



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHARLTON PARK
KEYNSHAM
BRISTOL
BS31 2NB**

Headteacher: Mr M Cottrell BA (Hons) QTS NPQH MA
Telephone: 0117 9863824
Fax: 0117 9869943
E-mail: stjohnskeynsham_pri@bathnes.gov.uk
Website: www.stjohnskeynsham.co.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Proposed Industrial Action by Teaching Unions

You will no doubt have heard in the national media that both the NUT and ATL unions have balloted their members with regard to taking industrial action against changes to the teachers' pension scheme. Unions are proposing to take industrial strike action on Thursday 30th June 2011. **I am writing to advise you that it is not anticipated that the strike action will affect the operations of our school.**

I should, however, make it clear that the striking unions have yet to send detailed communications to their members. It is also the case that the remaining teaching unions are considering, or have decided to, ballot their members with regard to taking industrial action. Therefore, the situation may well change as members receive more details from their union and consider their position. I shall, of course, keep you informed of any developments.

St John's on Ice!

The school office informs me that they have sold a large number of tickets for our 'St John's on Ice!' event to be held at Bristol Ice Rink on Thursday 30th June 2011 (4.00pm – 6.30pm). Tickets are offered to us at a much reduced cost as we are making a sole hiring of the ice rink for our school. Tickets cost £3.50 per person and includes skate hire (the usual price for entrance and skate hire is £6.70). Whilst we hope that 'St John's on Ice!' will firstly and foremost be **fun** we also intend to make the event a fund raiser for the PTA. In negotiating the hire of the ice rink, Mr Spens has secured a commitment from Bristol Ice Rink's management to donate 50p to the PTA for each ticket sold! What a great start to our fund raising efforts. In addition, we hope that our children might be sponsored by friends and family to meet an ice skating challenge of their own choice; it might be skating 10 laps of the ice rink, skating backwards or perhaps even just learning to skate! Should you wish to purchase tickets, or should you wish to obtain more information about the event, please see Mrs Collins in the school office. Sponsor forms for those attending will be sent home on Monday 20th June 2011. Tickets will be sent home when we receive them from Bristol Ice Rink.

PTA Purchases – a thank you!

The PTA, as you know, support our school in a number of different ways. Much of the work of the PTA is clear to see, such as organising and running the Easter and Summer School Fair and similar events. However, some of their work might not be so obvious as it goes on in the background; helping out at school events such as Odd Day, recycling unwanted school uniform, helping to run our school gardening club, providing catering and other support at parents evenings and supporting the school kitchen when we hold themed food days, such as our recent Chinese Food Day. Some members of the PTA committee are also School Governors.

Most recently, and having made a huge contribution to the new play area, the PTA have purchased for the school a 42" flatscreen television, a DVD player and a new stand (all of which arrived today!). The PTA has also purchased 2 highly advanced visualiser units that digitally project images on to our interactive whiteboards in order to support learning in our classrooms. In addition to these fantastic purchases the PTA also purchase items for our families year after year, such as the year 6 leavers class photograph, a leaving present that children and their parents can cherish for many years to come. After all this, Mrs Lucas (Chair of PTA) has already spoken with me with regard to

identifying the next project for them to focus upon! The PTA will write to you shortly with more details. On behalf of us all, my thanks to the committee and to everyone who supports the work of the school – you all do a wonderful job!

Chinese Food Day – a great success

Mrs Collins received 110 requests for hot meals on our Chinese themed food day. This is one of our most successful themed lunches in terms of the number of children requesting a meal from our school kitchen and I feel sure that it has largely been so because the children themselves requested the special lunch service and through the School Council. May I extend my thanks to the school kitchen for being so accommodating and supportive. I hope that the children enjoyed their meal.

Another successful Odd Day

We have had a wonderful day here at school! Odd Day was a real success and the children really threw themselves into the carnival theme enjoying amongst other things making carnival hats, masks and costumes, taking part in a carnival dance workshop, samba drumming workshops and making musical instruments. The day closed with a grand carnival parade where the carnival king and queen were crowned. A really memorable and thoroughly enjoyable day. My thanks to you for preparing the children's carnival clothing, to the staff who planned the workshops and to those parents who helped support the day's events. Look out for an Odd Day update on our school website.

St John's are 'T1 Challenge' National Finalists!

3 teams of our children from Year 6 have reached the national final of the 'T1 Challenge' competition after having been successful at the regional heats held at the University of Bath. The challenge is sponsored by the Williams F1 Team and requires children to use computer aided design software to design a gas powered drag racing car which is then built and raced along a timed drag strip. The project requires implementing a number of skills and included making a design presentation to a panel of Williams F1 officials. The national finals are to be held at the Williams F1 Garage in Oxfordshire. Well done to our 3 teams – and good luck.

St John's involved in a joint research programme with the University of Bath

Our school was approached by the University of Bath with a request that we might consider our involvement in a research programme. The university is one of the first to research the use of iPads in primary education. Research is to take place in Years 5 and 6 over the coming weeks. I am sure that you will agree that as a school that currently holds the national ICT Quality Mark, our involvement in this cutting edge work is very exciting and is something that will help to inform our future strategic direction for ICT and specifically the viability of introducing new and innovative hardware to support learning in the classroom.

Parent/Carer's Invitation to St John's Patronal Festival – Thursday 23rd June 2011 [1.45pm – 2.00pm]

You will recall that a few years ago we introduced a summer Patronal Festival to recognise our school's association with St John's Church. Rev'd M'Caw will begin the afternoon's festivities with a short service after which we are to enjoy a picnic lunch together on the school field (weather permitting!). After lunch, the children are to play together on the play area and school field.

I would like to invite parent/carers to a closing celebration at 1.45pm. It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible. At 2.00pm the festival will end **and as part of the celebration the children are free to go home early for the day.** Please collect your child from their classroom. Given that the school day is finishing unusually early, children will **NOT** be allowed to leave their classroom to walk home alone after the festival, even if they usually do so at 3.15pm, **unless we receive a letter from parents expressly giving permission.** Any child that is not collected will, of course, be supervised as usual until 3.15pm.

Yours sincerely

Mr M R Cottrell
Headteacher

N.B. Copies of school newsletters, further information, photographs and videos of school events, an online calendar and much, much more can be found on our school website at www.stjohnskeynsham.co.uk