

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

Weekly Bulletin 3rd May 2019

Dear Families

The children have had an exciting week of learning - much of it using our amazing outdoor spaces for range of activities from Wellbeing and Mindfulness, to Sports and Forest School! Our Forest School and Outdoor Education Lead, Mrs Rickard, has been busy all year developing the use of the outdoor environment...

Forest School Outdoor Learning



Mrs Rickard has been delivering Forest School lessons each term to all the year groups. So far EYFS, Yr1, Yr2, Yr3 and Yr4 have had a block of term-long Forest school lessons. The rationale behind Forest School is a curriculum of structured lessons each week giving children the opportunity for guided discovery and the freedom to explore, so please ensure your child has suitable outdoor clothing and additional footwear in school for this. Each year group have covered an array of different experiences and learning opportunities ranging from –

- Forest school orienteering
- Den Building
- Guided discovery and mindfulness in the Forest School environment
- Exploring their senses
- Creating Forest School art and structures using natural resources
- Learning about local artist Rob Long to create mud paintings
- Fire lighting (Yr4)
- Collecting natural resources for leaf ID and tree ID

Health and Wellbeing Lessons

There has already been a focus this term on Health and Wellbeing lessons. This will look at teaching the children the constituent parts of a healthy lifestyle, benefits of rest, sleep, healthy eating, hydration, physical activity, the outdoors, mindfulness, meditation, dental health, how the body works and cooking. Also, look out for parent hand-outs! Much of this Health and Wellbeing curriculum will be delivered outdoors, weather dependent. ACE Academy also funded Mrs Rickard to do the 8 week Mindfulness course at Sharpham and she has been introducing mindfulness techniques to the children last term and this including guided meditations (many held outdoors, weather dependent) called 'Peace Out'.



Summer Sport Competitions

This term children will be participating in:

- Year 3 and 4 Athletics
- Year 5 and 6 Athletics
- Year 3 – 6 Cross-Country
- KS1 Summer Sports Festival
- We will also be holding in-house Rounders competitions and a Multi-Skills Festival in school!

PE Curriculum this term

The Summer term is a great term for the children to enjoy Rounders and Athletics. This term children will learn the rules of the Rounders game, how to play and the skills involved like batting and fielding. For Athletics they get the opportunity to explore and learn about the techniques involved in Running events - sprinting, long distance and relays, Jumping events - long jump and triple jump and Throwing events - javelin, shot put and hammer.

Swimming

Every year Yr1, Yr3 and Yr5 enjoy a vital part of their PE curriculum - swimming lessons.

Swimming is an important skill, and although these lessons can't teach swimming as a stand alone (it needs LOTS of practice), with additional home support these sessions form an important part of a child's journey to being safe and comfortable in the water. We follow the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) criteria and levels. Children are put into ability groups that they are comfortable in and teachers are also in the pool with some children. The swimming curriculum follows a set structure in accordance with the ASA and looks at the fundamental skills for swimming including water safety, survival skills and lifesaving.

After School Activity Clubs

This year we have had a range of After School Clubs. The options change each term to ensure there is wide offer for the children across the year. This half of term the options are:

Monday – Dance

Thursday – Summer Sports

Friday - Football

We recognise the value of exciting, enriching and challenging clubs to a school community, and we have plans to rapidly expand our School Clubs, we are finding the right clubs for the school and will ensure that they are available as soon as possible.

How Can Our Garden Benefit Our Community?

For this term's Science learning journey, we have been able to draw on the expertise of ACE Academy Trust's Lead for Food & Nutrition Sam Ward. Sam works with the Trust to develop children's understanding of their health and wellbeing - something that nationally has been highlighted as a real issue for our young people. Sam is a real asset for the school, she is a BBC Food & Farming Finalist (Food For Life GOLD award), an Educating Excellence Winner (Primary School Caterer of the Year) as well as a 'Taste of The West & Devon Life Winner' - Best local food in schools. As well as overseeing and planning the delivery of our exciting Food and Nutrition curriculum that is going to be developed hugely this term, she has been supporting teachers and staff plan for a truly exciting term of discovery all about understanding our nutritional needs, lifecycles and how to create amazing products from everyday plants and gardens. The aim of this learning journey is for children to be engaged in Science, learning about lifecycles and the natural world. Children will explore conditions for growth, bacteria and other elements of the Primary Science curriculum, all set within a practical garden of their own in school.

Country Dancing

Don't forget Year 2 are practising hard for their dancing debut at The Elizabethan Market Celebrations on 7th May. The event starts at 10.30am and they will be performing a choreographed Country Dance to celebrate Spring at the Civic Hall Square probably nearer 11.00am. Please do turn up to watch as already their co-ordinated moves are looking very impressive!

Legacy

With the building works progressing at great pace we want to give all our children the chance to leave a legacy commemorating this moment of transformation across St John's. This is particularly important for our Year 5s and 6s, and we want them to enjoy many opportunities to leave a visible and exciting legacy of their time and experiences here at their school. This term they will be contributing to a Time Capsule with pieces of work, prayers for the future and various specially created mementos. They will also get the opportunity to write their names permanently on the steelwork of the new build.

Exciting News!

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Patterson-Azzopardi and Ms Broach, our amazing Year 6 and Year 4 teachers, are both going to be having a baby! I am sure everyone will want to congratulate them on this exciting news. We appreciate there will also be anxiety about next year and class structures, so at half term we will update all our families on the staffing and class structure for 2019-2020 in the newsletter. We believe in supporting all our children with the very best teaching, so we have got plans to bring in a couple of truly amazing teachers to take over during maternity leave.

Appointment

We are thrilled to announce that we have just appointed an additional Higher Level Teaching Assistant who will be joining us after half term. Charmaine Povey is coming to us from Shaldon Primary School – an Outstanding school within the Trust and a beacon school for educational standards and enriched curriculums.

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
94.92	97.78	97.5	96	98.82	98.75	100	96.54

As always, we thank you for your continued support

Mr Funnell & The Staff of St John's

Diary Dates – Summer Term 2019

6th May 2019	May Day Bank Holiday
7th May 2019	Year 2 Country Dancing at Civic Square 10.30am
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	Last Day of Term