

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

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Issue 13

Friday 17th December 2021

From Mrs Marsland

This term there is so much to celebrate; here are some of our highlights:

Year 4 Highlights:

Welcoming Mr Egypt in for the day and holding real life artefacts for our Egyptian Day. Learning about Ancient Egypt including mummification, Howard Carter and the discovery of Tutankhamun and writing our own booklets. In Art and DT making canopic jars, death masks and eyes of Horus and drawing our shoe. Learning about electrical circuits and the digestive system demonstration in science. Using electrical circuits within our Christmas cards. Learning how to play handball and hockey.

Year 3 Highlights:

We have all started to learn our first modern language and we can now all meet and greet confidently in French (often answering the register with Bonjour). The children have been fascinated with the work of Mary Anning, an often overlooked but significant woman in the world of palaeontology. The Year 3 classrooms have been a hive of sewing activity as the children have learnt to cross stitch, with amazing Christmas designs.

Year 2 Highlights:

Our fantastic Frozen Planet topic. Learning about the habitat of Antarctica and the animals that live there - seals, orcas and penguins. Making fact files about different penguins. Learning all about Scott of the Antarctic. We also had a Year 2 Sports Festival which was a lot of fun. And of course we did fantastically well with our Phonics assessments!

Year 1 Highlights:

We loved learning about autumn; looking at deciduous and evergreen trees at Rodden Meadow. The Wild Things visited our classrooms and left them in a terrible mess! We have been busy in maths learning about 2D and 3D shapes as well as place value to 20. It was great looking at toys that our parents and grandparents played with. This inspired us to make our own toy museum! We have thoroughly enjoyed walking around Frome and visiting St John the Baptist Church learning about the Christmas story and spotting signs of Christmas.

Reception Highlights:

Visiting St John's Church for the first time. Becoming Superheroes. Learning about how people celebrate Diwali. Looking at ourselves as babies and how we've grown and changed.

Thank you...

It was lovely to be able to invite you into school for the Friends of St John's fundraising events running across the final week – a massive thank you to the small team of people who put this together within the strict risk assessment constraints. A highlight for me this term, was seeing you all enjoying your little people singing live for you! Thank you to the team for organising another brilliant Christmas raffle too, and congratulations to the winners!

Thank you to our anonymous donor for the flashing bouncy balls sent home with each child this afternoon!

I would like to thank you, the parents and carers, for your patience and understanding as we have navigated our way through the term. 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. Also, a special thank you to Mr Jackson and Mr Coombs for their technical expertise, helping us to produce a fabulous film, our first live stream and a virtual Christmas card, which has gone out to the Diocese, the Local Authority and other local schools.

Thank you to our amazing House Captains for their endless enthusiasm, good ideas and for giving up their lunchtimes for our meetings.

Lastly, but absolutely most importantly, I must thank and pay tribute to your amazing children; they themselves have yet again 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 they have 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!

Next Term:

Currently, we are being advised that schools will most likely remain 'amber' and with the current restrictions in place. However, we all know that this situation can change overnight. I will be attending the LA Public Health Meeting for schools on the morning of Friday 31 December and will confirm our status on Facebook that day.

'Share My Work' and 'Curriculum Information' Sessions

As long as further restrictions are not imposed, we are planning to hold 'Share My Work' sessions for each class during the weeks beginning Monday 10th and Monday 17th of January 2022. One parent from each family will be able to book to come into the school hall and sit next to their child with their tray of work and spend 10 – 15 minutes looking at all of the fabulous things they have been doing and talk about their learning. After this, the children will go back to the classroom with a teaching assistant, and the class teacher will remain with you and present the curriculum information for the Spring term. We will have to put a robust risk assessment and procedures in place to make this work safely, but we will send those details out next term. However, I thought we should give you the dates and times now, to give you plenty of time to plan or make any necessary arrangements with regards to your own commitments. I appreciate that the restricted dates and times, and the limitation of one parent are not ideal, but it is the only way can fit all of the classes in, maintaining bubbles and managing larger numbers of people on site safely.

Monday 10th January	09.00	Y4: Sycamore
Tuesday 11 th January	09.00	Y4: Maple
Wednesday 12 th January	09.00	Y3: Rowan
Thursday 13 th January	09.00	Y3: Willow
Friday 14 th January	09.00	Y2: Beech

Monday 17th January	09.00	Y2: Fir
Tuesday 18 th January	09.00	Y1: Hawthorn
Wednesday 19 th January	09.00	Y1: Poplar
Thursday 20 th January	09.00	Reception:
Friday 21 st January	09.00	Reception:

There will be further information on these sessions, including how to book on, sent out in January.

