



St John's Catholic Primary School and Pre-School Academy Newsletter



Friday, 23 July 2021

Melbourne Street, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 5LA Tel: 01884 253630
Email: sbm@stjohnstiverton.co.uk Website: www.stjohnstiverton.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well it has been a bumpy ride but we have got to the end of another school year!

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to a few groups of people who have stood out for their efforts this year.

In particular I must extend my thanks to every single one of you for your support. This was particularly important as we went through another period of home learning after Christmas. Your hard work, which wasn't easy, really did make a huge difference and it meant we could hit the ground running when the children came back in March. We wholeheartedly congratulate you for all you did, we don't underestimate how hard that must have been.

Not only have I been impressed, since I first started here, by the level of parental support and the hard work of our pupils, I have also been consistently blown away by the sheer talent, energy, enthusiasm and creativity of *everyone* associated with the school. We have just enjoyed the outstanding "Peter Pan" production which has been two years in the making and which was a joy to watch. A member of the community summed it up when they arrived to see the performance and told me "St John's musical productions rival any West End show and are such an enormous credit to your school"! Well, I couldn't have put it better myself. The hard work and dedication of Mrs Fitton, Mrs Hewson, Miss Garland, Mrs Kelly, Mr Woodfield and **all** the other parents and volunteers, which went on behind the scenes to bring this production to life was astonishing! I am beyond words. And this year Mrs Fitton celebrated 25 years of putting on shows as wonderful as Peter Pan! Mrs Fitton - we salute you!



In addition to the school production we have also seen the incredible and creative fund-raising efforts of a hugely active and supportive PTA, without whose help the school would be very much poorer (and not just financially!) Many schools lack this type of support and St John's is SO lucky to have such an involved and invested group of parents working tirelessly for the benefit of the school. They have raised well over £1600 during this last term - which is astounding!

Whilst I am congratulating people I must mention 3 pupils have done well in their music gradings this summer! Well done to Calvin, Lucy and Patrick for your grading results: Lucy and Calvin have both passed their Grade 5 piano exams. Calvin passed his with Merit. Patrick also achieved a Merit in his Grade 2 piano exam. Fantastic news! Well done all of you.



At this time of year we say goodbye to both children and adults. I would like to wish all children leaving St John's this year all the very best in the next stage of their education. They leave with the love of all of us here at St John's. We will miss them.

We are sad to see Mrs Fullick leave us this year. She has given wonderful service to the school - both in the classroom and at the swimming pool - and has had a tremendous impact on the lives of so many children and their families. We wish her well in her retirement and hope she will continue to pop in and see us.

Mrs Ford will also be leaving. In my short time here I have really enjoyed working alongside Mrs Ford and she has made me feel very welcome and at home at St John's. I am humbled by the love and care she has for the school community and we will all miss her calming and reassuring presence.

Finally I would like to thank all of the staff of St John's. They have worked so very hard this year to support the children and families of our school. It is a real pleasure to work with such a dedicated and hard-working team who do all they can to provide the very best educational and pastoral support for the children and their families. I wish them a very well-deserved break.

Please stay safe over the summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in September.

At the start of the Autumn Term we have 2 x Non Pupil Days on 6 and 7 September. Consequently, the **first day back for the children is Wednesday, 8 September 2021**. I look forward to seeing you all then.

God Bless.

Rob Meech
Executive Headteacher



Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on our school.

You have surrounded us with people who always look out for us and support us. You have given the St John's family many friends and supporters who bless the school every day with their kind words, actions and dedication.

Amen.



Community News

Do you have any old U certificate DVDs we could have for After School Club? Please hand them in via your class teacher. Thank you.

Tiverton High School heroes! We would just like to take a moment to thank 3 Tiverton High School boys for their honesty and community spirit last week. One of our pupils lost their mobile phone AND their bank card near the school gates on their way home and these 3 lads picked it up and handed it in to staff. What superstars!



