



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

Welcome back. 2011 promises to be another exciting year here at St John's. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with important information regarding the work of the school during Terms 3 and 4. I trust that you find it informative and that its contents are of interest.

School uniform and jewellery

I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of a new term and a new year to thank parents for the high standard of dress I see across the school. It is good to recognise that our high expectations are reflected in the excellent presentation of children's full school uniform and shoes. Thank you.

Sport Clubs and Music Provision

The following clubs and enrichment activities are held in school.

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Street Dance | Monday: | 3.15pm – 4.15pm | (available from Year 2) |
| Basketball | Wednesday: | 3.15pm – 4.15pm | (available from Year 2) |
| Gymnastics | Thursday: | 3.15pm – 4.15pm | (available from Year 2) |
| Cricket | Friday: | 3.15pm – 4.15pm | (available from Year 2) |

In addition, we can also provide **instrumental tuition** in the following instruments (available from Year 3); **Guitar, Flute, Fife, Recorder, Clarinet, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Brass**, (Trumpet, French horn and cornet)

Should your child wish to join any of our clubs, or should you like for them to have an assessment to learn to play an instrument, please see Mrs Collins in the school office for more details.

Charity Collection Update

May I thank you all for your kind donations to our chosen annual charity for 2010-11, Barnardo's. In total St John's school community raised an additional £400.20 for Barnardo's from retiring collections taken during the Christmas season. Thank you for your ongoing support of our charity fund raising work.

Text Alerts

I would be grateful if you could provide me with an indication as to your opinion of our text messaging service. Perhaps you might choose to make reference to the service when you complete your Parent Consultation Questionnaire that is attached to this newsletter. Should it be apparent that you value the service then I will renew our subscription for the forthcoming year. In the meantime, please can I ask that if you have changed your contact details over the Christmas period that you ensure our school office has your latest mobile telephone numbers. Thank you.

Parent Governor Vacancies

The school has 2 vacancies for Parent Governors. I shall be sending home nomination forms for Parent Governor Elections on Monday 17th January 2011. The covering letter will contain further information. In the meantime, should you be interested in learning more about the work of Parent Governors please ask the school office for our information sheet entitled '**An Introduction to being a Parent Governor**'.

School Prayer Group

The school prayer group will meet to pray for the work of the school on Thursday 10th February 2011 at 8.00pm. The meeting will take place at 23 Handel Road, the home of our Foundation (Church) Governor, Mr R. Peach. You are all warmly welcomed to attend.

Bedtime Story Evening

Our children have once again requested a Bedtime Story Evening. This will take place on Tuesday 1st February 2011 between 6.00pm – 7.00pm. After a story, a drink and a biscuit, Mrs Parrett will lead a 'camp fire' sing along in the school hall. Please collect your children from their classrooms. Thank-you.

Children's Self Esteem and Learning Questionnaire Returns (2010 -11)

The following are the results of our annual pupil consultation conducted in Term 2 of 2010. The children's responses were overwhelmingly positive and reflect the fact that we have a very happy school where children feel safe, valued and enjoy their learning. I have included a synopsis below including comparisons with 2009.

- Vast majority of children (97%) **tell us their teachers consider their work to be good or very good** (95% in 2009)
- Vast majority of children (92%) tell us that they **always enjoy coming to school** (94% in 2009)
- Vast majority of children (100%) tell us that they **always feel safe and happy at school and in the playground** (93% in 2009)
- Vast majority of children (90%) **always enjoy their school work because they find it interesting and challenging** (86% in 2009)
- Vast majority of children (96%) **say that they always try their best at school** (94% in 2009)
- Vast majority (100%) **think that they and their class behave well in school** (99% in 2009)

Ofsted Inspection and Parent Consultation Questionnaires

St John's is due an Ofsted inspection in 2011. As a school currently graded as being 'outstanding' by the inspectorate it is possible that our next inspection **may** be deferred but essentially we should be prepared to expect a visit from Ofsted at any time and with a maximum of 2 days notice. When inspected Ofsted will want to gauge parental views of the school and will refer to this year's set of questionnaire returns before triangulating them with their own questionnaires. This year's returns are therefore especially important and I am hoping that as in previous years we receive a high level of response in support of the work of the school and ideally the most positive response to date!

