

Newsletter

"Together, we will give our children...



...the roots to grow and the wings to fly."

St John's C.E.V.A First School Frome

Website: stjohnsfrome.co.uk

Uniform webshop: pmsgschoolwear.co.uk

Finance/Lunches: paymentsstjohns@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Issue 14

Friday 18th December 2020

FROM MRS MARSLAND

You will find on the back of this newsletter some fabulous 'Gratitude Christmas Trees' from Year 2 children, which were shared with me yesterday, and we truly do have many things to be grateful and thankful for, despite the ongoing difficult times we all face.

This term there is so much to celebrate; here are some of them: Our new House Captains showing off our fabulous school with their virtual tour for new parents and representing St John's in the Frome Remembrance Parade. Several year groups have had the opportunity to participate in sports festivals within their own class bubble in school. Year 4 had their own special Egyptian Day and Maple Class have fully engaged with the Happiness Hunt project with Rowden House. Year 2 children really excelled themselves with their progress and achievements in phonics. And, of course, each class learnt their own songs for our whole school virtual nativity and carol service; it was such a poignant moment to be together as a school for the first time singing 'Children of the World'!

I would like to thank you, the parents and carers for your patience and understanding as we have navigated our way through the term, and at times making some quite last minute changes. Thank you all for respecting and following the rules and procedures we have had to put in place; your cooperation has contributed to the success of this term. Thank you for the lovely messages and feedback we receive from you via email or Facebook; we really do appreciate them. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, thank you for trusting us with your children.

I would like to pay tribute to my staff team, who have just been phenomenal in whatever role they have. They have continued to put the children at the heart of everything they do and approached the term with such professionalism, compassion and good humour. They have worked extremely hard and gone above and beyond, and I sincerely thank them for doing so.

Lastly, but absolutely most importantly, I must thank and pay tribute to your amazing children; they themselves have been truly inspirational. They have all shown such resilience and positive attitudes despite everything else going on in the world around them. We have seen them all grow immensely in confidence and independence, and shown understanding and gratitude beyond their years. They are an absolute credit to you as parents and to us as a school; I truly could not be more proud of them than I am right now!

All it leaves is for me to wish each and every one of you a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas!

Claire Marsland

FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Governors of St John's School would like to thank our fabulous team of teachers, TAs, administrators and premises staff who have all worked so hard to make this Autumn term a success.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that have faced our community this year, we have been so impressed with the way our children have been nurtured, taught and cared for. It is always so wonderful to see the pupils' smiling faces at the school. The Christmas performance was a joy to watch, and testament to St John's continuing ability to provide a happy and aspiring environment.

We would also like to thank our brilliant children whose curious minds bring our school to life, and their ever-supportive parents and carers.

Last but certainly not least, may we say a very special thank you to Mrs Marsland for her tireless and compassionate leadership. Thank you for steering our ship so impressively through the choppy waters of 2020.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas, and look forward to a brighter New Year.

FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

How we have missed hearing your carols in church this year! But we have really enjoyed watching your wonderful Christmas Performance- thank you for sharing that with us.

We wish the whole St John's School family a happy and safe time at Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Janet Caudwell

STAFF NEWS

This afternoon we had a special Christmas assembly when we said a special goodbye, and presented farewell gifts to Mrs Hiscott, Miss Doran and Mr Morgan. We also presented a gift to baby Ezra Dayman-Johns, who was making his first official school visit, via Microsoft TEAMS.

NEXT TERM

At this moment in time, we don't anticipate making any changes to our current arrangements. Clearly if there are any government-led changes, we will communicate these on the INSET day on Monday 4th January, ready for children to return on Tuesday 5th January 2021.



THANK YOUS...

...to **Mr Coombs** for all the super videos he's edited and created.
...to **Veronica** for the beautiful soft toys for the raffle.
...to **Hawthorn parents** for the thoughtful donation to Fair Frome.
...to **Ella, Abby and Zoe** (who used to come to St John's) for the amazing box full of books, audiobooks and DVDs for school.
...to **all the parents** who organised the Christmas Hamper Raffle, particularly Katie and Nick.
...and **The Happiness Hunt** organisers for helping us to make lots of new friends at Rowden House. We received this link as a thank you to us, too. Tissues at the ready...!

[Christmas Film Link - Happiness Hunt](#)

A Child's Voice

Children in Fir and Beech talked about 'Gratitude' and made trees, decorated with things that they were grateful for in 2020:

"I am grateful for... teachers, family, forests, my sisters, school, friends, love, food, Mrs Marstrand, home, NHS and foster carers."



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please be aware that when we come back to school in January, we will be back on **Week 1** for lunch choices.

LEARNING AFTER CHRISTMAS

Our value for the half term is 'Hope'

Reception

Maths - Numbers 1 - 5. Addition.
Writing - Letter formation.

Year 1

Maths - Addition within 20.
English - Introducing the story, 'Lost and Found'.

Year 2

Maths - Describing 2D shapes.
English - Writing 'superhero' fact files.

Year 3

Maths - Multiplication.
English - Speech marks.

Year 4

Maths - Multiplication.
English - Introducing 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

YEAR 1 TOY MUSEUMS

Children in Hawthorn and Poplar have spent the last few weeks creating Toy Museums. They compared old and new toys, described materials used to make them and then we filmed them talking about them. The end results were too long for SeeSaw, so you can access them on Vimeo from here:

Hawthorn

vimeo.com/491746907/4ad33a06a1

Poplar

vimeo.com/491744319/89557e0a01

HAMPER WINNER AND RUNNER UP

Winner

Ruby in Oak – picked by Pepi

Runner-Up

Ruby in Rowan – picked by Genny



Our expert random number-pickers. Thank you girls!
(Neither of them had entered the draw, for fairness.)

SOFT TOY WINNERS

Rafe, Asta, Beatrice, Jasper R, Benicio, Logan S, Rowan, Annabeth, Douglas, Thomas E, Patrick and George P.



Thank you to everyone who supported both raffles. The soft toys raised **£73** and the hamper **£455**. Fantastic results!

IN OUR THOUGHTS

On Thursday morning, we received the sad news that Sarah-Jane L'Esteve, Reception and Year 1 teacher from Christchurch First School sadly passed away the afternoon before. She was 48, and left a son of 13 years old.

Sarah-Jane's family and the Christchurch School community are very much in our thoughts and prayers.



*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.*