

# 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](http://stjohnsfrome.co.uk)

Issue 11  
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Finance/Lunches: [paymentsstjohns@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:paymentsstjohns@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

EdShed 

## HEADTEACHER'S AWARDS

Mollie-Ann (Ash) Wilf (Oak)  
Sonny (Hawthorn) Kayla-Mai (Poplar)  
Natalie (Beech) Harrison W (Fir)  
Edie (Rowan) Retaj (Willow)  
Frankie (Maple) Sophie (Sycamore)  
Dennis (Acorns)

All of Beech and Fir Classes - little people and big people!

## TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL SPELLERS

1. Rio - Maple
2. Gabriel - Maple
3. Logan - Rowan
4. Beatrice - Rowan
5. Logan - Rowan

## TOP 5 SPELLING GROUPS

1. Rowan
2. Y3 Green Group
3. Maple
4. Y4 Purple Group
5. Y4 Green Group

## FROM MRS MARSLAND

There is a definite Christmas buzz around the school! We have been talking about Advent, I am wearing a different Christmas jumper each day, the Christmas tree is up in the hall, and Key Stage 2 children have made peace doves to decorate the tree, post boxes are filling up in classrooms with Christmas cards, and of course there is a lot of practising of our Christmas songs.

### Church Visit – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December

During the day on Monday, all children from all classes will be visiting church for us to record some of our Christmas readings and songs. We have been told the heating will be on, but it is a big cold building. Please make sure your child has warm clothes, with their school jumper over the top. Children will be able to keep their coats, hats and scarves on in the church, when we are not recording, but we hope to film the singing without coats. I do not mind if children have non-uniform on their bottom half as we will only see their top half above the pews, as long as they are as warm as possible.

Year 1 children will still have their football coaching session, and should still come in their PE kit on Monday, but again with a school jumper for their top half please.

If you are a keen facebook follower, you may see some live streaming of us singing on Monday as we might have a few practise live streaming runs!

Some children may also have a church visit on Thursday to finish our recordings, but we will send a separate communication to just parents of those children nearer the time, when we know what needs to be finished!

### House Captain Meeting

Due to staff absence this week, I was needed to supervise Year 4 eating their lunch, so we held the House Captain meeting in Sycamore Class. All of the House Captains from both classes joined me and some of Sycamore Class chose to listen in and offer ideas too, which was great! House Captains are moving forward with their plans for improving playtimes; I will let them fill you in!

### Year 2 Phonics

I need to say a massive well done to all of Year 2 – children and staff! This week they have completed the statutory phonics check, which in normal times would be completed in June of Year 1. They have produced some super impressive results, which is a result of the hard work and efforts of you parents who have kept them going with their phonics during the January / February 2021 Lockdown and your continued support of your children since then, also a result of the Year 2 teachers and support staff who have worked extra hard with the children to help them catch up, and most importantly, the fantastic effort made by the children. Thank you to everyone who has supported Year 2 children with their phonics, and a huge congratulations to all of the children.

### Facebook

You may have noticed us posting more on our closed Facebook group. We are currently working on our social media presence and using the Facebook group to help keep you up to date with notices, letters and what's happening in school. We have also set up a public Facebook page, for us to share our achievements with the wider Frome community. Please do 'like' the page and encourage any friends and family to like it too. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsFirstSchoolFrome> or search for 'St John's First School Frome' (remember to select 'pages' in your search results to find the page).

We have been reflecting on how we communicate with parents, and we aim to have a letter about this sent out to you on Monday.

### And finally...

Mrs Conway and I are meeting the Friends of St John's next Tuesday, where we will share the risk assessment and finalise plans for their events running during the last week of term, and we will share those arrangements with you towards the end of next week, so that we can run safe, and enjoyable events on school site!

### IN ACORNS THIS WEEK

Children in Acorns have been making penguins as part of their 'Frozen Planet' topic. After doing some researching, some very careful sculpting, and a lot of patient waiting, this week they were ready to paint at last.



Everybody was so pleased with the results!

### POPPY APPEAL 2021

Thank you to everyone for supporting this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The final total raised by everyone at St John's School was a fantastic **£161.29**.

### FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

It was so good to welcome Year 1, with Mrs Dayman-Johns and other members of staff, into church on Wednesday afternoon. The children spent time learning more about the Christmas story by looking at all the images in glass, wood and stone. They were so interested and *very* well-behaved (several people visiting the church commented on that!)

We are looking forward to welcoming more of the school into church as you prepare for Christmas.

### LEARNING NEXT WEEK

Our Value this half term is Respect  
It is also the second week of Advent: Peace.

#### Year R

How to write a Christmas card; all about the number 4; naming and identifying shapes with 4 sides; how to make a salt dough decoration; visiting the church.

#### Year 1

Maths - Comparing groups of objects.  
English - Writing labels for our very own toy museum.

#### Year 2

Maths - Column subtraction with 2 digit numbers.  
English - Writing fact files about macaroni penguins.

#### Year 3

Maths - Multiplication.  
English - Continuing our learning about Mary Anning.

#### Year 4

Maths - Multiplication.  
English - Newspaper reports about the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.

### FROM THE HOUSE CAPTAINS

During our House Captain meeting this week, we continued to develop our plans for the different playtime spaces. We thought carefully about what the different aged children would like.

On the front playground we would like painted a large chess board, a large snakes and ladders game where people are the counters, duck duck goose and a fitness trail. We know we will also need to buy a large dice to play the snakes and ladders games. We already have giant chess pieces, but need to check they are all there.

In the quiet area under the shelter at the top of the steps by the back playground we already have a table with snakes and ladders and a chess board. The other table already there is really faded, so we thought we could keep that tabletop for children to draw at. We would like to buy a third table with either a road map for toy cars, or a top with ludo and connect four. We know we need to buy all of the pieces for the table top games and decide where to store them. We wondered whether it would be good to have a bench in this area for children to be able to sit and read too. We talked a little bit about the fact that we may need some rules for this area so that it is used properly. We thought we could lead a collective worship to tell everyone.

On the back playground we already have playpod. We would like the two netball posts to go back out and to have at least two balls available to us each playtime. We would also like to have a basic sports court painted on this playground that we can use in PE as well as at playtime.

### DIARY DATES

1 - 10 Dec	Christmas card posting dates
Weds 8 Dec	Flu vaccinations
Fri 10 Dec	Bag 2 School recycling collection
Mon 13 Dec	Christmas singing & Friends' craft events <b>Y4</b>
Tues 14 Dec	Non-uniform and Christmas celebration for <b>Years R, 1 and 2</b> Christmas lunch for <b>Years R, 1 and 2</b> Christmas singing & Friends' craft events <b>Y3</b> Deadline - House Captains' toy raffle tickets
Weds 15 Dec	Non-uniform and Christmas celebration for <b>Years 3 and 4</b> Christmas lunch for <b>Years 3 and 4</b> Christmas singing & Friends' craft events <b>Y2</b> Deadline - Friends' raffle tickets House Captains' raffle prize draw
Thurs 16 Dec	Christmas singing & Friends' craft events <b>Y1</b> Friends of St John's raffle prize draw
Fri 17 Dec	Christmas cards handed out Christmas singing & Friends' craft events <b>YR</b> End of term

*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.*