

St John's Church of England Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Wednesday 6th September 2023

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 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 few weeks back. Our school newsletter will start again on Friday 15th September and will include some of the key dates for the autumn term and beyond.

Tomorrow we will have our full school present as our new Reception class start school. 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 all really excited! Please enter via the playground gate and this gate will be opened again just before 12 o'clock for pick-up.

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 2024.

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.

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

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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 and third week of school – weeks commencing 11th and 18th September. Each class will be allocated a different night to allow parents with more than one child to attend each meeting. Staff will supervise any school-age children in the hall while you attend the meetings which will last around 30 minutes. Each meeting will start at 3:15 pm. 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 meetings will take place as follows in your child's classroom (please drop your child off in the school hall if requiring child care)

Wednesday 13th September – Year 3

Thursday 14th September – Year 6

Friday 15th September – Year 1

Monday 18th – September – Year 4

Tuesday 19th September – Year 5

Wednesday 20th September – Year 2

Dinners

Our hot dinner service started today 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. A reminder that children are fine to chop and change between hot dinners and packed lunch each day if they so wish. For children who pay for dinners, the cost remains £2.50 per day.

Please ensure we know if your child has any allergies or dietary requirements. Shannon in the kitchen is fantastic – and eternally flexible – but we may need some warning to order specific foods/ingredients.

Playtime snacks and allergies

Children in Years 1 and 2 and Reception are provided with a piece of fruit each day courtesy of the government; Reception additionally operate a voluntary snack scheme in their class. Children from Years 3 – 6 are able to bring in a piece of fruit as a snack at playtime should they wish.

We are a nut free school and we ask that no food items containing nuts are sent into school as we have both children and staff with severe allergies. If providing a packed lunch or snack for your child, please check that

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there are no nuts in the ingredient list. If any items containing nuts are accidentally brought into school, we will ask for children to save them until they are at home. Thank you for your cooperation in making sure we keep our whole school community safe.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

These will start during the week commencing 25th September. Teachers will soon start sending out letters to relevant year groups so keep your eyes peeled. Thank you in advance to Mr Willmott for coordinating and to the staff who give up their time voluntarily to run clubs.

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 and we regularly add to Class Dojo. 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