

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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21 October 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

### **A message from the Headteacher**

As we approach the end of Term One I reflect upon what has been an extremely busy start to the 2010-11 academic year. Life at school is always lived in the fast lane; there is no other way given that we have to compress so much work and so many events into short bursts of activity each term. However, with our 50 Year Celebrations and the institution of our new Rector, the Reverend Dr Stephen M'Caw, this past term has been especially busy and exciting. Some pressures that schools face are clear for all to see and others are not so obvious – but believe me they are there! What I find encouraging is that yet again throughout what has been a challenging term the work of the school has been exceptionally well supported by parents, both in large and in small ways. The support that we receive is not taken for granted and allows us to focus all of our energy upon our primary task, that being to provide an outstanding level of educational provision in a safe and happy environment. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation as we strive for excellence in each and every aspect of school life.

### **A musical partnership with Bath Abbey**

I have been approached by Bath Abbey with a request that we at St John's consider joining 11 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 benefit from specialist singing and choral input during the 2010-11 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. In addition our children will join with other participating schools for special celebratory events to be held at the Abbey throughout the year. I am sure you will agree that such a partnership will provide valuable enrichment experiences for our children and staff.

## Harvest Service

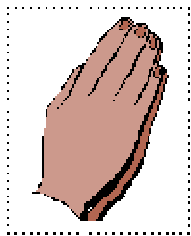
May I extend my thanks to those parents and grandparents who came to our recent Harvest Celebration here at school. The service was very well attended, possibly the best ever, and raised an excellent £100.69 from donations received from our retiring collection. *This year the school's chosen charity is Barnardo's who will be sent a cheque for the balance of your kind donation.*

## School Book Fair

I would like to thank parents and children for supporting our school Book Fair. The first day of sales was incredible and our school hall was packed full of people browsing the titles. I am sure that you will agree it was wonderful to see the children so excited about books and so eager to read. What is more, your terrific support has had a tangible effect on our school's classroom libraries. The book company allowed each teacher to choose lots of new books from the fair for their classrooms. This has been a valuable boost to our classroom libraries. Thank-you for making this year's Book Fair a real success.

## 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.*

*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).*

## Operation Christmas Child

You will recall that in addition to selecting an annual charity to support, this year it being Barnardo's, 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 for 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, our Deputy Headteacher, has discussed the Appeal with the children this morning in service. The deadline for the return of shoeboxes to school is **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2010**. Thank-you for your co-operation and support.

## Poppy Appeal

I have arranged for our poppy box to arrive in school on Monday 1st November 2010. Poppies will be sold in school by children in Year 6 from Wednesday 3rd November 2010 until Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

### **School Meals Week**

The local authority is to hold a week long promotion of school meals in order to seek to increase uptake (w/c Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010). The week is to begin with 'Sizzling Sausage Day' where all meals for that day only will be charged at only £1.00. *The menu is to be Quorn or pork meat sausages, chips and peas or beans, followed by fruity flapjack.* If you would like your child to have a school meal, please contact Mrs Barnes in the school office.

### **New School Councillors**

Congratulations to the following children who have been elected by their class mates to represent them on our School Council;

Reception:	To be elected in January 2011
Year 1:	Sam Ashton and Amy Hooper
Year 2:	Sam Peach and Alice Goddard
Year 3:	Isaak Bishop and Jessica Pells
Year 4:	Aden Greaves and Elisa Perks
Year 5:	Joshua Harding and Alicia Olds
Year 6:	Jack Michael Thomas and Amber Warren

I look forward to working with the new councillors during the coming academic year.

### **Year 3 Bible Presentations**

Parents and grandparents of children in Year 3 are most welcome to attend a special presentation service where their children will be given a copy of the Children's Bible' with an individual nameplate attached to the inside cover. The service will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 9.05am in the school hall and will be led by members of 'Churches Together Schools Ministry Team'.

### **New Play Area**

We have been visited to day by the local Play Advisory Team and they have informed us that they have notified 'Play England' that our new play area is an example of cutting edge play provision in schools and as such our school will appear in a 'Play England' report as a outstanding example of good practice in play provision.

### **Headteacher's Safeguarding Meeting**

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**

Please will you ensure that when children leave the school site to attend appointments 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 has been recorded as being present but who is actually off site attending an appointment. Thank-you for your co-operation.

### **Children's Charity Fund Raising Fair**

Two enthusiastic groups of children have approached me to request that they raise funds for their chosen charities 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 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. The following is a quote from the children organising the event;

*'Please can you come to our fair on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October after school.  
We are trying to raise money for the Royal United Hospital.  
Thank-you.'* (Eleanor, Rebecca, Maisie and Grace - Year 6)

I look forward to welcoming you all back to school for the start of Term 2 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 at 8.50am prompt.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

**PS All newsletters can be read on our school website. The website is regularly updated and photographs of recent events that have taken place in Term 1 have been added.**

## 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.

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>TERM 2</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>INSET Day 2 - school closed</b> <b>INSET Day 3 - school closed</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School reopens for Term 2 (08:50 prompt) Poppies on sale in school
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 visit The Lifeskills Centre, Bristol
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	'Sizzling Sausage Day' - school meals £1.00 today only
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Final day for sale of poppies
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parents Open Evening 1</b> (details to follow)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	'The Dairy Bus' visits school for the day (all classes) 'The Wild Owl Trust' visits school (as part of Year 2's topic)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Parents Open Evening 2</b> (details to follow)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	'Children in Need' school event
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Keynsham Town Victorian Evening (St John's PTA involved)
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>TERM 2</b>
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 4 swimming ends
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Keynsham Schools Carol Service - (Juniors only)
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Fair 11.30am - 1.30pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>School Christmas Lunch</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Infant Nativity (2.15pm - parents welcome)</b>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Junior Carol Concert (2.00pm and 7.00pm - parents welcome)</b>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christingle Service (10am at St John's Church - all welcome)</b> (PM) Junior Christmas cinema/theatre visit (awaiting venue booking confirmation and Christmas schedules - more details to follow) (PM) Infant Christmas Party (more details to follow)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	School closes at 3.15pm (end of Term 2)
<b>JANUARY 2011</b>	<b>TERM 3</b>
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	School reopens for Term 3 (08:50am prompt)

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011