Congratulations to Lidia Gorlo in Y6!!! All the pupils at St John's entered drawings into the Tiverton Pannier Markets "Design an Ice Cream" competition and Lidia has won the overall prize of free ice cream for her family! All of our pupils' artwork was commended. Particular mentioned for superb artwork also went to Callum Y6, Lucy Y5, Ben Y4 and Sophie Y3. Another round of applause for St John's pupils! We were the **only** school to have so many entries across all the year groups.



DCC Covid Hardship Fund the County Council have a hardship fund. To find out more and to apply visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/covid-19-fund/>

Pupil Premium (FSM) If your financial circumstances have changed as a result of the pandemic please make sure you check whether or not you are now entitled to Pupil Premium and free school meals for your child/ren. You can check eligibility via the Devon Citizens Portal at https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en

What to do if you owe money to the school and are struggling. Please make sure we are aware if your financial circumstances have changed. We want to support all of our families through these difficult times and we know that owing money can be very stressful. Please contact the school if you have built up a debt with us that you are struggling to repay – whether it be for lunches, wraparound care or any other school item which needs to be paid for. We will look at a repayment plan with you that is manageable.

Used stamps. We continue to collect these for charity (usually the R.N.I.B) please drop them in at any time as this is an ongoing collection.

Diary Dates	Attendance <small>Last Week</small>	Gospel Guardians <small>Last Week</small>	Achievers <small>Last Week</small>																												
<p>6 & 7 Sep Non Pupil Days</p> <p>8 Sep Children return to school</p> <p>24 Sep Bristol Science Trip</p> <p>16 Sep to 21 Oct Oak Class swimming lessons. A letter will be sent out next term.</p> <p>19 Nov Children in Need day</p> <p>16 Dec Last day of term. This is a CHANGE to the previously published date.</p>	BA 100%	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%;">LA</td><td style="width: 50%;">Zofia</td></tr> <tr><td>BA/Y1</td><td>Lucas</td></tr> <tr><td>Y1/Y2</td><td>Finley</td></tr> <tr><td>Y3</td><td>All of Y3</td></tr> <tr><td>Y4</td><td>Alfie</td></tr> <tr><td>Y5</td><td>Alfie & Lily</td></tr> <tr><td>Y6</td><td>All of Y6</td></tr> </table>	LA	Zofia	BA/Y1	Lucas	Y1/Y2	Finley	Y3	All of Y3	Y4	Alfie	Y5	Alfie & Lily	Y6	All of Y6	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%;">LA</td><td style="width: 50%;">Freddie & Abigail</td></tr> <tr><td>BA/Y1</td><td>Albert & Sara</td></tr> <tr><td>Y1/Y2</td><td>Isaac & Amelie</td></tr> <tr><td>Y3</td><td>All of Y3</td></tr> <tr><td>Y4</td><td>Akiro, Ben, Zachary, Darcy, Faye & Godfrey</td></tr> <tr><td>Y5</td><td>Kya, Anastasia, Victor & Ellie</td></tr> <tr><td>Y6</td><td>All of Y6</td></tr> </table>	LA	Freddie & Abigail	BA/Y1	Albert & Sara	Y1/Y2	Isaac & Amelie	Y3	All of Y3	Y4	Akiro, Ben, Zachary, Darcy, Faye & Godfrey	Y5	Kya, Anastasia, Victor & Ellie	Y6	All of Y6
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School Attendance

Please ensure that, if your child is unwell and can't attend School, you phone the School Office on 01884 253630 before 8.45am or email: sbm@stjohnstiverton.co.uk

Because of the pandemic we suspended the usual termly attendance "traffic light" letters during the last 18 months. However, with schools open again fully from Easter we are required to track pupil attendance in the normal manner once more. Certainly, you have all been truly amazing at getting back into the swing of things since the last lockdown! We will send out the traffic light letters (which indicate whether your child's attendance is red, amber or green) for this half term during the first week back and then a second one at the end of the summer term. Attendance is being tracked from 19 April 2021 as this is the fairest start point given the numerous lockdowns we have experienced in the last 18 months. If you have any questions about your letters once you receive them, then please contact the school using the details which will be supplied.

PTA News and Events

ptaofstjohnstiverton@gmail.com

Current fundraisers are shown below but more news will follow soon about next year's planning.

