



“Spurring each other on with the Courage to make a positive change for ourselves and others”

Weekly Bulletin Friday 14th June 2019

Dear Families

It's been a busy week of learning for the children, packed full of Science opportunities despite the challenging weather!

New Appointments!

We are excited to be able to announce that we have appointed an excellent and experienced Year 3/4 teacher to start in September! Mr Ansermoz will work with Mrs Baumback in a tight team to deliver the very best, highest quality education. Mr Ansermoz comes to us from Redhills, another school within the Trust, with a passion for curriculum and great expertise in supporting children with additional needs.

We have also had Mrs Povey, HLTA, join us this week from one of the Trust's Outstanding schools, Shaldon. Already she has made a huge impact across St John's, becoming a trusted adult and skilled educator. Mrs Povey will continue to be a major part of the team next year.

Transition and New Opportunities!

Mrs Guest will be leaving us on Friday 21st June to transition to her exciting new school appointment. Ideally we would have liked to have had Mrs Guest stay until the end of the term, but unfortunately her contract begins the week of 24th June.

We didn't want to bring in a supply teacher unknown to the children and felt that the best option was for the class to be primarily led by the teacher who will be taking them next year.

They will therefore be taught for the remaining 4 weeks by a combination of Mr Hodgson, Mrs Baumback and their additional familiar staff. This will be a great opportunity for next year's Year 2 class teacher and school leader Mr Hodgson to really get to know the Year 1 children and do a fantastic and meaningful transition prior to starting next year.

Mrs Baumback will continue to work with Mr Hodgson and support staff with the Year 3 cohort, in particular on the Science project. The two Year 3 classes have been working very closely on this for the whole of this term; now in this second half of term they need at times to pool their expertise and knowledge to bring their learning journey together.

We will be holding a whole school Transition Day on July 15th when all the children will get to meet their new teachers for next year! More details to follow!

Tea & Coffee Morning

This week we had the first of our Wednesday Tea & Coffee Morning sessions from 9:00 – 10:00am. It was well attended and offered everyone the chance to chat and find out about the changes happening at the school. We will also email out details of next week's event, we are hoping the builders will be able to break out the extra hard hats so we can take a group to look at the new build progress next week! We hope to gather at The Yurt from between 9-9:15am to join

the expedition party! If this is not possible for whatever reason, we will look at the Garden and Forest School areas instead! (Please access The Yurt via the Key Stage 2 gate which will close promptly at 9.15am.)

Design and Skills!

Things are moving on fast with the Garden area development! On Tuesday 18th June next week after school we are holding an informal soft drinks refreshment party in the Garden area for parents with practical skills that they may be able to share. We have a number of projects in the garden that need some thinking about. If you are free, are practical and would like to see the projects underway and the amazing transformation already achieved in the garden and forest, please do join us at 3:30pm on Tuesday - we'll meet in the garden behind the school!

Nature Trail

This half term holiday Steve and his team have been replacing the wooden walkway which has rotted through after years of service. This is a substantial investment designed to further develop and open up the nature trail for all our children. Academy Trusts are actually not-for-profit charitable educational organisations. This means that everything we do is targeted for the children. For years the school has had to maintain this expensive boardwalk through volunteers, however now the Trust is enabling this very expensive renovation to happen, which will have huge benefit for the children and their opportunities at the school.

Bottle Rockets!

This Monday, Year 4 had fantastic success at a Bottle Rocket Competition at KEVICC, sponsored by the Totnes Rotary Club. Three schools- St John's, Dartington and The Grove- took part. Eight children, split into two teams, represented St John's and were tasked with designing, testing and developing rockets made from recycled plastic bottles. Each team was also asked to present their scientific research and design process to a panel of judges. In all, Year 4 proudly returned with **4 of the 7 trophies**, including **Over All Winners** of the competition! Thank you to all of those who took part and congratulations to the winning teams!

School Uniform

Please be aware that we are looking at school uniform for next year. We will be phasing out red tights for September, meaning that grey tights will be the preferred option, so please do not purchase any more. Similarly from September we would like all children to start wearing school sweatshirts and cardigans with the school logo on. Again we would kindly request that when you next purchase a sweatshirt or cardigan you purchase the school logo-ed version. Thank you

Friends of St John's

There are many children at our school whose parents and grandparents came to the school. We would like to celebrate our amazing community and the support from our families in a special request for any photographs you would like to share of yourselves at St John's over the years and any photographs of the school itself. We will copy the photographs and make a special display to show in the school and at the Community Summer Fayre. We are also inviting parents in to talk with the children about their memories of St John's. It will be fascinating for the children to learn about their school with the current exciting changes to the building, and we very much want our long standing families to enjoy these exciting times too. If you would like to share any images of yourself at school we would welcome it hugely.

Forest School Clothes

A reminder please to have wellies and Forest School clothes that can get wet and muddy, in school at all times. Thank you

Attendance

Lastly, regular attendance, on time, is absolutely critical for children to make progress. Each week we 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 over all attendance will win a cash prize that they can spend on a class celebration - last term it was Year 6 who used the money to go on a special swimming trip! Well done to Year 3H for being this week's Champion Children!

Percentage Attendance This Week

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3B	Y3H	Y4	Y5	Y6
95.83	95.93	96.67	98	98.82	92.5	95.88	95

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2019

18th June 2019	Design and Skills Meeting 3.30pm Garden Area
19th June 2019	Tea and Coffee Morning 9.00 – 10.00am The Yurt
9th July 2019	School Sports Day KS1 9.30 – 11.00am KS2 1.30 – 3.00pm
10th – 12th July 2019	Year 5 Residential
15th July 2019	Whole School Transition Day
16th July 2019	Moving Forward Day/ Open Afternoon 1.30pm Parents Information Meeting 2.15pm Open Classrooms 3.15pm Parents Information Meeting
18th July 2019	School Summer Fayre 1.30- 4.00pm
25th July 2019	Year 6 Leavers' Service, St John's Church 1.45pm Last Day of Term