



St John's Newsletter October

- Executive Headteacher's Message

What's going on in school

- Spotlight on Reception
- Spotlight on Year 3

Regular messages

- Parent Action Plan
- Events in the community
- Key Dates
- Polite Reminders
- School Dinners
- Parking
- Contact Us

Message from Executive Principal



It was our great pleasure to welcome children and families back to St John's after the summer holiday. The children have returned brilliantly and, as always, made us very proud with their efforts in class, behaviour around school and manners towards visitors, children and adults. St John's children stand out and it is a wonderful school to be a part of. I have no doubt that they will return from half-term just as fantastically.

I'd like to thank you all for your support with attendance. Children are in school more, which is good for their self-esteem, learning, friendships and happiness. Our attendance is at the highest level since before the Covid-19 pandemic. There is still work to do, but fantastic progress has been made. Our target is 96%.

Thank you for completing the parent survey. Thank you as well to those that have provided practical suggestions through conversations on the playground, as these have helped inform future actions. Dates for parent forum will be going out in due course, with the agenda being set and the Parent Action Plan being amended based on feedback from the survey.

There's been a lot going on across school. In this newsletter, we are sharing 'spotlights' on a few classes. Each newsletter will include different classes so you get to see what's going on across the whole school over the course of the year. Mr Rich has also shared an update on our roofing project, which is going well.

We have had a new homework policy (thank you to parent forum for input on this), new feedback policy and new values to start the school year. These are going well and we continue to listen to feedback and tweak as needed.

Have a great, well-deserved half-term and thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Mr Seex

Executive Principal



R	RESILIENCE
E	EXCELLENCE
A	AGAPE
C	COMMUNITY
H	HOPE

Our Christian values are **Resilience, Excellence, Agape, Community, and Hope (REACH)**, and here is what each one means for us, and what it looks like in action:

R – Resilience

What it means here:

Resilience is the ability to persevere through challenges and setbacks, to keep going when things get tough, and to view mistakes as learning opportunities.

In action:

We encourage children to take on challenges and step out of their comfort zones. When faced with difficulties, whether in their learning or personal life, we help them build the skills to bounce back, learn from experience, and keep trying.

E – Excellence

What it means here:

Excellence is striving to be the best version of ourselves, aiming high, and taking pride in everything we do, no matter how big or small.

In action:

We promote a culture of high expectations, where children take pride in their work and achievements. Excellence is not about perfection, but about consistently doing our best and setting ambitious goals. Children will be celebrated for their hard work, determination, and for always giving their all.

A – Agape (pronounced a-gah-pay)

What it means:

Agape is a Greek word meaning unconditional love and compassion for others. It is about showing kindness, care, and respect to everyone, regardless of their differences.

In action:

We foster an environment where children learn to be kind, compassionate, and inclusive. They will be encouraged to help one another, to listen carefully, and to treat others as they would like to be treated. Acts of kindness and support will be celebrated throughout our school.

C – Community

What it means:

Community is about working together, supporting one another, and understanding that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves.

In action:

At St John's, we are a family. We encourage strong partnerships between school, home, and the wider community. Our children will learn about making the world a better place. They will learn to celebrate difference and welcome new children to our family.

H – Hope

What it means:

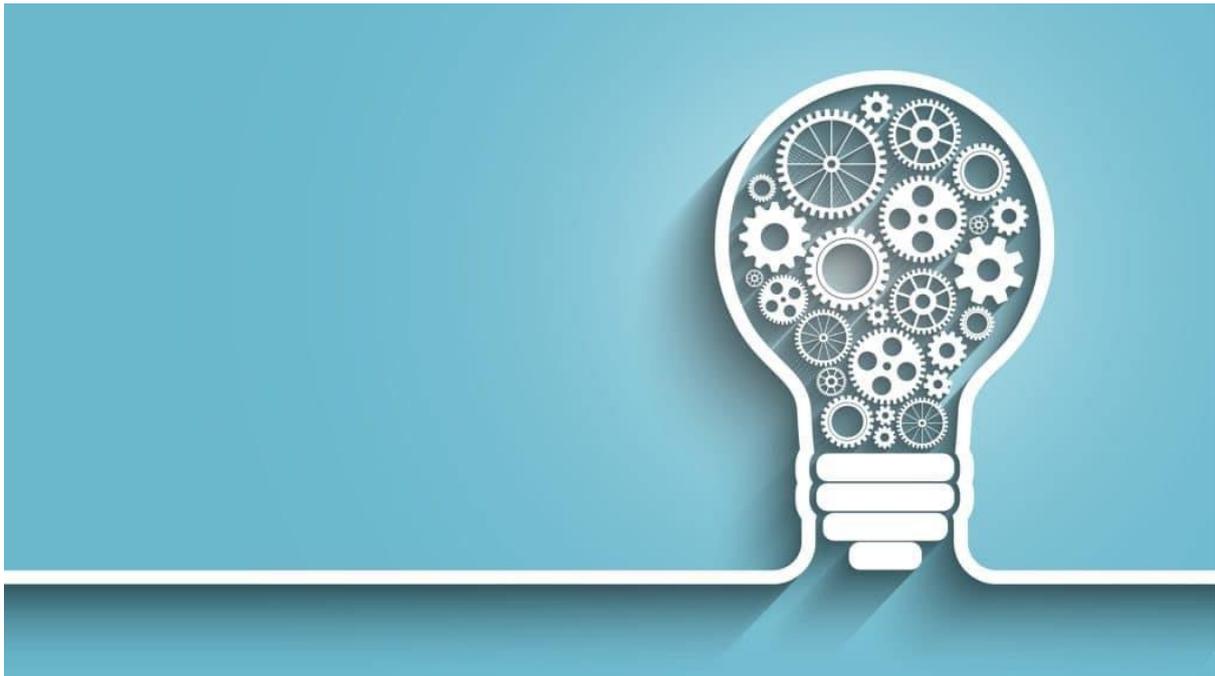
Hope is the belief in a brighter future, optimism in the face of challenges, and the confidence to pursue our dreams with positivity.

