



St. John's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 15 January 6th 2023

Our values: In Christ we are: **Joyful** in our faith , **Aspirational** in our learning, **Confident** in being me, **Caring** in our hearts.

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 8th January 2023 - The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17) Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'



Stars of the week

Reception: All of Reception for returning to school with such enthusiasm for learning and focus with your learning challenges. I am very proud of you all!

Year one: Julian for starting back at school, this new year, with a renewed invigorated and focused attitude and sense of commitment. Well done!

Year two: Joseph for his fantastic art work and the care and effort he put into it.

Year three: Tilly for beginning the new year with a smile on her face and a positive attitude to learning.

Year four: Aiden for returning to school with a positive attitude towards learning.

Year five : All of year five for being welcoming and kind during our first week together.

Year six: Natalia for her incredible caring and kind attitude, a true example to all those around her.



Reading Awards

Bronze reading awards - 50 reads

Year 3 - Thomas & Ruby

Year 5 - Jacob

Silver reading awards - 100 reads

Year 2 - Caiylin, Daniel, Olive, Alex, Thomas, Eden & Mati

Year 3—Sienna

Year 5 - Evie, Cara & Amy

Proud Work

Each week in our Friday assembly we award our 'PROUD WORK' This can be work that the teacher, LA, other member of staff has picked or even the child themselves has selected. We are teaching our pupils what it means to feel proud. We say that it doesn't have to be learning where everything is correct, it doesn't always mean it is beautiful but rather it shows that the pupil has challenged themselves, been passionate about something, maybe they have done some learning independently. We feel strongly that each pupil in the school should recognise what it feels like to be proud and this award is a way to recognise that. We have display boards up in KS1 and KS2 and the children can show their 'proud work' and we can capture why they are proud of their achievement. I hope to share our proud work with you each week going forwards.





Welcome to Mr McCurrach

Mr McCurrach has now joined us as the new Year 5 teacher. I am so proud of the way that the Year 5 class have welcomed him and settled him in so quickly. If you are a parent in the class, please do pop over and say hello and let him know who you are.

What is the focus this half term

The staff have been working very hard on the curriculum over the past year. We moved away from a bought in scheme last year as we are keen to create a personalised curriculum that matches the needs of St John's students and fully equips them for their future. It also means we are in control of what we teach and when we teach it. It has been a lot of hard work but it is coming together to create a more tailored and dynamic curriculum for the children. It also means we can design opportunities to challenge our more able students and support those who need more scaffolding. It is a huge collaborative effort amongst the staff and I hope that you are starting to feel the change in the learning this year. ~Any feedback on the curriculum is always welcome.

Each teacher in the school is a subject leader of more than one subject. As you can imagine subject leadership on top of class teaching is a lot to manage. However the teachers do it remarkably well, with huge passion and the support from the LAs within school.

I thought I would let you know the current areas of responsibility. These can change due to priorities, professional development or a change in staffing.

Miss Miles– EYFS and RSHE/PSHE and citizenship

Mr McKerrell-Phonics/early reading, music and oracy

Mrs Dixon- PE, Geography and English

Miss Marett– Oracy and Maths

Miss Davies- Art and DT

Mr McCurrach– Science and Computing

Ms Stevenson – Maths, History and English

Mrs Curtis- MFL, EAL and Community

Mrs Clough- SENDCo, Assessment, (other responsibilities not linked to the curriculum as well.)

On our website you will find documents regarding our curriculum. Long term plans which gives you an insight into topics that will be covered but also coming very soon will be our intent statements for each subject. This will outline what we aim for in each subject that we teach.

Our current focus is on Maths, Writing, Reading and oracy.

After School Clubs

The list of after school clubs has gone out this week.

We are hoping to add to a couple of new clubs at the end of this half term.

I know clubs are really popular and with a small staffing team within school it can be a challenge to get a range of clubs; therefore we are always keen to explore other options. If you know of any good providers please do let me know so I can make contact with them.

Alongside the clubs some of our teaching staff will be inviting Year 6 students in small groups to attend after school sessions to help support their learning in different areas of the curriculum.

Focus Language

This half-term our focus language is Dari (the official language of Afghanistan) as we have a few Dari speakers in school. The children will be learning how to answer the register in Dari and a few other phrases, greetings in Dari. The children will also be learning a little about the culture in Afghanistan. The display in the hall has a lot of information about this fascinating language and culture too. Thank you to Musawer, Abubaker and Zahra who helped me with this!

Mrs Curtis

