



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHARLTON PARK
KEYNSHAM
BRISTOL
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Dear Parent/Carer

St John's - judged to be a 'Category 1' School

Each year all schools are subject to an assessment by their Local Authority. As a result of this, schools are then awarded an educational 'category' ranging from 'Category 1' to 'Category 4'. After our annual assessment I am pleased to be able to inform you that for the forthcoming academic year (2010-11) St. John's has once again been judged to be a 'Category 1' school, the highest award possible. Specifically, the authority congratulated us on our;

- Excellent progress and very high standards
- Leadership and Management at all levels
- Strong team ethos

The informing letter concluded;

'Finally on behalf of the Local Authority, I would like to congratulate you, the staff and governors for continuing to provide an outstanding education for the children in your school.'

This further accolade is in addition to our 'outstanding' inspection reports from the church school inspectorate and from Ofsted and further serves as testament to the hard work and high standards that we expect at St. John's.

St John's asked to participate in training new Headteachers

The National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services (formerly NCSL) is responsible for training the next generation of Headteachers. Before taking up their first Headship new Headteachers must hold NPQH (the 'National Professional Qualification for Headship'). In addition to traditional written and practical examinations candidates must complete a block leadership practice, similar to a final teaching practice undertaken by trainee teachers, where they must demonstrate their readiness for school leadership.

As an 'outstanding' school we at St John's have been asked to host such placements and to assist with mentoring and assessing candidates. This is a great accolade and sits well with our existing commitment to supporting the leadership development of aspiring leaders of church schools in partnership with the Diocese.

In addition, I have been deployed in my capacity as an NCSL 'Leader of Education' to support a school experiencing challenging circumstances this year. We can all feel a sense of pride in that our school community, having been recognised for our achievements, has been asked to support the broader field of education that exists beyond our gates.

Timetable for 50 Year Celebration Event - Friday 1st October 2010

Of course, such accolades are not what makes our school a fun and exciting place for children to learn, they are merely a by product of us all going the extra mile to achieve something special for our children. Next week will be another opportunity to inject even more fun and excitement into school life as we all enjoy a celebratory week of activities to mark 50 years of St. John's school here in Charlton Park. One of the most exciting things to look forward to will be the unearthing of a time capsule that was buried in 1985 to mark the schools 25 year celebrations. We have enlisted a local archaeological society's metal detector team to help us locate it!! Having examined the contents of the first time capsule the children will then bury their own 50 year capsule for future generations to explore. The following is our timetable for your information;

<p>FRIDAY 1 October 1.30pm</p>	<p>Whole school celebration service where each class shares activities they have done during the week. Items will follow the theme of the decade chosen by each class. Sadly we cannot invite parents to this part of the afternoon as we need the stage in the school hall and will not have enough room for all the children and parents as well. The decades are;</p> <table data-bbox="662 1465 1036 1682"> <tr> <td>Years 1 and 2</td> <td>1960's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td>1980's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 4</td> <td>1990's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 5</td> <td>1970's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6</td> <td>2000's</td> </tr> </table>	Years 1 and 2	1960's	Year 3	1980's	Year 4	1990's	Year 5	1970's	Year 6	2000's
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Year 3	1980's										
Year 4	1990's										
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Year 6	2000's										
<p>2.45pm</p>	<p>Burying of a time capsule (grand/parents warmly welcomed).</p>										
<p>3.00pm</p>	<p>Archdeacon opens the play area (grand/parents warmly welcomed)</p>										
<p>3.15pm</p>	<p>50 Year presentation of children's work and photographs of the school, its children, staff, parents and governors spanning back to September 1960 in the school hall (grand/parents warmly welcomed)</p>										

We have invited past staff, governors and special guests to join us for the afternoon. I hope that you can join us.

The new play area – what do the children think?

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have seen the children using the equipment will know that they absolutely love it! As you can imagine, I myself have been supporting the lunchtime supervisory team to observe how the children are using the play area as part of my on-going risk assessment. As a result of my observations I have asked the builder to make certain changes to the design, either to enhance the play value and enjoyment for the children, to improve aspects of safety or to reduce wear on the area in the longer term. I have also been asking the children what they think of the play area and have used their comments and suggestions to make further improvements. I thought that you might like to read some;

“The birds nest swing is A-MAZ-ING!!!”; “This is the best ever!”; “I love it!”; “The climbing wall is amazing!”; “The wizard’s hat is cool!; “The slide is really awesome!”; “Playtimes are brilliant now!”; and last, but not least, a whole host of “whooooooooo’s!!!” as the children charge around the play area having a great time!

Our builder is returning on Monday to make further improvements (weather permitting!) after which we hope the work will be completed in its entirety and in time for the grand opening next Friday afternoon. After all the hard work and challenges involved in funding, planning and project managing a flagship project over a two year period has been made worthwhile by simply watching the children playing and having so much fun.

Headteacher’s Safeguarding Meeting

May I extend my thanks to all those parents who took the time to come to my safeguarding briefing recently. The meeting was well attended and as such reflects our shared commitment to protecting the whole of our school community. Can I take this opportunity to politely remind our Parent/Carers that should you wish to work as a parent volunteer in school you will be required to have;

- A current enhanced CRB clearance (organised by the school)
- Signed the school’s safeguarding code of practice
- Attended a safeguarding briefing led by the Headteacher

Any parents interested in working in school should express their interest at the school office who will provide further information.

Doctors Appointments

When children leave the school site to attend appointments, please ensure that you sign them out and back in again in the register kept in the school office. Obviously, you would expect me to ask that where possible appointments are made outside of school hours, but I do recognise that often this is simply impossible. Signing children out and back in will help us avoid a situation where in an emergency we are searching for a child whom being present at registration is thought to be in school but who is actually off-site attending an appointment. Thank-you for your co-operation.

Eco-School Update - installation of an 'OWL' electricity meter

Mrs Simmonds (our Eco-School Lead Teacher) has arranged for our school to have an 'OWL' meter installed in school. The OWL meter monitors the amount of electricity we use in school and displays fluctuations as they happen on a mobile digital unit, as well as showing the cost of what we are using, as we are using it! This technology will enable our school 'Green Team' to advise us how we might begin to save energy more effectively.

Yours sincerely

M Cottrell

Headteacher

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

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.

**Please note change of date for Book Fair due to 50 Year Celebration Event
the Book Fair will now open on Monday 4 October NOT Friday 1 October**

SEPTEMBER	TERM 1 - 2010
w/c Monday 27 th	50 Year Celebration Week Please see timetable of events for Friday 1 October in this newsletter.
OCTOBER Monday 4 th , Tuesday 5 th , and Wednesday 6 th	Book Fair will be open from 3.15pm in the school hall .
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 3 rd	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 1 st	Year 4 swimming ends
Friday 3 rd	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)