



St. John's CE Primary School

Autumn Newsletter December 2024



Diary Dates:

[Click here for the school calendar](#)

- Monday 6th January: Staff training day / School is closed.
- Tuesday 7th January: School opens for Spring term.
- Spring Term Parents' Evening: Tuesday 28th January / Thursday 30th January
- Monday 10th February: BeeActive Rewards Day
- Wednesday 12th February: Music Afternoon (Guitar / Ukelele players). More details to follow.
- Friday 14th February: School closes for half term.

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:

Our focus for this half term has been our school value of 'Strength'. We have listened to and considered the story of David and Goliath and discussed 'who' and 'what' our 'giants' are – from performing in plays, reading in Church, setting our minds to achieve something, or standing up for what is right. Thank you to Reverend Michael and Reverend Steve who have led Collective Worship in school this half term and helped us to consider our school value of Strength.

A huge thank you to those who were able to join us for the Christmas service at St. John's Church. The children filled the church with Christmas joy and read and sang the Christmas story beautifully.



After School Clubs for Spring term 2024-2025:

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Choir with Miss Parish</p> <p>BeeActive Sports Club: Sports Explorers Years 2-6.</p> <p>(£3.50 / 3:30pm-4:15pm)</p> <p>To secure your place contact: www.beeactive.co.uk / 01782 205915</p>	<p>Recorder Club with Mr Oxborrow</p>	<p>Drum Club with Mr Oxborrow</p> <p>Thrive Thursdays / MiniMe Mindfulness</p> <p>To secure your place contact: claire@minimemindfulness.co.uk / 07368254093</p>

WHAT MY CLIENTS SAY
About Me

NAME : JO PARENT
★★★★★

"I can honestly say I can see such a change in my son since he started at MiniMe Mindfulness. He has come out of his shell, made new friends and quite literally has a spring in his step."

MiniMe Mindfulness
Mindset Coaching & Kids

THRIVE THURSDAYS

MiniMe Mindfulness
Mindset Coaching & Kids

- GAMES
- STORIES
- MUSIC
- MEDITATION
- ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursdays
3.30-4.30pm

Build Confidence
Raise Self Awareness
Recognise Emotions
Understand Feelings
Self Regulate Responses
Reduce Stress/Anxiety
Increase Inner Calm
Build Resilience
& Communication
Have FUN & Make Friends

After school club - St. John's Primary School
www.minime-mindfulness-staffs.classforkids.io/info/60

BEE ACTIVE

Improve your skills with our sports explorers sessions!

Open to children in years 3-6. Sessions will give your child the opportunity to develop their fitness, agility, confidence and social skills through a range of sport.

Meet your coach
Cory

**Years 2-6
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!

Read our reviews ★★★★★
See what others say about Bee Active.



St. John's choir had the fantastic opportunity to show off their beautiful voices performing at the Entrust Festival of Christmas Music and wow they did us proud! Led by Miss Parish, their solo performance filled the Victoria Hall with Christmas joy.

We were treated to a musical extravaganza by Years 4 and 5 who are learning to play the ukelele as part of the music curriculum, along with the musicians from drum and recorder club and guitar lessons with an afternoon of musical delights. A huge thank you to Mr Oxborrow for his musical influence at St. John's.



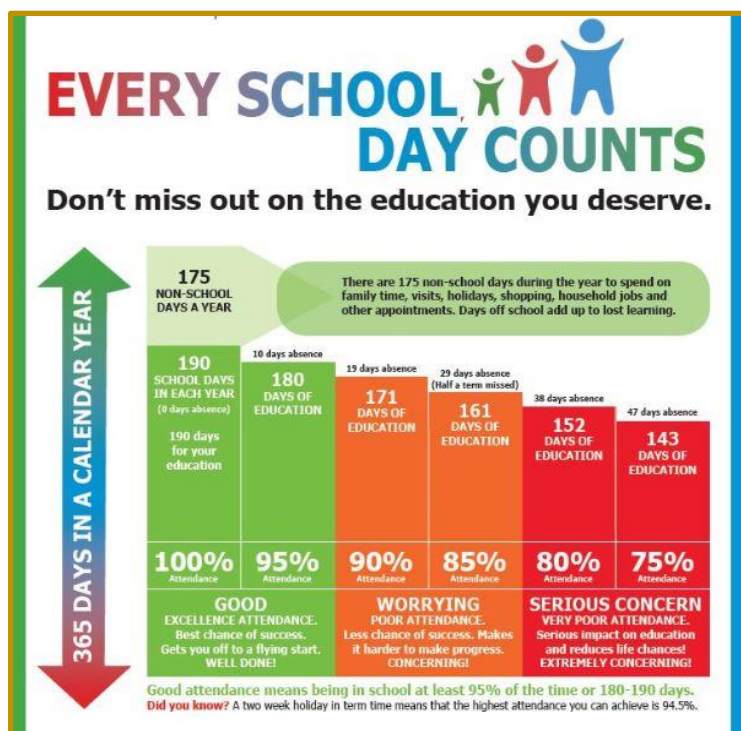


We had a fabulous and fun-filled end to Autumn term with visits to the Panto and Amerton farm (courtesy of the PTA), Christmas parties, Christmas makes, a Christmas music show, the Early Years and KS1 Nativity, a delicious Christmas dinner, crazy Christmas hair and a visit from the big man himself – Father Christmas!



Attendance:

Attendance for the new school year to date (2.9.24-13.12.24) was 94.8% which is just below our school target of 96%. Please note that arriving late to school will affect your child's attendance.



