



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

Weekly Bulletin Friday 17th May 2019

Dear Families

Staffing Changes

At this time of year we look ahead to next year- in particular the class and staffing structure. We were thrilled to announce in our previous newsletter that both Mrs Patterson-Azzopardi and Ms Broach are expecting babies! Another teacher leaving us this July is Ms Merrett. A much loved member of our staff, Ms Merrett is looking at exciting opportunities elsewhere. Mrs Guest will be moving onto an exciting new teaching role outside the Trust and Miss Sparkes will also sadly be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We wish them all the very best at the end of this term, they are dedicated teachers who always put our children first.

Staff in schools constantly change and evolve as new opportunities appear. At the end of the year we will thank all our members of staff that are moving on or leaving us temporarily for other kinds of challenges! We are incredibly grateful for their service and although we are sad to see some well known staff leave the school I am confident that our new appointments will allow us to continue with our school improvement priorities.

I will continue as Head Teacher of Totnes St John's working in partnership with Executive Head Teacher Katy Burns. I continue to be totally committed to doing my very best for all our pupils and bring an enriched and exciting curriculum to the school. Standards and outcomes should show a marked improvement this year and my expectation is that we will continue to go from strength to strength. The building work will complete at the end of this term, and St John's will have a grand opening of its amazing new facilities in September!

Class Structure

I understand that the end of year has potential for anxiety amongst families so I am pleased to share below our proposed teaching structure for next year. By the end of this term we will also be able to tell you about the deployment of support and administrative staff.

Combined Year R and Year 1: Mrs Wright and Mrs Mathys

Our fabulous Reception teachers will bring their current children to Year 1 and create a mixed Year R/ Year 1 class. This has been shown to have great success as a model nationally, with the current children benefitting greatly from the teacher continuity and the new intake of Year R children enjoying a supportive, nurturing class with excellent role models.

Year 2: Mr Hodgson

Mr Hodgson is a highly experienced leader and teacher within the school. He will be able to deliver a fantastic, rich curriculum that enables every single child to flourish.

Combined Year 3 & 4: Mrs Baumbach

There will be two Year 3 & 4 classes. Mrs Baumbach's current class will be moving up to Year 4 with her to be joined by some of our new Year 3s. She is an excellent teacher with a passion for nurturing, outdoor education.

Combined Year 3 & 4: New appointment

We are currently advertising a position for the second Year 3 & 4 class teacher. We are looking for a very special teacher who can teach to the same high level that Mr Hodgson has provided all year with his class when they move up to Year 4. These children will be joined by the rest of our new Year 3s.

Year 5: Ms Broach will teach in Year 5 with Miss Dyer until she leaves on maternity

Miss Dyer is a very experienced Year 5/ 6 teacher with an English specialism. As a Trust we were very keen to bring her expertise and teaching skills to St John's and look forward to welcoming her on the team immensely.

Year 6: Mrs While

One of the many benefits of being in a Trust is that our school can bring in exceptional teachers. Mrs While joins us from Galmpton. She is a highly experienced Year 6 teacher with a passion for character education and supporting children for the very best outcomes.

If you have any questions about the teaching structure for next year, please do come and talk with me! I am always available for meeting, and if an immediate meeting is not possible you can make an appointment at the main school office.

We will be in touch soon as regards transition opportunities, and the chance to meet and discuss next year with your class teachers.

Wider school

This week the children have continued their outdoor learning!

Science

All year groups have been exploring growing conditions, the properties of light, sorting and classifying seeds and life cycles in their Science learning journey. Year 1 and EYFS are creating a special Sensory Garden in the Key Stage 1 mini-forest area by the treehouse. They will be planting and developing the area carefully over the coming weeks. To help preserve the area as they do this, can we ask that at the end of day children do not play in the small forest area. The Sensory Garden will take shape over the coming weeks and the plants need time to bed in and grow.

Year 6

This week the Year 6 children have been hard at work on their SATs as well as having lots of fun in the afternoons, exploring team building and playing sports. The Year 6 children have been amazing, showing great tenacity and positivity as they engaged with the SATs. In particular, the Year 6 school breakfasts have been a real joy, full of laughter and support, and I am sure that the children have really benefitted from this experience.

Slapped Cheek Virus

Please note that we have a confirmed case of Slapped Cheek (Parvovirus) in school. Please follow the link to the NHS website for further information. There is no need to keep your child off school if he or she develops the signs and symptoms as it is contagious before rash appears –

however if you or anyone you know is pregnant and may have come into contact with someone with Slapped Cheek you are advised to please contact your midwife or GP for advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome/>

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 6 for being this week's Champion Children!

Percentage Attendance This Week

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3B	Y3H	Y4	Y5	Y6
97.5	88.52	87.5	82	86.47	92.5	86.67	100

As always, we thank you for your continued support

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2019

27th May – 5th June 2019 inclusive	Half Term Holiday
10th – 12th July 2019	Year 5 Residential
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