

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

## **Weekly Bulletin Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Dear Families

Wow- this half of term has gone super fast! The children have made huge strides in their learning across many curriculum areas, and plenty more exciting learning opportunities await the other side of half term too!

### Nature Trail

This half term holiday Steve and his team will be 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. It will also play an important role in our exciting Community Summer Fayre- watch this space for more details!

### Award for Totnes St John's EYFS Class



Our excellent student in EYFS - Ebony Lee- is working at St John's on placement. She chose to nominate our EYFS staff for a special award from her University. She wrote, "They offer me the most support and guidance...the whole school have offered me an amazing opportunity to show my full potential and they have trusted and welcomed me into such an outstanding environment, this is everyone at St. Johns from the Head Teacher to my class mentors." It is lovely to hear people's experiences are so positive when they come into the school and experience the great teaching and learning that happens within our classrooms, day in, day out. Thank you Ebony!

Mrs Mathys, Ebony and Mrs White with their award and certificates.

### Totnes Mayoral Choosing

This end of half term also saw two very proud Year 5 representatives- Teddy and Daisy- take a lead role in the 700 year old tradition of the 'Totnes Mayoral Choosing' at the Guildhall. In front of the Mayor, dignitaries and many honourable guests, Daisy and Teddy read out a poem their whole class had written. It describes a day in the life of the town, packed full of colourful, highly emotive imagery and description. They both read clearly and with great expression, and we were all extremely proud. Both children had some excellent questions for the Mayor afterwards regarding issues ranging from Mayoral chains to the cakes on offer at the buffet!



## The Building Work

This week both Year 5 and 6 led a very special 'Blessing Service' for the new build. The children read specially written prayers about their school values and aspirations for the future, and Rector Julian blessed the building for future generations. Then the children all got to go inside, tape their prayers to the steelwork and write their names, which will be there for as long as the building stands! We are assured this will be for a long time!

The new build is looking fabulous already- if you haven't already done so, do take a look as you walk past. The structure will be very impressive and offer great opportunities for the school. So far the builders have completed -

- Building envelope including roofing, blockwork walls, windows, doors, render and cladding
- Underfloor heating, insulation and screeding
- Internal partitions
- Demolition of existing sports hall, groundworks, steel frame installation and commencement of blockwork.



Over the coming weeks you can expect to see the activity on site increase as the builders enter the 'fit-out' period of the project! This will include -

- Installation of electrical systems – lighting, power, fire alarm, IT.
- Installation of mechanical systems – heating, domestic waters, ventilation.
- Completion of internal partitions and plastering.
- Installation of suspended ceilings
- Decorations and flooring.
- External works including tarmac and landscaping.

The build remains on track for our children's return in Autumn Term 2019 to a shiny new, fully equipped state-of-the-art new building and hall!

Thank you all again for your patience and understanding with the ongoing works and the builders would welcome any feedback as to how things can be improved. They will continue to keep us all informed on a regular basis and ensure they minimise any disruption. The builders - Morgan Sindall- would also like to thank all our children who sent in brilliant construction safety posters for the poster competition. They look forward to welcoming more of our children to site soon to help with some great projects including a very exciting 'Time Capsule' project...

## Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June: St John's Time Capsule!

Every class in the school will write a prayer for the future and place something small into a sealed steel Time Capsule to be buried by the new build. It will be a really exciting moment for the children to contemplate their part within the St John's journey. We will be celebrating this moment with a short service in the school grounds. If you would like to join us at 2:35 on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June for this short event please do let your child's Class teacher know!

## 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.

### 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 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 2 for being this week's Champion Children!

### **Percentage Attendance This Week**

<b>YR</b>	<b>Y1</b>	<b>Y2</b>	<b>Y3B</b>	<b>Y3H</b>	<b>Y4</b>	<b>Y5</b>	<b>Y6</b>
91.67	92.59	100	98	88.82	99.58	86.11	99.23

First day back in school after the holiday will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. We wish you a very happy holiday and look forward to welcoming children and families back for an exciting and joyous second half of the Summer term!

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

### **Diary Dates – Summer Term 2019**

<b>27<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 inclusive</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>	<b>Time Capsule Service, School Grounds 2.35pm</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	<b>Year 5 Residential</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	<b>School Summer Fayre 1.30- 4.00pm</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>	<b>Year 6 Leavers' Service, St John's Church 1.45pm Last Day of Term</b>