

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

Issue 7
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Finance/Lunches: paymentsstjohns@educ.somerset.gov.uk



TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL SPELLERS

1. Chloe - Rowan
2. Logan - Rowan
3. Beatrice - Rowan
4. Jacob - Sycamore
5. Gabriel - Maple

TOP 5 SPELLING GROUPS

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

From Mrs Marsland

Welcome back everyone; I sincerely hope that you had an enjoyable half term holiday. All of the children have come back looking very smart and mostly with big smiles on their faces.

Communication:

Over the coming weeks, you will see the format of the Newsletter slowly change. We have become very aware that sometimes we include so much information that some key messages 'get lost'. Moving forward, our intention is to ensure that important messages that you need to have, for example (but not limited to): hot lunches, attendance and flu vaccinations, individual letters will be emailed out for each important message. The Newsletter will focus on the great things we have done in school or are planning to do, focussing on children, teaching and learning, curriculum and enrichment opportunities. During this next half term, we will also be considering whether a weekly newsletter is the best way to share this with you, or whether to make the move to social media platforms and making more use of the school website.

After School Clubs:

I know that children and parents are keen to see these reinstated, as are we, for we know the huge benefits that these enrichment activities provide for our children. However, whilst we remain an 'amber' school and have increased measures in place, restricting the mixing of children across different year groups, we are unable to offer these. We are already working on plans for after school clubs that can be introduced quickly when we are able to reduce our measures again.

House Captains:

It has concerned me greatly, that over the last 18 months or so, we have not been able to run our groups such as School Council and Green Panthers. These groups are really important to the school because they provide the 'voices of the children' directly with myself and other senior leaders in the school. These groups, however, are made up of members from classes across the whole school, and as such cannot meet together at this time. So, for the time being, I am now going to meet the House Captains once a week for a 'Working Lunch' to discuss matters important to them and their peers and also to discuss matters I genuinely need their view on.

We had our first meeting last Wednesday, where we talked about how meetings are run with a chairperson, agendas and minutes, and we started to have discussions around improving playtimes and Zoom Collective Worship. I was really impressed by all of the house captains; they were articulate, sensible and really showed a sense of responsibility to giving the voice of all children in school. I am really looking forward to our future weekly meetings, and they will have a space on our newsletter to share with you their thoughts.

Remembrance:

We will be observing the two minutes silence on Thursday 11th November at 11.00 in school, in a special collective worship. We do have a school wreath to lay at the war museum, which we will do at some point next week with the House Captains. We will take some photos and include them in next week's letter. Sadly, this year, due to our 'amber' status, we will not be participating in Frome's Remembrance Parade on Sunday 14th November.

THE HAPPINESS HUNT

Our school will be participating in 'The Happiness Hunt' again this year, joining four other primary schools who have each been partnered with one of five care homes across Mendip. The idea is that the schools and care homes fill their boxes with letters, pictures, crafts and challenges and then swap them with their partners to spread the happiness, and 'Make the Sunshine'.

Our Happiness Hunt partner is Rowden House Care Home in Frome, and this week, children in Maple class received a special Happiness Box, containing creative challenges, craft materials, a few props - all to help explore how creativity can help make others happy. It also contained some special sayings about happiness and kindness, and a few special items to get all those taking part thinking about what makes them happy and why. The idea is that the schools and care homes fill their boxes with letters, pictures, crafts and challenges and then swap them with their partners to spread the happiness, and 'Make the Sunshine'.



HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

Just before half term, Year Four held an inter-year handball tournament to conclude their PE lessons around the same game. In a tightly fought seven team contest, the winning team were Team 2 closely followed by Team 4. Team 3 came third, just beating Team 5 on goals scored, followed by Team 6, 7 and finally Team 1. Well played to all the Year Fours!

YEAR 4 EGYPTIAN DAY

Next Monday 8th November, children in Maple and Sycamore classes will be having an Egyptian Day. They will spend the day doing lots of Egyptian-themed activities and learning, and may dress as Egyptian characters all day – gods, goddesses, pharaohs, cats etc. We can't wait to see what everyone looks like!

FROME RAINBOWS

2nd Frome Rainbows currently have spaces if your daughter is between 5-7 years old and would like to join Rainbows, Girl Guiding. We meet every Wednesday during term time at Christchurch Hall in Park Road; we currently meet in Victoria Park from 5-6pm. We are a very active unit with lots of exciting activities planned for this term. Rainbows is the group before Brownies, (7-10yrs), Guides (10-14yrs) and Rangers (14-18yrs). If you are a parent who would like to volunteer to help us or another section, or your daughter would like to join Rainbows, please register on "Join us" on the Girl Guiding website:

girlguiding.org.uk

If you would like to see what we were doing last term, please visit our Frome Girl Guiding group on facebook.

DIARY DATES

Mon 8 Nov	Egyptian Day - Year 4
Weds 24 Nov	Sports Festival - Year 2
Fri 10 Dec	Bag 2 School Recycling Collection
Fri 17 Dec	Last Day of Term
Sat 15 Jan	Deadline - Admissions & Transfers 2022
April 6, 7, 8	Kilve Court Residential Trip - Year 4

A Child's Voice

Children in Year 4 have been learning about WW1, and wrote diary entries as though they were soldiers in the trenches:

Dear Diary

When I woke up in the cold, dreadful and wet trench on Christmas Eve I heard beautiful singing. It sounded like a graceful angel so I stood up and tried to see who was singing. I couldn't see so I went up the ladder and it was the Germans but then one of the Germans came forwards put down a delightful Christmas tree. I got out of the soggy trench. One of my soldiers pulled my leg and said no don't do this but I did and I shook hands with him and told him my name.

"Hi, I'm Franck."

"I'm Otto."

The rest of my soldiers came out of the trench and so did theirs. We all started to greet each other and became friends.

After a while, the Germans brought out a football. I thought, "this is the most generous Christmas I've ever had". So before we had time, we quickly had a game of football. As soon as we had finished playing football, our leader was coming. I quickly went back into the trench. When I was safely in, I felt something in my pocket. It was some chocolate, like I gave Otto the other German soldier, my new best friend. **Callie**

Dear Diary

I woke up to the sound of some singing. It sounded like an angel. I looked above the trench and saw little glowing lights. Slowly other people from my army started looking up over the trench. Then we saw a German, he was holding a Christmas tree. Other people from my trench including me got out their guns. The German in no man's land put his hands up but then he planted a Christmas tree. All of us were shocked he was very brave. More of us shouted at him, in fact one of the younger ones went out and shook his hand. Slowly everyone came out of the trenches and talked a bit and showed our stuff from our families. Then a miracle happened. One German soldier brought out a football and we played football it was really fun. **Mila**

LEARNING NEXT WEEK

Our Value this half term is Respect

Year R

Next week we are learning everything about 1,2 and 3. We are learning the sounds ch, q, x, nk, ng. We will be finishing our clay diya pots and creating firework pictures.

Year 1

Maths - Subtraction.
English - Beginning our new text, 'Knuffle Bunny'.

Year 2

Maths - Adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers.
English - Writing sentences to describe Emperor penguins.

Year 3

Maths - Addition and subtraction.
English - Continuing with our new text, 'Pebble in my Pocket'.

Year 4

Maths - Length.
English - Non-chronological, non-fiction writing.

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.