

The St John's Journal



Issue No: 01

Friday 9th September 2022

'Together we have the roots to grow and the wings to fly!'

WELCOME!

We hope that you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday. It is wonderful to see all of the children back in school, looking extremely smart, happy and all ready to learn. We extend an extra warm welcome to all of our new families and staff who have joined us this term; we are delighted you have joined the St John's family. We hope you will all be very happy at St John's and that you feel part of our school community very quickly. We are looking forward to working with you, in partnership, in the coming year.

Thank you to my fabulous staff for working hard in their own time to ensure their classrooms were bright and cheerful, ready for the children's return.

We may have only been back in school a week, but we have already been extremely busy. During our three INSET Days, many of our staff received fire warden training, all staff received safeguarding training, our teachers spent a day further developing our St John's Curriculum, and all teachers and Learning Support Assistants received Phonics and Early Reading training. During the four days our children have been in, I have been so impressed by the behaviour and hard work in classrooms, we have had children attending Construction Club, Multi-Sports Clubs, and Art Clubs, and welcomed parents of our new reception children into the classroom for a 'Stay and Play Session.' This morning, we also held our first Headteacher Awards Collective Worship, with children being recognised for: being super sharp in phonics, great enthusiasm for being back at school, great thinking and writing around friendship, for settling in so well and for asking fantastic questions.

RIP QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Prior to celebrating our Headteacher Awards, we did take short moment to reflect on the life and passing of Queen Elizabeth II. We read some of the words people have used to describe her in their tributes to her, such as:

'A remarkable lady.'

'Served her country with dignity, loyalty and grace.'

'An inspiring presence to be around.'

'A lifetime of devotion.'

'Her life was one of extraordinary dedication and service.'

'She will be remembered as a selfless beacon for love, understanding and the celebration of fellow human beings all over the world'

We acknowledged that although it is a very sad time, it is really important to remember those words, and use them as an inspiration for our own lives – to be remarkable, loyal, extraordinary, dedicated... We also reflected on her great sense of humour and enjoyed the wonderful Paddington Film, she recorded for her Jubilee celebrations.

There are two Civic Books of Condolence in Frome - one at St John's Church and one at Frome Town Council office. They are available today and next week, from 9-5pm, for anyone to add their thoughts, prayers and messages at this sad time.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

As we start the new academic year, I thought it would be helpful to remind you about the different ways in which we communicate with parents and carers and how we ask you to communicate things to us. Rather than list it all here, we have included a summary sheet with this journal. However, for the weekly curriculum information for your child, please keep checking Seesaw, as teachers do update this weekly.

PHONICS AND EARLY READING

As you already know, all of our teachers and learning support assistants have received training on phonics and early reading, and have further training on our next INSET Day, which has been moved forward to Friday 30th September as communicated on Wednesday 7th September.

Children in Reception and Years 1 and 2, will not be allocated a reading book until after this INSET Day, in line with the training provided by our Reading Scheme Training Provider. Children will be spending the next three weeks working hard to learning all of their sounds, blending sounds together to read words and segmenting sounds to spell words. Whilst waiting for those reading books, please do continue to share and enjoy great books with your children from home or all the school library.

We will be holding some parents' sessions to explain how we teach phonics and early reading; further details to follow early next week.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We have a range of activities after school. Bookings are open for September and will be released shortly for October. Here is a reminder of our clubs timetable this half term:

	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Years R, 1 & 2	IG Sports – Starter Sports	Construction Club	Art Club	Multisports	PlayPod / Board Games
Years 3 & 4	Construction Club Choir/Performing Arts. Starting in October -date tbc.	IG Sports – Archery	PlayPod / Board Games	Art Club	Multisports

Sessions are structured to the following timetable

- 3.15 – 3.30 – snack and register (please provide a snack for your child)
- 3.30 – 4.30 – advertised activity
- 4.30 – 5.30 – childcare provision with a range of activities on offer (free play, colouring, games etc)

The short end of school to 4pm slot will be a childcare provision and children will not join the advertised activity.

If you would like to book your child on to any club, please go to ParentMail then go to the 'Accounts' section then select 'Wraparound Care'. Payment is taken at the time of booking but we also accept childcare voucher or tax-free childcare payments and families with children eligible for Pupil Premium can use their enrichment allowance to pay for these activities (see letter sent today).

CURRICULUM INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Our Curriculum Information Sessions are an opportunity for you to come into school and meet the teachers, who will give a short presentation on the learning for this term. They are being held throughout the week beginning Monday 19th September for Years 1 – 4; please see Diary Dates below for the specific dates for specific year groups. These sessions will all be held in the school hall at 08.55 and will last for approximately 20 minutes. Reception parents have already had their information session for this term. For safeguarding reasons, we ask that all parents enter via the front door next to Mrs Alexander's desk for these sessions.

OPEN MORNINGS

We are holding two Open Mornings for prospective parents on Wednesday 21st and Wednesday 28th September. If you know of anybody with children starting school next September, or indeed anyone moving to the area with children in any other year groups, please encourage them to get in touch.

SHARE MY WORK SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Our Share My Work Sessions are an opportunity for you to come into school and sit alongside your child; they can show you their fantastic work and tell you about their learning. They are being held throughout the week Wednesday 5th October – Wednesday 12th October for Years 1 – 4. Reception parents will be invited to a slightly different session, where they will be able to participate in some learning activities alongside their child. These sessions will take place in the child's own classroom starting at 09.00. For safeguarding reasons, we ask that all parents enter via the front door next to Mrs Alexander's desk for these sessions.

PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

We know that many of you have missed having the opportunity to meet with teachers face to face over the last couple of years, but also know that many of you have found the online option really helpful, so we will be offering you the choice of a face to face or online Parent Consultation Meeting this term, where you can meet with your child's teacher and discuss their learning.

The Face to Face session will be held on Wednesday 19th October from 15.30 – 18.30. The online sessions will be held across the week beginning Monday 31st October. Further details about these meetings, including how to book will be sent out on a separate letter, slightly nearer the time.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES

I am sure many of you will be somewhat surprised that I am already mentioning the 'C word', this early in the term! However, I wanted to let you know in advance of our plans as they are slightly different to what we have done over the last couple of years and indeed different to what we were doing prior to the pandemic. As our current Year 3 and 4 children have not had an opportunity in Key Stage 1 to perform a Christmas Nativity, we are giving them the opportunity to do so this year. There will be three Nativities – one for Reception, one for Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and one for Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4). We will confirm the dates of these performances as soon as possible.

DIARY DATES

We are already able to share some dates for the coming term, and of course we will send out the full details to each event in due course.

19/09/22	Year 3 Curriculum Information Session for Parents
20/09/22	Year 2 Curriculum Information Session for Parents
21/09/22	Year 1 Curriculum Information Session for Parents
21/09/22	Open Morning 9.30 – 11.30am
22/09/22	Year 4 Curriculum Information Session for Parents
28/09/22	Open Morning 9.30 – 11.30am
29/09/22	Harvest Service at St John's Church 1.30pm
30/09/22	School Closed to Children – Staff INSET Day
05/10/22	Year 3 Share My Work Sessions for Parents
06/10/22	Year 4 Share My Work Sessions for Parents
10/10/22	Year 1 Share My Work Sessions for Parents
11/10/22	Year 2 Share My Work Sessions for Parents
19/10/22	Parent Consultation Evening (Face to Face)
w/c 31/10/22	Parent Consultation Evening (Online)
04/11/22	Theatre Performance to Whole School – The Sword in the Stone
w/c 14/11/22	Anti-Bullying Week
18/11/22	Children In Need

At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority.

We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.