I have attached a parent/carer questionnaire to this newsletter and would be very grateful if you could find a few minutes to complete it and **return it to Mrs Collins in the school office on or before Monday 17th January 2011.** The questions are those that are asked by Ofsted during school inspections. I have chosen a 'tick box' format to keep the time needed to complete it to a bare minimum. However, there is a space on the questionnaire for you to add comments should you wish to. Your comments are always valued and in the past they have led to us to introduce, for example, our text messaging service to improve communication, more after school clubs, our new play areas and our decision to change sports days from the afternoon to the morning to reduce children's exposure to the sun. This year, and as you might imagine, I will once again be grateful for **all** comments, **but this year more so than ever, especially the positive ones!!** Thank you for your support in this important matter.

The process of parental consultation is an important part of our school improvement work and I am very much looking forward to working with you in order to ensure that our school continues to build upon its high standards and many strengths.

Yours sincerely

M Cottrell

Headteacher

An electronic copy of this and previous newsletters can be found on our school website. The website is updated regularly with pictures and videos of life at school and has an online calendar of school events for your information.

St John's Church of England Primary School

Dates: Below are the dates of the events/activities that have been arranged for Terms 3 and 4. I include these at the start of a new year for your information. Details of class trips will be sent separately.

| JANUARY 2011 | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday | 11 | Parent Consultation Questionnaires published |
| Thursday | 13 | Guest visitor in Year 1 – 'Toys from the past' |
| Monday | 17 | Parent Governor Election details published Deadline for return of Parent Consultation Questionnaires |
| FEBRUARY 2011 | | |
| Tuesday | 1 | Bedtime Story Evening (6.00pm – 7.00pm) |
| Monday | 7 | Whole School Assessment Week [2 of 3] |
| Thursday | 10 | School Prayer Group (8.00pm, 23 Handel Road) |
| Friday | 11 | Deadline for parents wishing to cancel music tuition for their child for Terms 5 and 6 |
| Friday | 18 | INSET DAY and final day of term 3 – School Closed |
| Monday - Friday | 21 - 25 | School closed – end of Term 3 (half-term) |
| Monday | 28 | INSET DAY and first day of term 4 – School Closed |
| MARCH 2010 | | |
| Tuesday | 1 | School re-opens for Term 4 – at 8.50am prompt |
| Thursday | 3 | Year 6 London Residential |
| Friday | 4 | Year 6 London Residential |
| Monday | 7 | Open Evening Appointment Slips issued |
| Friday | 11 | Deadline for return of Open Evening Slips |
| Thursday | 24 | Farmer Nick visits Reception Class (Healthy Lunchbox) and Year 2 (Forces) Open Evening 1 – 3.30pm – 6.30pm (details to follow) |
| Tuesday | 29 | Open Evening 2 – 3.30pm – 6.30pm (details to follow) |
| APRIL 2011 | | |
| Wednesday | 6 | Last swimming session for Year 4 |
| Thursday | 7 | Easter Service at St John's Church – at 10.00am (help from Parents/Grandparents warmly welcomed walking church etc) Easter Fair – 3.30pm at school (details to follow) |
| Friday | 8 | Last day of Term 4 – school closes for Easter holiday at 3.15pm |
| Monday - Monday | 11 - 25 | School closed – end of Term 4 (Easter closure) |
| Tuesday | 26 | School re-opens for Term 5 – at 8.50am prompt |
| Wednesda | 27 | First swimming session for Year 3 (parent helpers needed please) |
| Friday | 29 | Bank Holiday [Royal Wedding] – School closed |
| MAY 2011 | | |
| Monday | 9 | KS2 SATs Week and Whole School Assessment Week [3 of 3] |
| - | - | |
| Friday | 13 | |

INSET Days - reminder

You may recall that I wrote to you at the start of the year with details of our school INSET days for this academic year. For your information the remaining date is;

FINAL INSET DAY [6]: Friday 27th May 2011 – School Closed

I have attached the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic year dates for your information.
Academic term dates can also be found at www.bathnes.gov.uk