



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 Parents/Carers

A Warm Welcome Back

Welcome back to school for the start of the 2010-11 academic year. This newsletter contains the usual 'start of year' information and reminders that parents tell me they find useful. However, the newsletter also contains some new and very important information, most notably about the new play area and about access to the school via the Park Road gate.

School Performance (2009-10)

The following are our Key Stage 2 SAT results for 2009-10. The expected level of attainment for a child at the end of Year 6 is 'Level 4'. 'Level 5' demonstrates attainment beyond that expected of a primary aged child.

KS2 SATs (2009-10)

English	Level 4+	88%	Level 5+	29%
Maths	Level 4+	91%	Level 5+	38%

Once again, these results are extremely impressive and I would like to offer my congratulations to the children and to the staff for their achievements.

However, I would also like to point out that having checked the marked scripts we have found marking errors that we are contesting. Subsequently, I have lodged an appeal with the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency which

co-ordinates national testing. The outcome of the appeals could significantly improve the results achieved by the children and by the school overall. If there is to be a change to our results I will write to inform you.

School Uniform

We are all very proud of our standards and our uniform reflects this. Should you find that you need to buy any replacement items please see Mrs Barnes in the school office who has, in anticipation, taken receipt of a full range of new uniform to start the new school year.

Some parents have asked me to clarify the expectation with regard to PE Kit. All new children entering our school are asked to buy PE kit with the school logo from the school office. This is because we have found that making a 'school PE kit' an integral part of our school uniform has had 2 positive impacts.

The first is that the children are guaranteed to be wearing appropriate clothing for a PE lesson, just as they do for other lessons in school, and secondly we have found that children are less likely to take home PE kit with the school logo meaning that children have kit in school more of the time. Therefore, I would be very grateful if when purchasing replacement PE kit you could purchase kit, at a very reasonable price, from the school office and leave your child's **NAMED** PE kit in school at all times. Thank-you for your support.

Lost Property

Whilst I am on the subject of naming clothing it would seem an appropriate point to mention that the lost property box in the school foyer is currently home to 34 unclaimed sweatshirts and cardigans. Each and every piece of clothing has been taken home and washed by Mrs Matthews over the summer closure and I have been informed that only four items had names in them. Any items of school uniform that remain unclaimed by **Friday 10th September 2010** will be given to the PTA to sell or be recycled.

Damaged Wall in Junior Playground

I have arranged for an area to be zoned off around a neighbour's damaged wall in the junior playground. The necessary procedures were set in motion long before the summer closure to ensure that reparation work is completed but as it is the neighbours wall we are obliged to wait until they are in a position to move forward. In the meantime, can I ask that children avoid this area. Many thanks.

50 Year Celebration

The Staff, Governors and I are in the process of finalising an exciting week of events that will culminate on Friday with an official opening of the play area by a local dignitary. I will write to you with further details shortly.

School Procedures and Reminders

I am aware that we are welcoming many new families to our school this year and that they will be unsure of the general rules and routines that have for so many years ensured that our school has run smoothly. As is our tradition, this first newsletter of the year sets out the general rules and routines of daily school life.

Most of the guidance printed in this newsletter refers to procedures that apply both before and after school. With so many people on site these are key times in the school day and I would ask that you read the guidance carefully and follow the procedures.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to maintain and build upon our standards and I look forward to us moving forward together during 2010-11.

Access to the school site

I have had several requests asking the school to clarify its policy regarding daily access to the school site. The following guidance is in response to these requests.

Children **should not arrive at school before 8.40am each morning** as we do not have adequate supervision for children arriving before this time. Similarly, I would be grateful if parents collecting their child at the end of the school day **do not arrive on site before 3.10pm** as lessons will still be taking place.

Car parking on site is for staff only. Please do not bring your vehicle into the school car park when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

A word of warning: Please be advised that both our Charlton Park and Park Road entrances are regularly patrolled by PCSO's and Traffic Wardens. There were occasions last year where drivers were booked for failing to observe road markings outside of school.