Home School Agreement

You will have received communication from us yesterday with regards to our revised Home school Agreement. This is just a reminder to please take some time in the holidays to read through with your children and sign electronically.

School Uniform

We have noticed a number of children have had a growth spurt this last term, resulting in ill-fitting trousers and at best pants on view, but often, and at worst, bottoms on view, and also some extremely short skirts again revealing underwear without barely bending over. We ask that you take some time over the holidays to check that your child's uniform does fit them properly.

Early Birds

From Monday 10th January, we will be providing breakfast at Early Birds. Breakfast will consist of a choice of cereals or toast with a choice of toppings. In order to cover the cost of providing breakfasts and adequate staff to serve and clear the breakfast, the cost for an Early Birds session will increase to £2.70 per session. Breakfast will be served between 8.00 and 8.30. We are not able to provide breakfast to those arriving after 8.30. A letter confirming the price increase will be sent out.

Twilight

Next term, we wish to explore and develop our Twilight offer, to provide those children who need to stay for 'wrap around care' a richer experience and also to offer more extra-curricular activities to all our children. From the week beginning Monday 10th January, Tuesdays will be games afternoon. We will be providing indoor games, where children can learn to play games such as: Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Connect Four, Othello, Yahtzee, Draughts, Dominoes and Chess. Thursdays will be construction afternoon where we will be providing activities based around systems such as Lego / K'nex / junk modelling.

The first half of next term will be very much a trial period where we monitor take up and refine the provision. If it is successful we will be looking to extend the offer to other activities on other days. Activity afternoons must be booked in advance and will run to 4.30 or 5.30. If you book the Twilight short session (i.e. collecting by 4.00pm) your child will take part in an alternative activity.

The cost for the activity sessions will remain at £4.35 (for collection at 4.30pm) and £6.35 (for collection at 5.30pm). To book your child's place, please email stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk and make payment in the Parentmail shop.

Multi-Sports

Mr Croucher will be offering his multi-sports after school sports club from week January 13th on Thursdays for Key Stage 1 children and on Fridays Key Stage 2 children. Bookings will be available through Parentmail on the first day back in January.

Lunches

The menu next term will be the same as this term and will start on week 3 of the cycle. The menu will be changing immediately after half term and we will plan to offer paid hot lunches for Year 3 and 4 children from immediately after February half term. More information and booking forms will be sent out during January.

And finally...

Please keep in touch with us via the closed School Facebook page during the holidays; we love to see what you are all doing! All it leaves is for me to wish each and every one of you a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas!

FROM THE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Thank you to Veronica who knitted all of our toys for the raffle; we have sent her a 'thank you' Christmas card. We would like to thank all of the people who bought some raffle tickets. Here is a photo of the four children whose tickets came out first and who got to choose their prize. Congratulations to all of the winners! We raised £111, which means we have raised £261 in total this term towards improving our playtimes. Mrs Conway and Mrs Laye will be ordering our playground tables and activities in January.



We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

By Jacob, Juliet, Bella and Jaina

A MESSAGE FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

It was really good to welcome the whole school into church this morning for their Christmas celebration. It was a very happy occasion! Happy Christmas from us all at St John's!

LEARNING AFTER CHRISTMAS

Our Value next half term is Hope
It is also the fourth week of Advent: Love

Year R

We will be learning in our new phonics groups, enjoying traditional fairy tales and calculating 1 more and 1 less.

Year 1

Maths - Addition and subtraction within 20.
English - Introducing 'Beegu'.

Year 2

Maths - Addition to 100.
English - Introducing 'Heroes and Heroines'.

Year 3

Maths - Multiplication and division.
English - Roman myths and gods.

Year 4

Maths - Multiplication.
English - Creative writing and reading.

PORTRAIT OF BRITAIN 2021

You might like to see the webpage at:

www.1854.photography/awards/portrait-of-britain/winners-2021&foogallery-60889/i:2

One of the photos was taken by Celie Nigoumi, of Beth Alsbury, and is one of the winning images in the 2021 Portrait of Britain photography competition. Both were pupils at St John's.

*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.*