



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 Parent/Carer

It has been a busy time at St John's of late. In addition to our usual planned schedule of lessons and special events we have also had more than our fair share of the unexpected! This newsletter provides you with an update of the work of the school and contains feedback with regard to both our recent parent consultation exercise and the next steps in our Parent Governor appointment.

Roof Repair Update

The roof outside of Year 3 has been inspected, quotes received and a contractor selected to oversee the completion of the works. A large section of the roof has to be replaced to effect a solid repair and we will need to use scaffolding on both sides of the building. Given this, I have asked the contractor for a works methodology. I will perform a risk assessment exercise to establish whether or not it will be safe to conduct the works during term time. Should the methodology and subsequent risk assessment be satisfactory then work will commence next week. If not, then I will postpone the work until the half term school closure (w/c Monday 21st February 2011)

School Kitchen Update

Many thanks for your patience with regard to the closure of our school kitchen last week. It proved necessary to close the kitchen in order to effect emergency repairs to some of the appliances. The work is now complete and I do not anticipate any further disruption – with any luck!

Year 5 and Year 6 visit Cadbury's

We were extremely pleased to have secured one of the final tours of Cadbury's Chocolate Factory before its closure. Whilst chocolate production has now come to an end in Keynsham, children from Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a tour of the factory, visited a presentation, listened to a talk about the factory's history and were introduced to the world's oldest chocolate bar!! Both the adults and the children alike really enjoyed the visit, and being that it was to be one of the final ever school tours of Cadbury's, our school's visit also contributed its own piece of history to the great institution.

Ms Taylor is leaving St John's

Ms J Taylor will leave St John's on Friday 18th February 2011. Ms Taylor has worked at St John's as a Teaching Assistant for 7 years during which time she has made a valuable contribution to the learning of our children. Her artistic and creative skills are widely recognised and respected amongst our staff team and we know that we shall all miss Ms Taylor when she leaves St John's at the end of term. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing Ms Taylor well.

Appointment of a new Teaching Assistant

Following interview on Thursday 27th January 2011 I am delighted to be able to inform you that the selection panel saw fit to make an appointment. Mrs K Shearing will commence employment at St John's in Term 4 (Monday 28th February 2011) as our new Teaching Assistant. I feel sure that you will join with me to congratulate Mrs Shearing upon her appointment to school.

My thanks to Mrs Bindon (Inclusion Leader), Mrs Simmonds (Year 5 Class Teacher) and Mr Spens (Deputy Headteacher) for their participation in the selection process.

Parent Consultation Exercise

May I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to those parents who took the time to complete and return the parent consultation questionnaires. Many of you chose to add comments and suggestions which the staff, Governors and I will find very useful as we formulate the future direction of our work here at school. I received a great number of returns and am thrilled that parents think so highly of the work of our school. I have attached an synopsis of the returns for your information. THANK YOU.

Parent Governor Election

The window for the receipt of nominations for our 2 vacant Parent Governor positions closed at midday today. As Returning Officer I can now confirm that we have received 3 nominations for the vacancies. It will therefore be necessary to hold an election. I shall write to you later this week in order to distribute the candidates election statements and to provide details as to how and when you may vote.

Leadership Development School

As a Leadership Development School we at St John's assist in the training of the next generation of school leaders on behalf of the National College for School Leadership and Children's Services. We are hosting a trainee Headteacher, Ms Said, who is leading a whole school initiative for us as part of her work toward qualifying as a Headteacher. Ms Said will next visit our school on Friday 11th February 2011. We very much look forward to welcoming her to St John's and to the contribution that she will make to the work of our school.

Addendum: Assessment Week [2 of 3]

Assessment Week [2] will take place w/c Monday 7th February 2011. The week is planned to provide a mid year review of your child's progress that can be discussed at our forthcoming Open Evenings.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Please note: electronic copies of school newsletters and other useful documents can be found on our school website