



20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

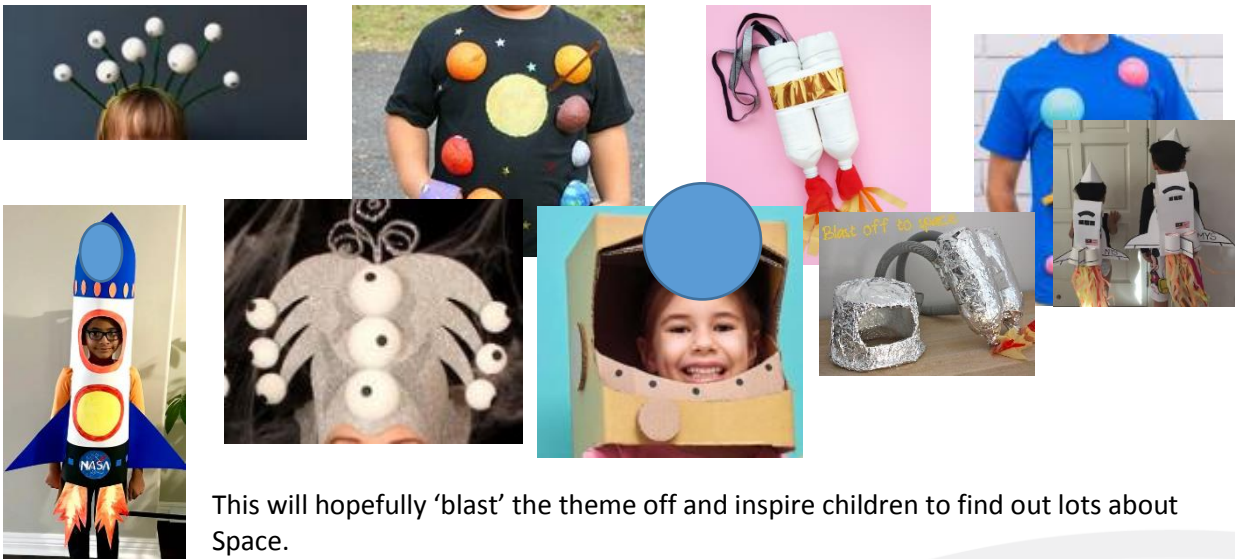
*Celebrate and learn together*

Inspiring Learning

YR -Y6 are trialing having a 'hook day' towards the start of next term (January 2020). The 'hook day' will be linked to the new topic the children are learning that term with the aim to inspire learning and make it memorable. Theme webs that outline what the children will be learning over the coming term will be available on the website on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to know more please speak to your class teacher. Please find below the details of the 'hook day' for each class.

Reception Class

As an introduction to our new theme on Space, YR will have a Space dress up day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Please do not feel you need to spend money on your child's costume as there are many ideas which can be made at home:-



This will hopefully 'blast' the theme off and inspire children to find out lots about Space.

Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1 and 2 will be immersing themselves into the theme of 'Extreme Weather' by visiting Keynsham library. As part of this visit the library will share a range of fiction and non-fiction books on weather. Following this the children will create weather art.

Year 1 will visit the library on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Year 2 will visit the library on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020'

For this to take place we will need parent helpers to walk to the library with us, please let the office know if you can join us.

Year 3 and Year 4

The Year 3/4 team are going to have a stoneage day (dress up is optional) with activities on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January children in Year 3 or Year 4 have the option to dress up as stoneage people or wear a piece of stoneage jewelry for a day of stoneage activities. We are planning a carousel of activities across the classrooms. Here are a few ideas for costumes:



### Year 5 and Year 6

On Tuesday 7th January, Year 5 and Year 6 will be becoming explorers! Our new theme is called 'In the Zone' and we invite the children to come to school dressed in explorer inspired outfits related to a biome of their choice (optional) e.g. tropical rainforest, desert, tundra, savannah, marine or ice. This could be wearing an outfit to blend in with their surrounding, made up from clothes from home – we don't expect you to buy anything new (arctic survival kits are very expensive!)