NEW - I would also like to clarify the school policy on access to the school site from the Park Road gate. **The gate will be open before and after school** should you wish to use it to collect your child, but following advice from the Police *will be locked during the school day (see below for more details)*. Once again, **please do not arrive on site before 3.10pm.**

If you are collecting a child from an after school club, please collect your child from the main entrance of the school. Leaving via the main school entrance allows us to ensure that children leave safely and with the adult we are expecting to collect them.

Please ensure that everyone stays to the paths and playground areas when moving around the site both before and after school. Parents and children that take short cuts across the field and other grassed areas before and after school will unknowingly encourage our children to act similarly during the school day when they are not allowed to do so.

Also, as the weather gradually worsens using the grassed areas will mean that mud will be walked into school and onto our new carpets upon which the children sit.

Please can you ensure that your child/children wait on the playgrounds before school and not on grassed areas or the paths. In the past, parents have mentioned that they have found it difficult to move along paths easily with push chairs and their toddlers because of groups of children waiting on the paths.

Parents are asked to take infant children straight to the infant playground in the morning rather than waiting to see their junior brother or sister into school. However, I do understand that parents of our new Year 3 children will likely have been asked by their child to 'see them safely in' in the early days and that this will quickly tail off as the children become more confident with their junior routines.

Please would parents/carers ensure that all toddlers are closely supervised whilst on the school site. For their own safety, small children should not be allowed to run across the grassed areas or around the back or sides of our Year 2 classroom before and after school where they are out of sight. *We do not allow children to do so during the school day and this avoids sending mixed messages.*

Can I also ask that you do not allow your child/ren near any of the infant classrooms whilst you wait for your children to finish school. Knocking on doors and windows is very distracting for the children and the class teacher who will be trying to give important information at the end of the school day when children will be tired and easily distracted. **With this in mind, please would parents of our infant children waiting with toddlers stay in the lower infant playground, ensuring that toddlers are closely supervised at all times.**

Children should not sit or walk along school walls. Thank you for your co-operation.

NEW - Site Security and Safeguarding

Following a recent site security audit conducted by the Police Service I was advised to lock the Park Road gate during the school day to limit access to the school site to one entrance. Therefore, **the Park Road gate will be locked at 9.00am each morning and will not be unlocked until 3.10pm each day.**

Furthermore, I have asked Mr Nall (School Caretaker) to monitor the Charlton Park gate each morning to ensure that our school rules are observed (such as no riding scooters and bikes on site) and to provide further adult supervision around the school entrance at a busy time of day to ensure everyone's safety.

For the same reasons, the staff and I will be monitoring the Park Road gate and Junior playground each morning to supervise the safety of children before they enter the school.

Headteacher's Safeguarding Briefing for Parent Volunteers

I shall be holding a safeguarding briefing for all parent volunteers who help in school on **Thursday 16th September 2010 at 2.45pm.**

The meeting will address safeguarding procedures that apply to all adults working in schools, including parent volunteers, and will explain the new rules and regulations set down by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) that come into effect this academic year.

Whilst the new ISA regulations are exacting I do hope that they will not put off both our current parent volunteers and also those parents who may be interested in helping in school in the future. If you are a current parent volunteer or are prepared to help out this year, please register your attendance at the briefing with the school office. Thank you.

Sadly, such is the stringency of the latest regulations, parents who have not attended a safeguarding briefing and who have the necessary CRB and ISA clearances will be unable to help in school. However, should you not be able to attend the forthcoming briefing and find that later in the year you would like to become a parent volunteer, please contact your child's Class Teacher to register your interest and you will be invited to meet with the Headteacher to discuss safeguarding before starting work in school.

NEW - The Play Area

The new play area has passed a ROSPA inspection and certain sections are now ready for use. Use of the new play area will be phased in over the coming days and weeks. This is to ensure that the children, and the adults supervising them, are briefed and prepared before we fully open the play area.

