponsors which will go towards purchasing new PE and

playground equipment.

Autumn Term:

To see what children are learning each half term, please see our Year Group Curriculum Maps on the '[Curriculum](#)' section of the website.



Reading at St. John's:

St. John's continues to prioritise the importance of developing reading across the school. Each class is enjoying listening to their class book, and having regular opportunity to read and share high quality texts. It's a delight to see pupils enjoying this and sharing their skills.

Learning to read is hard work, and practice makes progress so any occasions children have to read, share and listen to stories helps.



Years 4 and 5 will be spending part of their music lessons learning to play the ukelele with qualified music teacher, Mr Oxborrow. We're looking forward to

hearing their progress!





We're really pleased to be spending another year working with our friends at [BeeActive](#). The Beeactive team will be delivering PE lessons with St. John's staff, offering after school sport, leading rewards days and events, and have trained our Year 5 pupils as '**Playground Leaders**' who will lead sporting activities across the school at lunch times. ★



What else has our curriculum had to offer this half term?

Pupils have enjoyed making the most of the great outdoors with outdoor learning and scavenger hunts; they've discovered how the digestive system works; explored our differences and similarities; got to grips with computer programming; transformed 2D drawings into 3D sculptures; made river models; conducted scientific investigations and much more! ★





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

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



Pupils shining outside of school...

Hanley Town Lionesses

Both of our 'lioness ladies' have been selected for 'Player of the Match' during this season's matches for Hanley Town girls. Matches have been a challenge, but both players have shown great determination, strength and skill – fab football ladies!



Player of the Match

Congratulations to Henry for his well-deserved 'Player of the Match' award from his team Cheadle SMU. Henry has recently joined this team and is going from strength to strength - keep up the great work!

Another football success for Charlie who recently achieved both 'Player of the Match' and 'Parents' Player of the Match' for his super performance for his team, Hanley Town – great job Charlie!



Dancing Super Stars

It's been a busy time for showcasing dancing this half term. We've had a number of talented pupils show off their moves at the Express T'Dance shows at Werrington Village Hall and The Rep Theatre in Stoke – great job ladies!



We 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

A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for a fantastic half term – we couldn't do it without your support.

**Have a great week off. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 4th November.
Very best wishes. Mrs Stone and the St. John's team.**

SHINE like the star you are.