



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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Dear Parent/Carer

As the weather slowly improves and the snow and ice recede, the new year can at last get back to a semblance of normality. This newsletter contains details of the schools work in 2010, including important information and updates as to what is happening behind the scenes here at St. John's.

### School uniform and jewellery

I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of a new term and a new year to thank parents for the high standard of dress I see across the school. It is good to see that our high expectations are reflected in the excellent presentation of children's full school uniform and shoes.

### Sport Clubs and Music Provision

The following clubs and enrichment activities are held in school.

<b>Street Dance</b>	Monday: 3.30pm – 4.30pm (available from Year 2)
<b>Tennis</b>	Wednesday: 3.30pm – 4.30pm (available from Year 2)
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Thursday: 3.30pm – 4.30pm (available from Year 2)
<b>Cricket</b>	Friday: 3.30pm – 4.30pm (available from Year 2)

In addition, we can also provide *instrumental tuition* in the following instruments (available from Year 3);

**Guitar, Flute, Fife, Recorder, Clarinet, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Brass**, (trumpet, French horn and cornet)

Should your child wish to join any of our clubs, or should they like an assessment to learn to play an instrument, please see Mrs Matthews in the school office for more details.

### Home Link Presentations: E-Safety Presentation for Parents

You will recall that last term we held a parents meeting to set out plans for our playground development project. Mr Michael Follett of Play England was the key note speaker and the 2 shortlisted play designers were also present to take parents questions about their designs. This term I have arranged for an E-safety presentation for parents. You may be aware that the Government has a target to ensure that every child is provided with access to a computer at home and for all households to have access to a broadband connection. There is soon to be a big push to achieve these aims. The St. John's E-safety presentation is by way of preparation for a renewed national focus on ICT and will be led by a BECTA officer (a Government ICT organisation). The presentation, entitled '*What's the best way to keep your child safe on the internet?*', will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 5.00 – 6.00pm**. The BECTA Officer will also be leading E-safety workshops for our children and will provide staff INSET training during their visit. I hope that you find the presentation useful.

### School Prayer Group

The school prayer group will meet to pray for the work of the school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 8.00pm. The meeting will take place at 23 Handel Road, the home of our Foundation (Church) Governor, Mr R. Peach. You are all warmly welcomed to attend.

### **New School Website**

A brand new St. John's website is now nearing completion and will soon go live. The site has been professionally designed to our own bespoke requirements and will contain new features that parents tell us they will find useful, including an online automated school calendar. The new website contains pictures of everyday school life and therefore with E-safety in mind before launching the website we need to renew our parental permissions. I have attached a copy of the **Local Visits and Publicity Home/School Agreement** to this newsletter. The new website can be found at [www.stjohnskeynsham.co.uk](http://www.stjohnskeynsham.co.uk) and will go live on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Thank you for your understanding during this period of transition between our websites.

### **Text Alerts**

The failure of the local authority's severe weather website on the morning of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January once again highlights the frailties of online technology when it becomes overloaded. To avoid a similar situation in the future, and to improve the frequency and quality of communications with parents, we have decided to investigate methods of sending important information via text directly to parents' mobile phones. We are currently researching the options available. I will write to you shortly to provide further information as to how you can access our new text alerts service.

### **Playground Development Decision**

Following a full and thorough consultation, I am pleased to be able to inform you that all stakeholders were unanimous in their decision to award 'The Natural Play Company' the contract to install our new play equipment. It is our aim that, weather and bureaucracy permitting, the new play area will be completed by Summer 2010. Should you wish to, you can view a 3D model of the final design. To avoid clashing with clubs, the model will be available for parents to view in the school hall from 3.00pm – 3.15pm each afternoon of next week (Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010).

### **Bedtime Story Evening**

Our children have once again requested a Bedtime Story Evening. This will take place on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 between 6.00pm – 7.00pm. After a story, a drink and a biscuit, Mrs Parrett will lead a 'camp fire' sing along in the school hall. Please collect your children from their classrooms. Thank-you.

