

# St John's Church of England Primary School

'The JOY of the Lord is Your Strength' (Nehemiah 8:10)

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after what I hope has been an enjoyable summer holiday. It has been lovely seeing everyone's happy, smiling faces today and hearing about the exciting activities that took place over the 6 week break! It is rare that we start the term with a full week but it does mean that our timetables start right away! This means that **Year 3 and 4 have P.E.** tomorrow (Tuesday) and **Year 4 will continue swimming** from this Thursday for the first 10 weeks of the year. Teachers will let you know important information such as P.E. days via Class Dojo.

It has been lovely to catch up with many parents this morning on the playground and, as ever, I look forward to welcoming you into school each day at the gate. Teachers will come out to meet classes when they line up each day so please feel free to pass on any quick messages or request a quick phone call if you have something to discuss in more detail. Please ensure you check Class Dojo regularly (both the school page and class page(s) for your child(ren) as this is our prime method of communication. Important documents will also be added to our website during the first week back. Our school newsletter will start again on Friday and will include some of the key dates for the autumn term.

By Wednesday we will have our full school present as our new Reception class start school on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. A reminder that Reception start at 9 am on their first day (any siblings can come at the same time) so that you are able to see them into school on their first day. Miss Gill and I will be around to meet our new class who I hope are really excited!

## Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that children look so smart on their first day back. A quick reminder of a few of our uniform rules as we start the year:

- Jewellery should not be worn unless it is for religious purposes. We will ask children to remove any rings, bracelets and necklaces if worn to school. If children wear any specific jewellery for reasons of anxiety, please contact myself or Mrs Preston to discuss.
- Ear rings should be studs and a reminder that these have to be removed for swimming. Year 4 swim now, with Year 5 starting around mid-November, Year 6 in the spring term and Year 3 in the summer of 2023.
- Long hair should be tied back with a simple hair decoration. Please keep large bows and hair bands for home! Similarly, we ask that patterns are not shaved into hair during term time.
- Nail varnish and make up should not be worn for school.

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- Pupils are able to wear P.E. kit on the day of lessons. P.E. kit should be dark blue or black tracksuit bottoms / leggings / shorts / PE skirt (or skort), white t-shirt and dark blue or black jumper or hoody. Ideally, kit should be as plain as possible; no football kits please. Children may wear uniform as normal and get changed into PE t-shirt and shorts in school time if there is an issue. Children are welcome to bring a change of kit (e.g. football kit) for after school clubs.

## **Meet the Teacher**

We will be holding face to face meetings for Years 1 - 6 during the second week of school – week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> September. Each class will be allocated a different night to allow parents with more than one child to attend. Staff will supervise any school-age children in the hall while you attend the meetings which will last around 30 minutes. Important information and explanations about your child's education will be given at these meetings so please attend if you can. We will not be sending home packs to help save costs but will make all documents available on our website following the meetings. The meeting will take place as follows in your child's classroom (please drop your child off in the school hall if requiring child care)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – Year 3

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4

## **COVID**

Whilst lovely to enjoy a full year together in school, COVID remains very much in the news as we approach autumn and winter. No alterations are planned to school days but we shall continue with many of our control measures in school such as maximising ventilation, enhanced hygiene regimes and air purifiers in use in every class room. The current guidance remains that anybody who tests positive should isolate from school for 3 days, starting the day after the test was completed. Otherwise, children are fine to attend school if fit and well.

## **Dinners**

There has been a change to the staff in our kitchen which is run by Mellors Catering Services. Alysson and Nikki have both now left us and we thank them for their service and wish them the best of luck in the future. Our new chef is called Shannon and she cannot wait to get started. We are awaiting confirmation of Shannon's

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permanent assistant. Our hot dinner service starts first day back and we are on Week 1. Mrs Bond will add the menu for the following week to Class Dojo each Friday and alert you to any changes that may need to be made. Juniors will return to eating their packed lunches in the hall this year. A reminder that children are fine to chop and change between hot dinners and packed lunch each day if they so wish.

## **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

These will start during the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September. Teachers will soon start sending out letters to relevant year groups so keep your eyes peeled.

## **FAST Club and Breakfast Club**

These paid services re-commenced today and allow supervised provision for children before and after school. Booking forms are available from the office / website but you may be able to book a place on the day in an emergency. Please contact Mrs Bond in the office if required.

I will leave the welcome there for now. A reminder that the newsletter on a Friday will always include important information and dates regarding what's going on in school. If I haven't seen you yet, then I look forward to catching up with you soon. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff at St. John's.

Wishing you a J.O.Yful year ahead.

Kind Regards

Mr Thomson