



Weekly Bulletin Friday 18th January 2018

Dear Families

It's been another wonderful week of celebratory and inspirational learning here at Totnes St John's. Years 2 and 3 had their first exciting author visit, who challenged them to think hard about what qualities they might need in their learning journey this term and inspired them with their own story.

This week the children also prepared for their grand exhibition opening at KEVICC Ariel Centre to show you- their parents and community- the incredible deep learning journey they went on last term. On Monday 28th January the children will have set times to travel with their class to the Ariel Centre at KEVICC and meet with their families to see their work displayed in a real art gallery! There they will talk to you with great knowledge about their works, the process that went into them and the thinking behind them. All the children sincerely hope their exhibition will have a great impact on attitudes to the issue of plastic pollution in our waters. Your child's class teacher will let you know the time when you can meet your child at the Ariel Centre.

There will also be an opportunity to visit the centre at 4:00 – 5:00 on the same day if you are unable to visit during the school day itself. We can't wait to see you there!

Other important school news is that things are moving ahead with school improvement work. During February half-term work will start on improving the school hall: there will be a new roof and frontage, with the hall extended by approximately 1.5 metres with additional storage space and new interior. This will be a massive contribution to the school and should be completed approximately 15 weeks later. The high quality drama, performances and Worships that we have come to expect from St John's will all benefit from this brand new fit-for purpose space - a professional space for the children to enjoy.

This means that for a period of 15 weeks the front entrance to the school will be closed off temporarily. The main school office will temporarily relocate to the back of the school by the Reception Class (EYFS). There will be a temporary new entrance into the Family Support Office and there you will be welcomed as usual by Mrs Clarke or Mrs Sercombe. There will be the opportunity to sit and wait for appointments in the EYFS kitchen area which will be reconfigured for this.

Whilst we recognise that this is a disturbance for children, families and staff alike, we firmly believe that this short-term inconvenience to the school will benefit it immeasurably in the long term. All schools require continuous improvement to ensure that facilities are of the highest quality. This hall improvement represents the best opportunity for St John's to move forward swiftly with some really positive improvements that will benefit the whole school.

Access for children to Years 4,5 and 6 will still be possible via the side gate into the quiet playground, although to enter the school building parents should still go to sign in at the main school office for safeguarding reasons.

The plans and artists impressions of the building works across the school will be available for you to view at your convenience in our main reception. Please do take the time to look at the plans and drawings of the finished work - it will be stunning! Our children deserve a school that is

21st century, and with which our aspirational strategic vision for the school- to rapidly become a beacon in education for our area – can be realised.

The building work is project managed by Devon, having been authorised and planned prior to the ACE Trust's involvement with Totnes St John's. As and when more details become clear to me from the project managers at Devon, I will of course let you know.

Each week from now on we will be reporting 'Attendance' to you.

Regular attendance, on time, is absolutely critical for children to make progress. Each week we will now publish in the newsletter the attendance for each class and the class with highest attendance will receive a certificate. At the end of this term the class with the highest attendance will win a cash prize that they can spend on a class celebration. Well done to Year 3B and Year 6 for being this week's Champion Children! There will also be a Best Improved Attendance certificate! Exciting times!

Percentage Attendance This Week

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3B	Y3H	Y4	Y5	Y6
90.83	95	98.46	100	94.12	98.4	96.11	100

On another note, can we please remind you not to turn or park cars in the main entrance to the school. These areas are often very busy with children and families and it is not safe to do so.

Road safety is an important part of our modern daily lives. As a school we are exploring ways of raising road safety awareness for our pupils. However, we also ask families to also ensure that their children are aware of potential traffic dangers and have this clearly modelled to them at all times.

Finally, the wearing of jewellery and fashion additions such as bracelets, necklaces and nail varnish is not appropriate for young children in school. Their days are very active and there is a possibility that an item may become damaged or lost. We would ask you to please ensure your child keeps their precious jewellery items for use at home and the weekends when they can enjoy wearing them.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

Diary Dates – Spring Term2019

28th January 2019	Whole School – Aerial Centre Art Exhibition Opening
4th – 8th February 2019	Year 6 Bikeability
18th – 22nd February 2019	Half Term Holiday
25th – 28th February 2019	Year 6 Residential
28th February – 1st March 2019	Year 4 Residential
5th April 2019	Last Day of Term