MINUTES LATE	IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES A DAY =	3.4 days 98.4% attendance
10 MINUTES A DAY =	6.9 days 97.6% attendance
15 MINUTES A DAY =	10.3 days 94.6% attendance
20 MINUTES A DAY =	13.8 days 92.9% attendance
30 MINUTES A DAY =	20.7 days 89.2% 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 9:15am (01782 550309).

St. John's Sport

Well done to our Y5/6 athletes who all put in 100% effort into the School Games Sportshall Athletics competition. They bounced, hopped, skipped, jumped, threw and ran with all they had and displayed good teamwork throughout.

Thank you to Mr Redfern who organises all of our sporting events at St. John's and to families for help with transport and cheering us on!



Are you Eligible for Free School Meals?

Parents claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. School meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime and you can save yourself time and money.

Even if you don't want your children to have the meals, claiming them helps their school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives.

Click [here](#) to see if you are eligible.

PTA:

Our PTA has now officially closed. St. John's will continue with fund raising events where possible - a huge thank you to those who have already supported these.

School trips: Please note that whilst payments are a voluntary contribution, if adequate funding is not received, trips may have to be cancelled. If you're eligible for free school meals, please get in touch as we may be able to offer some financial support.



Reading at St. John's:

Learning to read is hard work and **practice makes progress** so any occasions children have to read, share and listen to stories will really help them to improve their skills and make progress.

The **Accelerated Reader** programme is used in KS2 to monitor your child's reading. To ensure that your child makes progress, we set targets of between 20-30 minutes reading per day (to be completed at school and at home), and a quiz pass rate of 85% or above. (Targets are adjusted to encourage reluctant readers).

The aim is for readers to land their rocket on the planet.



Special Educational Needs:

Does your child have a diagnosis of autism? The Autism Inclusion Team are offering a number of free training events for parents over the Spring / Summer term. Please see the [SEND school website](#) for further information and to make a booking.

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.



A taste of what we've been up to over this half term:

For Remembrance Day, we had a WW1 soldier experience to help us understand what life was like during the war. Pupils experienced a range of activities including wearing a gas mask, holding replica weapons and listening to stories about life in the trenches.





Year 1 really enjoyed their trip to the **Brampton Museum** to learn about toys and life in Victorian times.

We celebrated our individuality by recognising anti-bullying week and 'odd socks day'.



Year 3 experienced life in the Stone Age with a visit to **Stanley Head Education Centre**.



We've learned about different cultures and ways of life, enjoyed listening to and sharing stories and worked hard to SHINE in lots of different ways!



As part of their history unit on Remembrance, Year 2 visited St. John's Church to look at and sketch the war memorial in the churchyard.

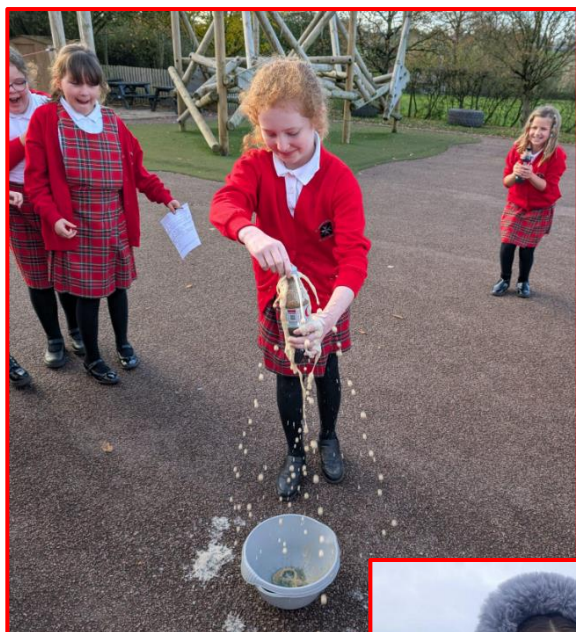


In Art and DT lessons, we've created masterpieces, tackled the spaghetti bridge challenge and designed cave paintings.



We've had an abundance of exciting science investigations – mixing, shaking, squishing, analysing, weighing, measuring, filtering and learning about life in space.





All topped off with a sprinkle of snow...



Pupils shining outside of school...

One of our very thoughtful Year 5 pupils has saved some of her pocket money each week to buy blankets, food, collars, leads, treats and toys as part of the 'Delivering Joy Tree' for dogs in rescue centres. A real example of kindness and our school value of Nurture.

A Year 3 super swimmer has worked tirelessly to achieve her Bronze and Silver swimming awards in record time and is now going for gold! Her determination to succeed has already secured a bank of medals for her hard work. What a fantastic example of our school SHINE values.



A huge well done to our champion runner who ran the Cheddleton Pudding Run with his football team covering 2 miles in just 20 minutes for raise money for Cancer Research – a truly tremendous achievement!

Congratulations to our gymnast who has a bright future ahead: she recently entered her very first gymnastics competition and won it! Well done – you're obviously a natural!



Year 3 have been studying rocks and soils in science

this term. To aid their understanding of the layers of earth above the earth's crust, for homework they made dirt pudding using syrup for magma, biscuit for the earth's crust, slices of apple for the bedrock, chocolate mouse for the subsoil and crushed Oreos for the

nutrient rich top soil. Our super scientist in Year 3 even added worms for good measure - what an excellent job!

We're super proud of two of our KS2 pupils who've saved a little bit of their pocket money each week to buy donations for Leek Food Bank and the toy appeal to make someone's Christmas brighter – such a thoughtful act and great role models for our school value of Nurture.



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

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

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

A huge thank you to everyone in our school community for another fantastic half term. Whether it's helping your child academically, giving lifts, mystery readers, supporting at events, or even just a hello in the morning, we couldn't do it without out you.

**We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 7th January.
Very best wishes. Mrs Stone and the St. John's team.**

SHINE like the star you are.