Raised so far this year is in excess of £1600!!!! This has been an astounding effort by everyone.

Easyfundraising raise funds for the PTA while you shop online! The school PTA is registered with Easyfundraising. Please go to the St John's Easyfundraising site (link below) and register to help support the school. Registering and using this service is completely free! You then access the websites of many online retailers' via the Easyfundraising page and all purchases you then make with the connected sites will generate a small donation to our cause! Simple! Register at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnstiverton/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

Support from local businesses - in response to our requests for raffle prizes we have had the following offer from Seddons Estate Agents – they will donate an immediate sum of £200 to the PTA coffers and will also offer **an additional** £200 for every house sale transacted through them by any of our families! We need to add that, in the immortal words of the BBC, "other estate agents are, of course available"! However, if you already plan to put your house on the market and you were already thinking of using Seddons then do please bear this offer in mind.



Gift Amnesty – If you have any items suitable for re-gifting then these would make great raffle prizes at future fund raising events! So please drop them in to the school office in a carrier bag (to assist with quarantining). Thank you.

Clothing Bank – The Clothing Bank (near the bike rack at the front of school) is a PTA initiative. Any clothes dropped into the Bank are sold and a percentage of the proceeds come to the PTA so rather than dropping clothes into the community clothing banks at Morrison's or Homebase please think about dropping them in to the St John's PTA Clothing Bank instead!







Cheese Wrapper recycling – we now have a cheese wrapper recycling box in school! Please see the posters included with this newsletter but basically, we can accept any RINSED cheese wrappers which bear the terracycle logo on them. The wrappers are recycled and all funds raised by recycling the wrappers go to the PTA.

Battery collection point – we also collect used batteries in school. These are the usual batteries we use at home in torches, fairy lights, toys and games (not vehicle batteries!!)

Penny Challenge – Big Acorns to Year 6 are once again having a Penny Challenge. The class which raises the most money will have a class prize such as a class movie or other treat. The coins are being collected in old (but clean!) milk poly-cartons by way of a funnel. This means that the cash is only handled by the child who is bringing it in so that the process is totally Covid safe.

Watch this space for more PTA events!

School Apps

ParentPay 	SIMS Parent 	ParentMail 	Class Dojo 
<p>This is our payment system app. We currently have over 90% of our families using ParentPay which is fantastic. If you have not already created your account, then don't despair! Contact the office for your logon details.</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">And just a reminder that school meals for Y3-6 now cost £2.34 per day.</p> <p>Meals, and all other payment items, should now be paid for in advance please.</p>	<p>This is an optional app which can be used to verify your own and your child's data e.g. contact, medical, dietary and ethnicity details which we hold for you. It also allows you to update details such change of address or mobile number. This information is essential should we ever have to contact you in the event of an emergency.</p> <p>Sorry for the delay! Registration emails will be shared with everyone again next week so that you can verify the data we hold for you.</p>	<p>This is the main school messaging system which we use to keep in touch with parents.</p> <p>Please don't forget to keep the school updated about any change in contact details to ensure that you never miss out on any important school messages.</p> <p>If you are not registered already then please let the school office staff know and they can get you set up.</p>	<p>This is our teacher to parent communication app.</p> <p>This is a direct messaging system and enables teachers to keep in touch with parents direct as opposed to having to ask the school office team to send a ParentMail message on their behalf.</p> <p>For class activities and one to one messages this is the most likely method of communication.</p> <p>Please speak to your child's class teacher if you still need to get set up.</p>

Pastoral Support



Contact Mrs Harte if you have any enquiries or need some advice or support



Tracey Harte
pastoral@stjohnstiverton.co.uk

Contact Information

Please can you inform the office if you move to a new house, change your landline, mobile number, your email address or doctors.

This is very important.

Thank You.

School Office Opening Hours are **8.30am-3.45pm**



Safeguarding Senior Designated Officers (SDO)



Rob Meech
Headteacher



Claire Webber
Early Years



Simon Coombs
(Governor)



We are an Operation Encompass school.
For further information, please come in and see us.

