



# St. John's Weekly Newsletter 11th September 2020



## Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to see our school community finally be able to come back together. Watching all the children come into school with smiles on their faces and seeing the joy when they have been reunited with friends who they have not seen for some time now has simply been amazing.

Walking round the school hearing laughter and seeing learning happening in every classroom is fantastic.

The children have settled into our new 'normal' very well. They are used to washing their hands more frequently, having lunches in their classrooms and staggered playtimes. Well done to all our children!

A huge thank you to all our staff too as they adapt to a new working day involving making sure that our children are being taught as well as extra cleaning and serving lunch! The school day, although it is different, is running smoothly so we can maximise learning time for all our children.

Everyone has adapted to our new school day so well and I am so proud of all the children for coming back to school with such enthusiasm.

Thank you to all parents/carers too for making our staggered start and finish times successful.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Clough

### Our mission statement:

*"Through Jesus Christ,  
all our children learn to  
love and love to learn.*

*The family of St. John's  
love learning and are  
life-long learners.*

*Through Jesus Christ  
everyone knows how to  
show love to others and  
God, remembering  
kindness comes first.*



## ALLERGIES



We cannot express how very important the following information is, a child's life could depend on it so please adhere to our policy.

We have a number of children within school who are allergic to food products. These include allergies to wheat, gluten, dairy, eggs, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts and a variety of different fruits. We want to ensure that we avoid any case of children having an allergic reaction in school and need your help!

We are asking that you be mindful when packing your child's lunch.

We do have some children with such severe nut allergies that the dangers of being in contact (even through the air) can have very significant implications to their health. Therefore, we would like to remind all parents that St John's is a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

Chocolate spreads have always been a favourite sandwich-filler, but from now on, we would ask you to avoid these as many of them contain nuts. Even those that don't are often made in factories where nuts are present.

If your child has an allergy and you haven't informed us, please make sure that you do. If they are prescribed an epi-pen, we need to have two of these in school. With severe allergies we will work with you to draw up a health-care plan for your child.

If you have any medical queries or questions, please speak to Mrs Sutlieff who is in charge of First Aid in school. Thank you



## Chair of Governors

Dear all,

I'm sure that this week's return to school brought some anxiety but I do hope it has gone smoothly for you and you are all looking forward to normal routines returning to our lives. I write to say "Hello" as your newly elected Chair of Governors. Usually the Chair would step down at the Governing body meeting in July and then a new chair would be elected in September. However, as a Governing Body we felt strongly that it was important for a Chair to be in place over the summer this year with all that needed to be implemented over the summer with regards the Government COVID 19 guidelines – So I am not that new really!

For those of you that don't know me I have been a parent at the school since 2012. My younger two children are currently in Year 4 & Year 6 at St Johns. My eldest child is now enjoying life at our feeder Catholic Secondary school, St Wilfrid's. I also have the pleasure of working at St Wilfrid's as school Chaplain. I have worked within Catholic education for the last 2 decades so it seemed only natural for me to volunteer to be a part of the Governing Body of my Children's primary school. If any of you would like to explore the possibility of serving our school as a Governor, I would love to have a chat. Feel free to contact me at [chair@stjohnshorsham.school](mailto:chair@stjohnshorsham.school)

I know that you will be aware of all the hard work that has gone into preparing the school to be at its very best for welcoming your children back this September. I would like to thank all the staff for all the extra work that has gone in to make the school environment as safe and positive as it possibly could be. Staff really have gone "above and beyond" to create the most positive experiences for the children at the same time as implementing the government guidelines. There have been over 80 directives from government and the latest changes to the guidance were made as late as the 29<sup>th</sup> August. Our core aim at St Johns to keep the children safe and much of this guidance is a very helpful support. You may find other parts of it more unclear. If this is the case, I urge you to write to our MP Jeremy Quin to raise these concerns with him at [Jeremy.quin.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:Jeremy.quin.mp@parliament.uk)

### Tribute to our outgoing Chair of Governors Dee Nash

Dee has quite simply provided outstanding service to the community of St John's. We are indebted to her in so many ways. She will be much missed, but it is fair to say that she leaves a legacy here at St John's. My first experience of Dee was back when the Toddler group used to operate out of the school hall on a Friday morning. I used to come along with my children and was greeted by a lovely group of Mums who ran the group. It was such a welcoming and warm introduction into the school community and Dee would always be there with a smile on her face, asking you if you would like a tea or a coffee – always a welcome question as far as I am concerned! I remember what a great rapport she had with the children and her experience as a speech and language therapist working with young children really shone through. As a new mum, I loved these Friday Morning Toddler groups. Dee's volunteering did not stop there. She went on to Chair the Friends of St Johns for a couple of years and organized lots of charity events raising both funds and the sense of community for the wider members of the school community. From there she went on to become a parent governor, then foundation governor, vice chair and Chair! She has been a dedicated and steady hand throughout her time as Chair here and has poured a huge amount of time and energy into her role. This is a voluntary job and that is just as well because you couldn't put a price on what Dee has done for this community. I know you'll join me in wishing her well and thanking her for her fourteen years of serving this community. We thank God for all that you have brought to this school Dee; you have embodied the concept of service – thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Franke



## St Therese

This week, Miss Goodsell and Mrs. Toves welcomed the parents and pupils of St. Therese class into the school. They loved meeting the new Reception children and seeing them so excited to start school, particularly to use our new outdoor play equipment!.