The 'St John's Mine' and slide is out of bounds for the time being whilst the mound settles and the grass grows to stabilise the soil, during which time hand holds will be fitted to the climbing wall and a safety rail installed along the top of the mound. After this is completed, the entire play area will be opened up for use by all.

In the meantime, the children will begin using the rest of the play area from Monday to ensure that we get the maximum out of the equipment whilst the sun is still shining. Use of the play area will be phased in groups across the week to make it manageable.

Please note that the play area is out bounds both before and after school all year. Children should only use the play area during the school day and when my staff and I can arrange for suitable supervision. Opening the play area during school fairs and other such events will be subject to a satisfactory risk assessment on an event by event basis.

There will be an opportunity for parents to inspect the play area each day next week. Please come to the main school entrance at 2.45pm for a 'guided tour' before collecting your children.

The 'Cross'

I have asked Mr Spens to allocate teams of Year 6 monitors to supervise the storage of bikes and scooters at both of our school entrances. Please can I ask that you ensure that your child's bike or scooter is stored neatly and safely in the appropriate 'croc'. I do recognise that space is sometimes an issue and would ask that when the racks are full excess scooters and bikes are stored in a tidy way. Thank-you.

Parents' Curriculum Evening

On **Tuesday 14th September** there will be an evening presentation for parents of children in all Classes. Please note the different times for year groups.

5.00pm - 5.30pm	YR	Mrs Sadowski
5.30pm - 6.00pm	Y1	Mrs S Bruton/Mrs W Vye
	Y2	Miss L Gay/ Mrs M Quilter
6.00pm - 6.30pm	Y3	Mrs S Bindon
6.30pm - 7.00pm	Y4	Mrs P Postlethwaite/Mrs A Percival (Mrs Hillier from November 2010)
	Y5	Mrs K Simmonds/Mrs C Singleton
7.00pm - 7.30pm	Y6	Mr A Spens

The purpose of the evening is to give class teacher(s) an opportunity to explain to you about what they hope to achieve in their respective classes during the year. They will refer to matters such as curriculum content, classroom organisation, teaching strategies and home/school links. We hope that you will find the evening informative and helpful.

Music and Club Provision - Terms 1 and 2 of 2010-11

Can I remind parents that payment for all clubs and music tuition must be made *before* the first lesson or coaching session. I have asked the school office to reallocate places to other children on our waiting lists if payment is not received before the first session. Thank-you.

Sports Clubs

Mondays	Street Dance	3.30pm - 4.30pm (06/09 to 18/10 inclusive - 7 sessions)
Thursdays	Gymnastics	3.30pm - 4.30pm (09/09 to 18/11 inclusive - 10 sessions)
Fridays	Cricket	3.30pm - 4.30pm (10/09 to 17/11 inclusive - 10 sessions)

New - Singing Club

We are starting a new lunchtime singing club this year. The club will be led by school Staff and Governors and will be available to all junior children. More details will follow shortly.

Music Tuition

Monday	Violin	(13/09 to 22/11 inclusive - 10 lessons)
Monday	Clarinet	(13/09 to 22/11 inclusive - 10 lessons)
uesday	Flute/Fife	(14/09 to 22/11 inclusive - 10 lessons)
Tuesday	Brass	(14/09 to 22/11 inclusive - 10 lessons)

We also hope to hold guitar and recorder lessons. More details will follow shortly.

Free Clarinet Tuition

I have secured one terms free clarinet tuition for a limited number of children during the Autumn. Places are available to children who might like to try playing the clarinet for a sustained length of time at no cost. The instrument and reeds will be supplied. Tuition is open to children in Years 4, 5 and 6 (Year 3 will receive free violin tuition, as in previous years). If your child is interested please contact the school office who will arrange for your child to be assessed by Mrs Bailey (Clarinet Teacher) to ensure that they are physically suited to the instrument. Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

School Meals

The Schools Forum has decided that the price of a primary school meal will be £2.00 from 1 September 2010. *Payment for school meals is to be made for the week/weeks ahead on Monday morning, with the child's name, class and days of the week you wish for your child to have a school meal clearly marked on the envelope.* Unless payment for the week's meals is made in advance of consumption on Monday mornings the school will not provide a meal.

