

St. John's School Newsletter

Through Jesus Christ all our children Learn to Love and Love to Learn.

Remembering

This morning we read the gospel reading for Sunday, in which Jesus was with his disciples in the temple. He told them that the temple would one day be destroyed and that there would be wars, earthquakes, and people hungry for food. He then told them not to be afraid. He promised that he would be with them always and that they wouldn't be harmed if they put their trust in him.

We then read the first stanza of Flanders Fields by Dr John McCrae:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We talked about the symbol of the poppy that people wear and then we took time to remember. We remembered all those who died at war, as well as those who have suffered due to earthquakes, hurricanes, hunger and other natural and unnatural disasters.

We then remembered that Jesus is with us always, even in the hardest times.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.



Attendance

Sadly, our attendance has dropped this week and we are now below 97% for our year to date. This week we were only 95.7%. Please help us to improve this next week.

St. Therese	97.4%
St. Francis	96%
St. Ava	95.4%
St. Nicholas	95.3%
St. Joseph	90.9%
St. Genevieve	99.3%
St. Sebastian	95.4%

Well done to St. Genevieve.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL



Children are required to attend school for 190 days each year. The LA target for attendance in primary school is at least 95%.

Attendance during one school year	Days Absent...	Weeks Absent...	Lessons Missed...
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	40 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	80 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	120 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	160 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	200 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	230 Lessons
60%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	270 Lessons

How does your child's attendance compare with this target? Please remember that children who miss a lot of school achieve less.

Staffing update

On Wednesday, Ms. Frances joined the staffing team as one of the class teachers of St. Nicholas class. She will be in every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and has already wowed the class with her storytelling skills. A published author, Ms. Frances is a fantastic weaver of words and we are incredibly excited to welcome her to St. John's.

Mrs Kendal will continue on as SENDCO until July, which I know will delight so many of you. On that note, if you are concerned that your child has 'special educational needs' please book an appointment to see her so that you can discuss your concerns.

Friends of St. John's

Joint chairs: Emma Smith & Helen Dalby

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofstjohns/?fref=ts>

Email: friends@stjohnshorsham.school

Volunteers needed for:

6th December - Refreshments for the mass

9th December - Christmas Fair 2.30-5



And finally...

Looking ahead, we are very busy up to the end of term and we hope that you will be able to join us for the many events that we will be hosting. At Parents' Evening, many of you expressed an interest in finding out more about Read Write Inc. and we are keen to tell you more about the recent training in Talk for Writing so we are holding an information evening in a couple of weeks - Tuesday 22nd November. Please let us know if you would like to come by completing and returning the reply slip attached to the newsletter. I have included a space for you to write anything specific that you would like answered/ covered that evening.

Our open mornings/ afternoons are continuing and we are pleased that so many of you are taking this opportunity to come in and share your child's learning with them. Next time you are in, would you please write your comments on a post-it to put into their book. We would love our books to reflect 'parent voice' as well as 'teacher' and 'pupil voice'. Thank you in advance for doing this.

Our Advent Mass is now on 6th December at 2pm (sorry for the earlier confusion). It is our first school mass at church and we are looking forward to bringing all the children to St. John the Evangelist to share this experience. We really hope that many of you will be able to join us, not only for mass, but also afterward in the church hall where there will be refreshments. Again, a slip is attached for you to complete and return. If you think you could bake some mince pies, please see a member of the Friends Association.

The Friends Association are also hosting our Christmas Fair on Friday 9th December. We had a meeting about this on Tuesday evening and great plans were made. To make these work however, we really do need more volunteers to help with stalls on the day and/ or the preparation beforehand. Please see Emma or Helen if you think that you can help in any way. Thank you.

Finally, we have our Nativity plays. For Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, each family have been allocated up to four tickets for the relevant Key Stage that their child/ children are in (this is the same as in previous years). If you have children in both Key Stages you will be allocated four tickets for each Key Stage play. Our daytime performances will be for audience members of all ages. However, the evening performances are for adults and older children only. Any child (regardless of their age) must have a ticket. There will not be a charge for the tickets, instead we will be having a retiring collection after each performance and the money will be sent to St. Benedict's in Kenya, enabling children less fortunate than ours to have a blessed and happy Christmas with our love and support. You will be able to book your tickets from Monday 21st November using School Gateway. I have been asked about DVDs already. Due to a number of reasons, the most significant of which is protecting the identity of some of our children, we will not be recording the plays. However, there will be opportunities for you to photograph your child/ children at the end of the performance. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

To improve communication we regularly put information on Facebook and Twitter, so why not make sure you are following us if you use social media.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnshorsham.school/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/StJohnsHorsham>

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Bono



Read Write Inc & Talk for Writing Parent Information Evening



Talk4Writing

Tuesday 22nd November at 7.30pm



If you would like to find out more about how we teach your children to read using Read Write Inc. and build up their writing skills using Talk4Writing, please come along to our information evening. This is for parents of children in all year groups. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

I/ We will be attending the Parent Information Evening - number of adults _____

Please let us know if you would like us to cover anything specific _____

Parent/Carer of: _____

You are warmly welcome to join us for our Advent Mass at St. John's Catholic Church on Tuesday 6th December at 2pm.

After the church service, you can collect your child and bring them through to the church hall where there will be mince pies and mulled punch provide by 'The Friends of St. John's'.



I/ We will be attending the Advent Mass at St. John's - number of adults _____

I/ We will be attending the refreshments afterwards - number of adults and children _____

Parent/ Carer of: _____



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15th November	Reception & Key Stage 1 open morning - 8.50 - 9.15
Friday 18th November	Book sale to raise money for St. Benedict's - 3pm
Tuesday 22nd November	Key Stage 2 open morning - 8.50 - 9.15am
Tuesday 22nd November	Read Write Inc & Talk for Writing Parent's Information Evening 7.30pm This evening is for all parents across the school
Tuesday 29th November	Reception & Key Stage 1 open afternoon - 2.30-3.00pm
Tuesday 6th December	Key Stage 2 open morning - 8.50 - 9.15pm Advent Mass at St. John's Church - 2pm. Mince pies and mulled punch in the church hall - 3pm Children must be collected from the church.
Friday 9th December	Friend's Christmas Fair 2.30pm - 5pm
Monday 12th December	St. Therese Nativity for Reception class parents - 1.30pm
Wednesday 14th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 1.30pm Key Stage 2 Nativity 6.30pm
Thursday 15th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 10am Key Stage 2 Nativity 1.30pm Key Stage 2 Nativity 6.30pm
Friday 16th December	St. John's Day - Festive jumper day.