## St Francis



Year One have had a great start to all our new routines, well done to them all. The children have been busy exploring all the different areas in our classroom, both inside and outside. On Wednesday the children showed us their clever counting, Miss Rogers and I were very impressed.



## St Ava

The children have all settled well into year 2. we have all been getting to know each other and have shared any holiday news we had. After making our class promises to each other we learnt about St Ava and thought about which qualities we would like to bring to year 2. We began talking about our top of 'Muck, Mess and Mixtures' and have read the story of Mr Messy, we are looking forward to more 'messy' work in the coming weeks.



St Nicholas class have had a fantastic first week back and they have impressed me so much with their enthusiasm and resilience! As our topic this half term is heroes and villains, we have been learning the difference between the characteristics of the two. In literacy, we have been reading 101 Dalmatians and using adjectives to describe the villainous Cruella de Vil!

## St Joseph

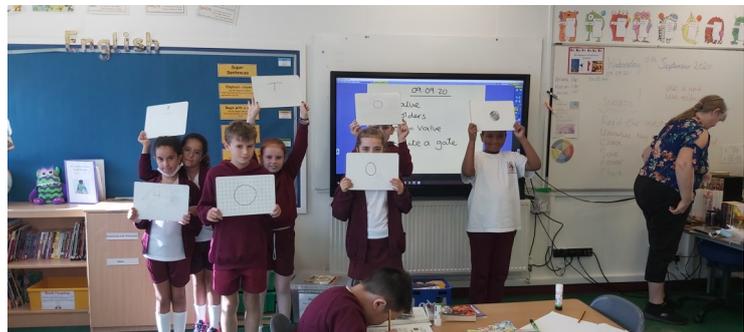


It was an absolute pleasure and delight to welcome our new St Joseph class back to St John's Primary School this week. Our mightily marvellous Monday morning became even more magnificent when the children realised they had their very own personal set of stationery! We talked about the importance of talking about our feelings, and we also started to learn how to ask; "How are you feeling?" and answer using Makaton. We now have a set of "What is jarring you? Jars," so we can always write down any worries, concerns or questions we have. Six months is an awfully long time to be away from school, but by the end of the week, an absolutely lovely atmosphere of engagement and commitment was there for all to see. It also helped that we created our own Super Heroes so that Mr McKerrell now knows our school super powers and weaknesses. One super power we have already started practicing is Kung Fu Punctuation. It goes without saying, however, that the most exciting part of our return to school was going on the new trampolines – this also applies to Mr White – as you can see from the photograph!

## St Genevieve

We have had a great first week in St Genevieve class!

We have started our topic, Pharaohs, and we now know all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We are researching the discovery ready to write a report on this monumental event! We have also used our art skills to sketch items that were found in the tomb. In maths we have been exploring place value and how a number's value changes when we move it around, as well as testing our times table and number bond knowledge. We have voted for our School Council and Eco Council members, volunteered for class jobs and, most importantly, compiled our class playlist!



## St Sebastian

After such a long break, it has been fantastic to finally have the classroom full of smiling faces again as we welcomed back our new cohort of Year 6 children! We spent the first few days getting to know each other and setting goals for the upcoming year and reflecting on their responsibilities as role models for the rest of the school. Once we had done this, we started to get stuck into the Year 6 curriculum starting with number skills in Maths, Grammar in English and we have just started our topic for this term 'Frozen Planet' by creating our own map of Antarctica. It has been a fantastic start to the year and we cannot wait for the rest of the year.



## Young Interpreters at St John's!



We are very lucky to have so many children at St Johns who speak different languages. If you are in KS2 and speak another language fluently (that you speak at home) why not apply to be a new Young Interpreter?

You need to be a good listener, patient, helpful and friendly. Your role would be to help other children who do not have English as a first language. You would be buddied up with a KS1 reader once a week, to help with reading in English. You may also be needed to help new children who arrive at St Johns with little or no English. If they speak your language, you may need to translate and interpret for them.

You would have 4 sessions of training with me (30 minutes once a week). Then you receive a badge and certificate, and your photo would be added to the Young Interpreter display.

If you are interested, please write a letter to Mrs Curtis to explain why you would like to apply. Please give your letter to your class teacher by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. I look forward to receiving your applications!

Mrs Curtis

### Bonjour!

**Languages at St John's:** each half-term we have a different focus language to celebrate the many languages we are lucky to have in our school community! This half term our focus language is French.



KS2 classes have fortnightly French lessons with Mrs Curtis already (this continues throughout KS2 and they also learn Spanish in Year 6). Huge thank you to Lea Sauveur who will be helping Mrs Curtis with French in Year 4, merci Lea!

KS1 classes will follow the focus language each half-term. So this half-term, they will learn a few words, phrases, numbers in French, as well as some French culture, e.g. the flag, currency, capital city, famous French landmarks, famous French people, sports, food, art, music, dance. Ask your child what they have learnt!



### Thank you Mrs Dixon

Last year Mrs Dixon attended a PE course. At the end of the course all teachers were invited to enter their school into a competition. We are delighted to let you know that we won! We received all of this exciting equipment to be used across the school in our PE lessons. We are sure your children will enjoy using these new resources.

### Sunday Gospel

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 13th September 2020 - The Unforgiving Debtor (Matthew 18:21-35) Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

### Dates for Diary

**Thursday 1st October - Individual School Photos**

**Monday 5th October to Friday 9th - Year 6 Bikeability (information to be sent to you next week)**

**Half Term Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October Inclusive**

**Monday 9th November - Inset Day**

**Monday 30th November - Flu Immunisations**