Preferred method of payment for school meals is by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Bath and North East Somerset or B&NES. Thank-you.

Emergency Contacts

Please could we remind parents to ensure that the emergency contact telephone numbers/details we have are up-to-date. If there has been any change in the arrangements, please inform us immediately.

INSET Days 2010-11

The following dates are the remaining programme of INSET school closure for the academic year 2010-11. The dates are;

- Monday 1st November 2010
- Tuesday 2nd November 2010
- Friday 18th February 2011
- Monday 28th February 2011
- Friday 27th May 2011

I trust that this information provides you with plenty of notice to put in place the necessary child care arrangements.

Registration

If you have a younger child not registered at St John's School, in particular children born between 1.9.06 and 31.8.07, please ensure that you register before **MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2011.**

For further details or log on to www.bathnes.gov.uk and click on the link 'Schools and Colleges', on the left hand side of the screen, followed by 'School Admissions' where it is possible to apply on-line.

Once again, a very warm welcome back to school to all our children and families. I look forward to a happy and successful year here at St John's.

Yours sincerely

Mr M R Cottrell
Headteacher

St John's Church of England Primary School

Key Dates and Reminders:

The following are key dates for your diaries for Terms 1 and 2. Parents will receive letters giving details of specific trips and events for your child's class in due course.

SEPTEMBER	TERM 1 - 2010
Wednesday 1st	INSET Day 1 - school closed
Thursday 2nd	School reopens for Term 1 (08:50 prompt)
Monday 6 th	Music tuition and clubs begin this week
Wednesday 8 th	Year 4 swimming begins
Tuesday 14 th	Curriculum Evening (details on this newsletter)
Thursday 16th	Headteachers Safeguarding Briefing - 2.45pm
Tuesday 21st	PTA AGM (details to follow from PTA) 7.30pm
w/c Monday 27 th	50 Year Celebration Week (more details to follow next week)
OCTOBER	Book Fair open from 3.15pm in the school hall. Book Fair also open on Monday 4 th and Tuesday 5 th October
Friday 1 st	
Friday 8 th	School Councillor Elections School Photographer - morning (pre-school, siblings, family groups and individual portraits from 8.30am in the school hall)
Monday 11 th	Tex Re-cycling bags being collected (details to follow)
Friday 15 th	Harvest Celebration Service (10.00am - parents welcome)
Monday 18 th	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Parents Information Evening (5.00pm)
Friday 22 nd	School closes at 3.15pm (end of Term 1)
NOVEMBER	TERM 2
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd	INSET Day 2 - school closed
	INSET Day 3 - school closed
Wednesday 3rd	School reopens for Term 2 (08:50 prompt)
Friday 5 th	Year 6 visit The Lifeskills Centre, Bristol
Monday 15 th	Parents Open Evening 1 (details to follow)
Thursday 18 th	Parents Open Evening 2 (details to follow)
Friday 19 th	'Children in Need' school event
Friday 26 th	Keynsham Town Victorian Evening (St John's PTA involved)
DECEMBER	TERM 2
Wednesday 1st	Year 4 swimming ends
Friday 3rd	Keynsham School's Carol Service - (Juniors only)
Saturday 4 th	PTA Christmas Fair 11.30am - 1.30pm
Wednesday 8 th	School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 14th	Infant Nativity (2.15pm - parents welcome)

Wednesday 15th	Junior Carol Concert (2.00pm and 7.00pm - parents welcome)
Thursday 16 th	Christingle Service (10am at St John's Church - all welcome)
Friday 17 th	School closes at 3.15pm (end of Term 2)
JANUARY 2011	TERM 3
Tuesday 4 th	School reopens for Term 3 (08:50am prompt)