



# St. John's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 15 Friday January 13th 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 15th January 2023 - The Lamb of God (John 1:29-34)



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said, "A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.'" John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.'" Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

## Stars of the week

**Reception:** Mariana for writing a poem about how colours make her feel, **INDEPENDENTLY!** Well done!

**Year one:** Joseph for understanding, recognising and demonstrating the importance of following instructions carefully in computing this week.

**Year two:** Amber for her fantastic effort in all her learning this week.

**Year three:** Harry for consistently working hard, always challenging himself and for being a fantastic role model to the rest of the class.

**Year four:** Anayah for always having a smile on her face and is a kind, caring member of the class offering to help others when they need it.

**Year five :** Noah for being a fantastic, positive and encouraging learning partner.

**Year six:** Musawer, Michaela & Radley for showing the right level of enthusiasm and making sensible choices while trying out electronic games in DT.



## Reading Awards

### Bronze reading awards - 50 reads

Year reception - Ameerah, Holly, Megan, Connie, Daniel & Wilfred  
Year one - Blu, Henry & Alice  
Year two - Charlotte  
Year three - Anna  
Year four - Aiden  
Year five - Dominic

### Silver reading awards - 100 reads

Year two - Mateusz, Ross, Santi, Eden & Thomas  
Year three - Cuba & Samuel  
Year four - Teddie, Emily, Christopher & Abbeygayle  
Year five - Rainer, Toby & Evie  
Year six - Maja, Lea, Francesca, Maison & Tobias

## Proud Work

Some amazing reasons to be proud this week! Magical art work, exploring computing, grammatical greatness, writing with phenomenal description and accuracy, map skills that were majestic, Maths that showed a great depth and confidence in their learning.

**We are so proud of you!**





### Sad news

I am very sad to tell you that after 15 years at St John's as parent, dinner lady, LA and finally as the Office Manager, Mrs Tyrell is leaving us!

She has been invited to take up a new role and after such a long time at St John's she feels now is the right time for her to take on a new and exciting challenge.

I know, like me, you will be sad to hear this news as she is such a key part of the school and so very good at helping all those who need her. We will make sure we say a proper goodbye to her just before the February half term.

We will be advertising the role of admissions officer and office manager soon.

### Cake Sale

On Thursday 26th January at 3.15pm the Friends will be holding a cake sale in the school hall. More details will come out closer to the



### Subject Leadership

Last week I wrote in the newsletter to let you know about the subject leaders. Shockingly I forgot to include RE in that list. The subject leader for it is Mrs Clough.

When I reflected on why I had missed that area out I realised it was because RE is not just a subject to be studied, for us it is such a deeply established way of life within the school. Religious Education goes through every aspect of our school, from our collective worship to our behavior management, from music to our values and our work with the community. RE and a love of God is the foundation that our school is built on. It encompasses for us not just our brains but our heart as well.

### Dates for the Diary 2023

Thursday 26th January— Cake sale 3.15pm

Monday 13th to Friday 17th February - Half Term  
Monday 20th February - Inset Day

Tuesday 28th February - Year two trip to Leeds Castle

Thursday 2nd March - Dress up for World Book Day

Monday 13th March to Friday 17th March - Book Fair

Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April - Easter break

Monday 8th May to Friday 2nd May - Year Six SAT's

Wednesday 17th May to Friday 19th May - Year six residential

21st & 23rd March - Parents Evening

Friday 26th May - Inset Day

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June - Half Term

Friday 21st July - last day of Summer Term

### Break time changes

We trialed a new break time to try and fit in 2 lessons in the morning before break. This meant the children had uninterrupted learning time and could cover what was needed even if there was an assembly. However after the trial and after consulting the children and teachers we have decided to make break earlier for KS2. We have changed it to 10.15-10.30.



### SVP

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) is part of an international Christian voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms by providing practical assistance to people in need. Founded in Britain in 1844, they foster diverse and inclusive connections, as a Society that is welcoming of people of all faiths and none. They joyfully extend their hand in the care and personal service of individuals and families who need support. There are over 10,000 members, motivated by faith, visit vulnerable or isolated people across England and Wales and offer them friendship and practical support. The essence of the work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is their greatest gift.

The SVP at St John's Church has grown in number over recent times, I myself have joined them inspired by the work they do. They have always been a great support to our school and last year alone donate over £1000 to support our vulnerable families. The SVP recognise that today families are under every increasing financial pressures and there or may struggle to keep up with the cost of living. Please know that they are there to support and help. If you ever need help please let me know and we, as a school alongside the SVP will do all we can to help you through. You can contact the SVP in confidence: <https://www.stjohnshorsham.com/stvincentdepaul> or find further information through the St John the Evangelist church website.

## Assessment at St John's

As part of our continued development as a school we have evolved the way that we assess our children in Years 1-6. So I thought it would be helpful to explain some of the assessment routines to you.

We assess children's understanding throughout each lesson and through their work both oral and written. This means staff can adapt the learning for the children as we go along and responded quickly to their needs.

We have an assessment week at the end of each term to take a snap shot of what the children can do independently in: Maths, Reading, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar,(SPaG) . In RE we look at the overall learning and understanding shown during the topic, we look at their ability to make links, relate the learning to their own lives and the spiritual content of their responses. In writing we build up the learning over time and then put it together independently at the end for a final product. From that final piece teachers assess elements of the writing curriculum. In Maths we use assessments from the scheme we follow; White Rose, this means children are assessed on what they have learnt that term. We assess time-tables weekly during a quiz. In Reading alongside the carefully matched reading books, we are introducing a broader reading assessment that assesses not only decoding of the words and comprehension but also other key skills for example, prediction and inference. We also asses phonics as children learn new sounds. In SPaG we use an assessment based on what children in that year group should know, we look at how and when they use it and an their understanding of key grammatical concepts.

We have introduced new ways to assess foundation subjects and Science at the end of each topic. A simple way to let children and staff reflect on the knowledge and skills they have developed during that topic..

These assessments give us a broader understanding of where the child are in their learning and how we can support them and move them onto their next steps.

Using accurate data means that we can identify who is achieving well and continue to challenge them, who is working at an expected level and who may need some more directed help in their learning. It also means that we can share this information with you at parents evenings and suggest targeted ways that you can support at home. We are looking to purchase a number of tools to help the children that need a bit more support to make progress and close any remaining gaps .

This term we have asked Mrs Lee and Mrs Curtis to support children throughout the school that would benefit from small group work and targeted interventions. The class teacher will always ensure you know if your child is having an intervention and how you can further support them at home. Often these are short blocks of support to give a rapid boost and close identified gaps. Each class also has an LA that supports individual needs within the lessons and may run interventions such as handwriting, phonics/ spelling or number work.

We use a system called Target Tracker to record and monitor how children are progressing. The information that we put into the system helps us to identify any trends and how key groups within our school are progressing in their learning. This information helps the leadership of the school ensure we are providing the best levels of education to each child and ensures they get the support they need to reach their full potential.

We then present that information to the governing body, this allows them to fulfill their role of ensuring that St John's is delivering a high level of quality education and learning.

As a result of our assessment development we are moving the parents evening to be after an assessment week. This means teachers can give you clear, detailed information about how your child is progressing in the curricular and how you can support them in reaching their next steps. The next dates for parents evening will therefore be on the 21st and the 23rd March.