

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

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19th October 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you at the end of Term 1 with a brief update with regard to the work of our school and to provide information and dates for Term 2.

New Club and Music Tuition - (Drama Club, Keyboard and Guitar Tuition)

We have had a great deal of interest in our proposed new Keyboard and Guitar Tuition and Drama Club. If you have yet to express an interest in any of the aforementioned opportunities and wish to do so please ensure that you register your interest with Mrs Collins in the school office by Friday 21st October 2011. We will contact you with further details in Term 2. Thank you.

New School Councillors Elected

Elections to appoint our School Councillors for the academic year 2011-12 were held on Friday 7th October 2011. The following children were elected by their class to represent them on our School Council;

Reception Class:	To be elected in January 2012
Year 1:	Annabelle Brookes and Braedon Wells
Year 2:	Lauren Manley and Eddie Olds
Year 3:	Gracie Matthews and Jude Woolls
Year 4:	Jasmine Metters and William Brookes
Year 5:	Millie Matthews and Cameron Thorpe
Year 6:	Elena Feay and Ben Pollard

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new School Councillors. I wish them well in their work over the forthcoming year.

Parent Governor Election (Term 2)

Our school has a vacancy for a voluntary Parent Governor. Parent Governors make a very valuable contribution to the life and work of the school. They play an important role in securing the very best levels of care and education provided by our school. Should you be interested in learning more of the role of a school governor please contact Mrs Collins in the school office who will provide you with a copy of the information letter, 'An Introduction to being a Parent Governor'.

SATS Marking Appeal

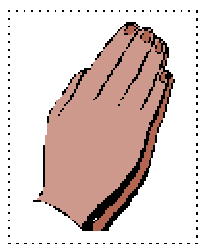
I am pleased to be able to advise you that an appeal against the inaccurate marking of our English papers by external examiners has been upheld. As a result, one child has officially been awarded a Level 5 in English which supersedes the Level 4 initially awarded. May I extend my thanks to Mr Spens (Year 6 Teacher and Deputy Headteacher) for his rigorous scrutiny of our children's papers and for his having identified where the mark scheme had been inaccurately applied.

A musical partnership with Bath Abbey

I have once again been approached by Bath Abbey with a request that we at St. John's consider joining eleven other selected schools in a singing project that will span the whole of the academic year. As a school that has been awarded 'Artsmark' by the Arts Council of England we were naturally thrilled to be considered and having accepted Bath Abbey's offer our children will now benefit from specialist singing and choral input during the 2011-12 academic year. Representatives of the Abbey will prepare our children for special events, such as our Christingle and Easter Services, where they will lead the children in song. Additionally, our children will join children from other participating schools for special celebratory events to be held at the Abbey throughout the year. I'm sure that you will agree, such a partnership will provide valuable enrichment experiences for our children and staff.

St John's Primary School Prayer Support Group

The following is a 'start of year' message from our School Prayer Group;



'This group meets once a term for an hour to pray for the school – for the staff, the children and for the many practical concerns. We are a group of Christian parents, governors and teachers from a variety of churches who share a common desire to support all involved in the school in this way. The next meeting of the School Prayer Group is to be held at 23 Handel Road (8.00p.m. – 9.00p.m.). All are most welcome.'

- If you are interested in being part of this group, you might like to speak to Lorna Tredget (Chair of Governors) or Roger Peach (Foundation Governor).

School Annual Charity and Operation Christmas Child

Each year we select an annual charity to support. You may recall that the air ambulance helicopter landed on our school playground last summer whilst they responded to an emergency call. During the visit we learned that the work of the air ambulance service is entirely funded by voluntary contributions. Following this, we have decided to make the **Air Ambulance Service** our chosen charity this year.

