

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

Weekly Bulletin Friday 12th July 2019

Dear Families

It has been a wonderful week for everyone at St John's, with the children enjoying some of the successes of everyone's hard work and dedication!



On Monday we celebrated Sports Day; it was a tremendous success for both Key Stage 1 and 2 children and families. Under beautiful sunshine the children competed across a whole range of track and field events. They showed what wonderful sports stars they really are, always supporting each other, always competing with the best and most inclusive sporting spirit. I'd like to express our great thanks to all families who could make it that day to support- I think everyone

would agree it was a delightful atmosphere. Well done and huge thanks also to Tom Hodgson and the team for pulling the Sports Day together so professionally- it was well organised and fun and we can all appreciate the huge amount of effort and detailed planning that went into it.

Our Children's Entitlement to a High Quality Education

This week the school also received early notification of our end of year outcomes for Year 6. These outcomes will be officially validated in the new academic year. However, we are thrilled to announce that the outcomes this year are the best that Totnes St John's has EVER achieved. When they are officially validated and published we are confident they will be the equal of any school in our area, including our local Outstanding school.



It is quite an achievement and one that is being replicated right across St John's in all year groups. More details will be released over the coming weeks, and the forthcoming school reports for the children will reflect the great progress that is happening across the school. By focusing on high quality teaching, staff training, having very high expectations of our staff, and by making much needed changes across the school, we have ensured that this year's Year 6 children will leave St John's in a very good place to start their learning at secondary school.

In fact, children in all other year groups have made what is called 'accelerated progress' - this means that this year we have already closed many of those gaps in learning caused by inadequate teaching over the years.

Our outcomes this year reflect the determination and dedication of our staff to do the very best for the children and these outcomes show an extremely positive and increasingly healthy quality of teaching at the school that we can continue to build on.

We continue to ensure that the highest quality education is achieved for all children right across the school; great sustained outcomes cannot be achieved by just focusing on a few key year groups. Our offer is to all our children – to take what are often very difficult and challenging decisions courageously to enable the children at our school to achieve their very best. And what is so special about Totnes St Johns is that the Year 6 outcomes have been achieved at the same time as ensuring that the children also receive an extremely rich character education.

It is not results for the sake of results that are important to us. It is what the results at the end of a year tell us- that, after years of failing children right across the school with such poor outcomes that the school merited the Special Measures category, we are turning things around and giving our children the education that they deserve.

Sensory Garden



Work continues apace with Year R and Year 1 on their sensory garden. We would like to thank Gardentime, Dartmouth, for kindly donating some lovely plants for our Sensory Garden. Please come along to our Summer Faye this Thursday to see, touch and smell them!

Transition Day!

On Monday all the children across the school will meet their new teachers! Drop off and pick up will be at the usual times. You will have the opportunity for an informal chat with your child's new teacher at the end of the day should you wish to say hello.

Open Classroom Afternoon!

On Tuesday we will be holding an open afternoon for parents and families at Totnes St John's. This will be a wonderful opportunity to talk with your child's class teacher and see some of their learning from the year. All classrooms will open across the school from 2:15. Once you have viewed your child's work and talked about their learning, you will be free to take your child home or remain in school until home time.

On this afternoon, Jim Funnell and Katy Burns will also be holding 2 information sessions to discuss the progress of the school and look ahead to next year. These sessions will be held in the Year 6 classroom. The first session will start at 1:30 and the second will be held at 3:15. We look forward to seeing you there!

Community Summer Fayre Arrangements!



This term's learning journey has been exploring the question 'How can our garden benefit our community?' Hopefully, the weather will hold and you will be able to find out!

It's an ambitious Summer Fayre, and the school has been really focused on transforming and improving our outdoor provision. This is just the first step, and from September this will be really embedded across the school, day in, day out, with produce being harvested by the children and served in their kitchens.

To make this day work well for everyone, we are putting some simple but effective safeguarding arrangements in place:

Over the next couple of days you need to let your class teacher know what time you intend on picking up your child on the day of the Summer Fayre. Every child will be expected to help out on their stall or activity as part of their learning journey at some point in the afternoon so this knowledge will give the class teachers an idea of how to create rotas for the children.

At 1:30 on Thursday 18th July all children will gather in the classrooms along the decking.

EYFS/Yr 2 /Year 5 will all wait for pick up from EYFS classroom

Year 1: pick up from Year 1 classroom

Year 3 – pick up from Year 3H classroom

Year 4 – pick up from Year 2 classroom

From 1:30 you will be able to pick up your child and visit the fayre: as you pick up your child, they will be given a green wristband to signify they are now under parental responsibility. Your child will have an agreed time at which they are expected to temporarily join the rota for a stall or an activity which they must adhere to. **Do not worry, as these times will have been communicated clearly in advance to you by your class teacher.**

Children who are being picked up later or who are on duty on a stall or activity will be given a red wristband which will be changed to green when they are picked up by their parent or carer, either from the decking classroom or from the fayre itself, depending on your arrangement with the class teacher.

This system will help ensure safeguarding for all in what we hope will be a thrilling, ambitious and rewarding summer fayre!

The children are thrilled to be running the fayre- this has been part of their learning- taking responsibility for the event and creating a garden to benefit all. Please do ensure that in the first instance you discuss pick up times with your class teacher.

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 5 for being this week's Champion Children!



Percentage Attendance This Week

YR	Y1	Y2	Y3B	Y3H	Y4	Y5	Y6
98.33	98.08	95.83	98	94.71	98.33	100	96.15

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2019

15th July 2019	Whole School Transition Day
16th July 2019	Open Afternoon 1.30pm Parents Information Meeting 2.15pm Open Classrooms 3.15pm Parents Information Meeting
17th July 2019	Year 6 Production 6.00pm School Field
18th July 2019	School Summer Fayre 1.30- 4.00pm (includes performance of Year 6 Production at 3.00pm)
**RESERVE DATE ONLY 19th July 2019	**RESERVE DATE ONLY incase of bad weather on 17th July - Year 6 Production 6.00pm St John's Church
25th July 2019	Year 6 Leavers' Service 1.45pm St John's Church Last Day of Term