### **School Improvement Questionnaires**

The following are the results of our annual pupil consultation conducted in Term 2 of 2009. The children's responses were overwhelmingly positive and reflect the fact that we have a very happy school where children feel safe, valued and enjoy their learning. I have included a synopsis below including comparisons with 2008.

- Vast majority of children (96%) **tell us their teachers consider their work to be good or very good** (95% in 2008)
- Vast majority of children (94%) tell us that they **always enjoy coming to school** (94% in 2008)
- Vast majority of children (93%) tell us that they **always feel safe and happy at school and in the playground** (92% in 2008)
- Vast majority of children (86%) **always enjoy their school work because they find it interesting and challenging** (89% in 2008)
- Vast majority of children (94%) **say that they always try their best at school** (97% in 2008)
- Vast majority (99%) **think that they and their class behave well in school** (96% in 2008)

I have attached a parent/carer questionnaire to this newsletter and would be grateful if you could find a few minutes to complete and return it to Mrs Matthews. The questions are those that are asked by Ofsted during school inspections. The questionnaire has been amended this year to ensure that questions are consistent with the new inspection framework. I have chosen a 'tick box' format to keep the time needed to complete it to a bare minimum. However, there is a space on the questionnaire for you to add comments should you wish to. The process of parental consultation is an important part of our school improvement work and I am very much looking forward to working with you in order to ensure that our school continues to build upon its high standards and many strengths.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

## St. John's Church of England Primary School

**Dates:** Below are the dates of the events/activities that have been arranged for Terms 3 and 4. I include these at the start of a new year for your information. Details of class trips will be sent separately.

<b>JANUARY 2010</b>		
Friday	15	Reception Class Theatre visit – Bath Theatre Royal – revised date Parent Questionnaires and permissions 'opt out' reply slips issued
Friday	22	Deadline for the return of the website and school trip 'opt out' reply slips
Monday	25	New St. John's school website goes live
Tuesday	26	E-Safety Home Link Presentation for parents (5.00pm – 6.00pm in the school hall)
Friday	29	Guest visitor in Year 1 – 'Toys from the past'
<b>FEBRUARY 2010</b>		
Monday	1	Bedtime Story Evening (6.00pm – 7.00pm)
Monday	8	Open Evening Appointment Slips issued
Thursday	11	Deadline for return of Open Evening Slips Deadline for parents wishing to cancel music tuition for their child for Terms 5 and 6 School Prayer Group (8.00pm, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Handel Road)
Friday	12	Open evening appointments issued <b>Last day of Term 3</b> – school closes for Half-Term at 3.15pm
<b>Monday</b> - <b>Friday</b>	<b>15</b> - <b>19</b>	<b>School closed – end of Term 3 (half-term)</b>
Monday	22	<b>School re-opens for Term 4 – at 8.50am prompt</b>
<b>MARCH 2010</b>		
Thursday	4	Open Evening 1 – 3.30pm – 6.30pm (details to follow)
Tuesday	9	Open Evening 2 – 3.30pm – 6.30pm (details to follow)
Thursday	11	Year 6 visit to London (2 days)
Tuesday	30	Easter Service at St John's Church – at 10.00am (help from Parents/Grandparents warmly welcomed)
Wednesday	31	Last swimming session for Year 4
<b>APRIL 2010</b>		
Thursday	1	<b>Last day of Term 4</b> – school closes for Easter holiday at 3.15pm
<b>Monday</b> - <b>Friday</b>	<b>5</b> - <b>16</b>	<b>School closed – end of Term 4 (Easter closure)</b>
Monday	19	<b>School re-opens Term 5</b> – at 8.50am prompt
Wednesday	28	First swimming session for Year 3

### **INSET Days - reminder**

You may recall that I wrote to you at the start of the year with details of our school INSET days for this academic year. For your information the remaining date is;

***INSET DAY 5: Friday 28th May 2010 – School Closed***

I have attached the 2009/10 and 2010/11 academic year dates for your information. Academic term dates can also be found at [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)