### Inter House Sports Competitions

We are excited to announce that we hosted a Inter-House Sports Competitions here at St John's. Each term, the children will be given the opportunity to represent their house in an inter-phase sports competition. The winning house will be presented with a trophy in celebration assembly and will then hold onto the trophy until it is up for grabs at the end of the Spring term. The first competition took place at the end of the Autumn term and we are pleased to announce the results below:

#### Year 1-2 Football

- 1st = Sun
- 2nd = Water
- 3rd = Fire and Earth

#### Year 3-4 Benchball

- 1st = Earth
- 2nd = Fire
- 3rd = Water
- 4th = Sun

#### Year 5-6 Netball

- 1st = Fire
- 2nd = Water
- 3rd = Earth and Sun

### De-cluttering?

Do you have toys at home that are no longer played with? YR love playing with a wide range of resources so if you'd like to give your toys a good home we would happily take them off of your hands. We would be very grateful for any of the following:-

Dinosaurs, farm/zoo/wild animals/large plastic bugs  
Small world style toys – eg. cars, action figures, small dolls, small characters  
Cars/vehicles - large and small Playmobil characters/vehicles/resources (or similar) Farm house/garage/rocket ship/large fire engine/castles etc.

### Drinking Water

As you may be aware, St John's School has had ongoing problems with the water fountains breaking for some time. We are delighted to inform you that we have 3 new water fountains being installed in January 2020. The new water fountains also have an additional facility for children to fill up their water bottles. It is very important that the children stay hydrated and have access to drinking water at all times. We would like to encourage all children to come into school with a full water bottle that is kept in the classroom. The children are allowed to drink water at any time (without asking an adult first), except when the teacher is talking to the class. Until the new water fountains are installed, if the children need to fill up their water bottle or are unable to bring a water bottle to school the teacher will have a jug of fresh water.

#### Start and End of Day

**Children should not arrive at school before 8.40am each morning** as we do not have adequate supervision for children arriving before this time. Similarly, we would be grateful if parents collecting their child at the end of the school day **do not arrive on site before 3.10pm** as lessons will still be taking place.

#### School Meals

As noted in previous newsletters, the price of a primary school meal is now £2.30.

Please also remember that we are operating a cashless office and all payments, school dinners, clubs and trips are to be made using School Money, our online payment system provider.

**Payment for the week's meals are to be made in advance of consumption on Monday mornings as arrears are not permitted.**

#### Bike Shed

A huge thank you to the PTA and Mr Cummins for the bike shed donated by Bristol Airport.

#### Save The Children

Christmas Jumper Day raised £87.00 for 'Save the Children'

#### Gardening News.....

Our small gardening team has managed to get outside in some pretty awful weather to do some gardening jobs. We have done some weeding and planted crocus, daffodils and tulip bulbs around the main entrance and in the spiritual garden. We're looking forward to seeing them in Spring. We have had some volunteers to help with gardening but unfortunately have not managed to get together yet. Jobs we're planning for next year are:

Water butts and guttering

Laying path to spiritual garden

Planting willow archway

Clearing raised beds

Growing flowers/veg from seed

We hope to get together with our volunteers to start some of these jobs in the New Year, but welcome any new offers of help, resources or skills.

## Attendance

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for term time absence – absence that we cannot authorise (unless in exceptional or extenuating circumstances). Although these requests are not authorised they still count against the school's overall attendance figure.

At primary school, pupils who miss just 14 days of schooling between the age of 7 and 11 are 25 per cent less likely to achieve the expected standard, or better, in reading, writing and mathematics in Year 6 than those with no, or very little, absence.

With improving school attendance in mind the term dates for this school year are on our school website.

## Open afternoon

Due to the success of our first open afternoon in October 2019 we will be repeating this event on from 2.45 pm to 3.15pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The school will be open to all parents and carers to come and look around all the classrooms and shared areas to see some of the fantastic work that we do. There will be a reading workshop for all parents at 2pm on the same day. More details to follow.

### **St John's School Diary Dates December 2019**

**Key Dates and Reminders:** The following are key dates for your diaries for term 3 & 4  
Parents will receive letters giving details of specific trips and events for your child's class in due course

	<b>Term 2</b>
<b>December</b>	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	End of term 2
	<b>Term 3</b>
<b>January 2020</b>	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	School starts 8.50am prompt
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	CENSUS Day
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Tag Rugby Wellsway
<b>February</b>	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Supporting your child read at home workshop for all parents at 2pm Whole school open afternoon all parents welcome 2.45pm End of term 3
	<b>Term 4</b>
<b>February</b>	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	School starts 8.50am prompt Shrove Tuesday Service at St Johns Church at 10am parents welcome
<b>March</b>	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Headteacher coffee morning 9-10am for all parents
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Service St Johns Church 10am parents welcome
<b>April</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parents Evening 3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents Evening 2.30-5.30pm