In action:

We inspire children to look forward with confidence, believing that with hard work and perseverance, they can shape their own futures. By nurturing a sense of hope, we aim to give them the courage to dream big and the belief that they can make a positive difference in the world.

At St. John's we are one big family. We believe in each other and God to aim high and achieve.

What We're Working On - Feedback Policy



This term we have changed our feedback policy. The adapted policy can be found on our school website by following the 'Key Information' tab then 'Policies' link.

Here is a brief outline of the changes made:

How we feedback to pupils at St John's

Rather than marking work in books after the lesson has been taught, we are working hard on providing feedback at the point of the misconception or misunderstanding during the lesson. We do this through lots of questioning and checking for understanding activities. As a result of this, teachers adapt their lesson so that all children can be more successful. This results in improved outcomes.

Where misunderstandings cannot be addressed within the lesson, a class feedback sheet is completed and feedback is given verbally to children during the next lesson. This means there are far more personal one-to-one conversations about learning.

What feedback looks like in books

We only write in books when the children are with us so that we can model concepts or expectations, or to stretch them further. Instead of written comments, the focus is on having lots of conversations to move the learning forward. This includes praise for high levels of effort. This is more meaningful for children and more impactful in raising standards.

How do we know feedback is working?

Although there will be fewer comments in books, it will be clear where feedback has taken place because children will improve over time.

How will leaders check feedback is working?

Leaders will monitor feedback sheets, speak to children and check that they are making good progress.

Repairs - Roofing Project



Roofing Project

I'm delighted to share that we are ahead of schedule! Roofing works are due to finish at Christmas so, if all continues to go as planned, it will be complete ready for the children to return from the Christmas holidays in January.

60% of the tiling and all the wooden structural work are now complete.

Our next steps will be replacing the windows and the flat roof hot works.

I'd like to offer huge compliments to our children who have managed any classroom changes and adaptations to the playground brilliantly. They are a credit to yourselves and the school.

Mr Vaughan

Site Manager

PE Kit Expectations



PE Kit Expectations 2024-2025

In the new academic year, we will be enforcing a stricter uniform policy. This is to create a greater sense of belonging and equality.

PE uniform to be worn on set days given by class teachers:

- Plain white T-shirt (or a plain T-shirt in the appropriate house colours)
- Plain black PE shorts or plain black tracksuit trousers/jogging bottoms (no leggings)
- Black pumps/plain black trainers
- Plain black tracksuit top or sweatshirt (for colder weather)

Please note that PE clothes should not have any logos, images, words or designs on them. Football shirts are not appropriate. Further information is available on our website on the policies page (see Uniform Policy): [St John's Church of England Primary Academy - Policies \(stjohnsacademy.co.uk\)](https://stjohnsacademy.co.uk)

To support with this, we will have spare kit available for all classes that the children will change into if they are wearing incorrect kit.

Thank you for your support with this.

Reception



First of all, I would like to say how well our children in reception class have settled into our school. They all come in each day both happy and ready to learn. It is wonderful to see how confident the children have become whilst playing and learning alongside their new friends.

This half term we have been focusing on our 'All About Me' topic where we have been describing ourselves and our special family members. We have enjoyed painting self-portraits, drawing our family and building our homes out of construction materials. We have explored our school grounds and looked for signs of autumn. We have been creative and used a range of different materials to create our own autumn art.

We are now developing our reading, writing and number skills by taking part in small group activities. We are learning how to read words, write our names and compare numbers. We like to share what we have learned with our friends and celebrate our successes together.

If you ever have any questions about our Reception class, please do come and ask me.