As well as adopting an annual charity we at St. John's also support the annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Each year our children pack a shoebox with toys and games suitable for either a boy or a girl and wrap it up to resemble a Christmas present. These parcels are then distributed to children at Christmas time in places ravaged by war, poverty and famine. Mr Spens has discussed the appeal with the children in a recent school service. The deadline for the return of shoeboxes to school is **Friday 11th November 2011**. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Poppy Box

I have arranged for our poppy box to arrive in school on Monday 31st October 2011. Poppies will be sold in school by children in Year 6 from Tuesday 1st November until Friday 11th November 2011.

School Crossing Patrol

For your information, there will **not** be a crossing patrol service on Charlton Road on the morning of Monday 31st October 2011.

Headteacher's Safeguarding Meeting and Volunteering in school

May I extend my thanks to all those parents who took the time to attend 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.

Medical Appointments

When children leave the school site to attend appointments please will you 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, having been marked present at morning or afternoon registration, is actually off site attending an appointment. Thank you for your co-operation.

Harvest Service

May I extend my thanks to those parents and grandparents who came to our recent Harvest Celebration here at school. The service was very well attended and raised an excellent £63.05 from our retiring collection. This money will be given to the **Genesis Trust**. The generous donations of food were collected on Monday by the **Bath Foodbank** which is linked to the Genesis Trust. These items will be distributed to families in need in the Bath area.

Roald Dahl Collection – Special offer

'The Book People' are offering parents the chance to buy a set of Roald Dahl books for only **£16**. (RRP £93.85.) If you would be interested in purchasing a set of books, please see Mrs Collins in the office for an order form.

Children's Charity Fund Raising Fair

An enthusiastic group of children have approached me to request that they raise funds for their chosen charity by holding a fund raising fair. As a school we have always promoted and fostered children's care and thought for others and once again the children's efforts are warmly welcomed. The charity fair will be held after school and in the school hall on Wednesday 19th October 2011. The following is a quote from the children organising the event;

*'Please can you come to our fair on **Wednesday 19th October** after school. We are trying to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund. Thank you.'* (Amelia, Charlotte and Rachael - Year 6)

I look forward to welcoming you all back to school for the start of Term 2 on Monday 31st October 2011 at 8.50am prompt.

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 2 and 3. Parents will receive letters giving details of specific trips and events for your child's class in due course.

OCTOBER 2011	TERM 2
Monday 31 st October	School reopens for Term 2 (08:50 prompt) Poppies on sale in school Streetdance afterschool club starts Cheerleading, Gym and Cricket restart this week
NOVEMBER 2011	
Wednesday 2 nd	Y5 – Cycle training commences (1 of 5)
Thursday 3 rd	Parents' Open Evening 1
Friday 4 th	Year 6 visit The Lifeskills Centre, Bristol
Monday 7 th	Year 2 – Visit from Farmer Nick and his barn owl Parents' Open Evening 2
Tuesday 8 th	Year 4 – Art workshop
Wednesday 9 th	Year 5 – Cycle Training (2)
Friday 11 th	Deadline for return of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes
Wednesday 16 th	Y5 – Cycle training (3)
Wednesday 23 rd	Y5 – Cycle training (4)
Friday 25 th	Keynsham Town Victorian Evening (St John's PTA involved)
Wednesday 30 th	Y4 – final swimming session Y5 – Cycle training (5)
DECEMBER 2011	
Friday 2 nd	Keynsham Schools Carol Service – (Juniors only)
Saturday 3 rd	PTA Christmas Fair 11.30am – 1.30pm
Wednesday 7 th	School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 13 th	Infant Nativity - 2.15pm (parents welcome)
Wednesday 14 th	Junior Carol Concert - 2.00pm and 7.00pm (parents welcome)
Thursday 15 th	Christingle Service (10am at St John's Church – all welcome)
Friday 16 th	School closes at 3.15pm (end of Term 2)
JANUARY 2012	TERM 3
Tuesday 3 rd	School reopens for Term 3 (08:50am prompt)

INSET Days 2011-12

The following dates are the remaining programme of INSET school closure for the academic year 2011-12. The dates are:

- Monday 20th February 2012
- Monday 16th April 2012
- Friday 1st June 2012