

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a wonderful break over the summer and are raring to go at the start of another academic year at St. John's. It has been lovely to hear from the children about some of their exciting news from over the holidays and I look forward to seeing you all on the yard. May I extend a special welcome to the families who are joining our community for the first time today and those due to join us in the coming days as Reception start.

Thank you for all your efforts in making sure the children look so smart. It was wonderful to hear the buzz of cheerful children arriving back at school, catching up with class mates and looking to impress their new teachers! We officially welcomed a number of new staff today – Miss Lovelock in Year 5, Mrs Maxwell in Year 4 Mrs Fitzsimons in Year 2 and Mrs Sleeman in Year 1.

In our assembly today we talked about the mixed feelings that anticipating something 'new' can sometimes bring – excitement, anxiety, scared, nervous, elated were some of their responses this morning! We discussed the huge rewards that are on offer when you embrace new opportunities using 'Jesus and the Fishermen' as an example. Children have all been challenged to try something new this week and let me know how wonderful it feels!

Our new caterers, Mellors, started today and the food on offer was FANTASTIC! Fluffy roast potatoes, freshly carved pork (in front of the children), thick gravy as well as vegetarian options, sandwiches, jackets, salad bar, fruit salad and flap jacks on the yard later – a veritable feast. Many children commented on how much nicer the food was than last year and we hope the partnership with Mellors goes from strength to strength! Should you wish your child to have a hot dinner, children can order each day and Mrs Smith will invoice later (£2.10 a day). Pop in and speak to us should you want further information.

The first newsletter will be sent home **next week** (Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September) but there are a couple of items that I need to inform you of as soon as possible.

- Meet the Teacher. There will be an opportunity for parents to come into school and meet their child's new teacher during the first full week back. We have moved the meetings so that they **start at 3:15 pm (in classrooms)** so we are able to attract more parents to attend. Children can attend with you (and show you where they sit) and by conducting a meeting each day, we hope those with more than one child find the whole process easier. These meetings will be a valuable opportunity to find out a little about the curriculum your child will cover this year and any specific arrangements you will need to know about to ensure your child is organised for school life. We can not emphasise enough the importance of attending these meetings so that children and yourselves find out the same key information which will enable us all to make 2018-19 another successful year. The meetings will be as follows:

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6. The Meet the Teacher meeting will also include a meeting about the Year 6 residential to Robinwood.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Year 2

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Years 1 and 5

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3

There is no meeting for Reception at this time as you will have met Mrs Thomas and her team before the summer and at home visits!

- Clubs. These will start week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> September. Miss Halsall will be sending out a letter with the clubs on offer soon; teachers will send their own individual letters about their club. FAST club is up and running again – should you require a place before or after school, please contact the office.
  
- School Dinners. A reminder that school dinners have been increased to £2.10 a day (£10.50) a week.

A list of key dates for the Autumn term will be provided in next week's newsletter to help you plan for events during the term. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me at the gate, your child's teacher or Mrs Smith in the office.

Kind Regards

Mr P Thomson