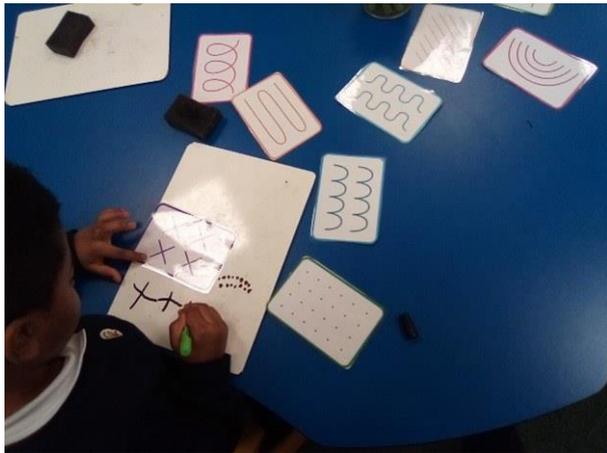
Thank you

Mrs Marson

Reception Class Teacher, Phase 1 Lead, Early Reading Lead







Spotlight on Year 3



This half term we have been exploring the world in Geography, visiting different continents and different countries. We have been looking at the human geography and physical geography in countries such as Spain, France, Turkey, Nigeria, India and Bangladesh. In Science we have been learning about light, including the different sources of natural and artificial light. We have been comparing the brightness and identifying which source is the brightest. In Maths we have been practising our place value and adding and subtracting. In English Year 3 have been retelling parts of the story of Stone Age Boy and creating fact files on the woolly mammoth. Finally in D&T we have designed and created pneumatic toys which look exactly like little monsters.

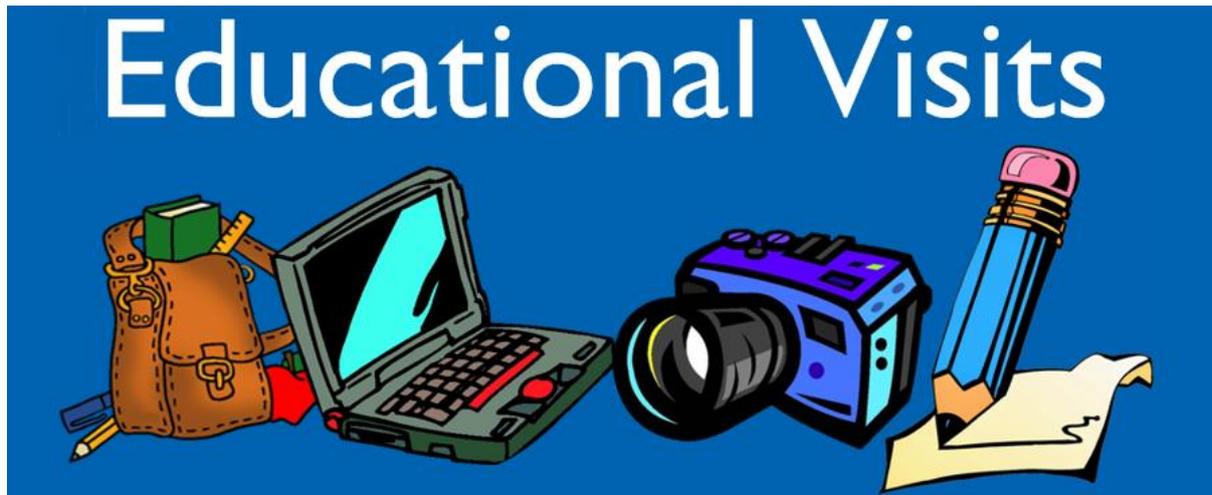
If you ever have any questions about our Year Three class, please do come and ask me.

Thank you

Mrs Hipgrave

Year Three Class Teacher, Geography and Collective Worship Lead

Educational visits and activities



This academic year we are developing the curriculum offer for all of our pupils. This includes extending our educational activities both in and out of school.

This year we are expecting the following educational visits and activities to take place. Please note, these are subject to change.

All classes - Visits to Wednesbury Library to develop a love of reading.

Reception - Local walks within Wednesbury (Summer term)

Year 1 - Telford Wonderland (December)

Year 2 - Iron Bridge museum (Date TBC)

Year 3 - Stone age workshop (December)

Year 4 - Wroxeter Roman Village (June)

Year 5 - Planetarium workshop (October)

Year 6 - Black Country Living Museum (November)

School Council - Birmingham Council House (Date TBC)

Key Stage Two - Frank Chapman residential (June, 30 places available)

- Bikeability Level 1 and Level 2 workshop for children in Year 4, 5 and 6 (November, 45 spaces available)

Classes will be notified of educational visits and activities throughout the year. As with all additional visits we ask for voluntary contributions towards these. Unfortunately, if we do not receive sufficient funds from families then we may have to postpone or cancel events. We understand the financial strain that many families face and will endeavour to offer payment plans wherever possible.

Bike Right will soon be coming to your child's school to run a Bikeability Level 1/2 Combined course.

What is Bikeability Level 1/2 Combined?

Bikeability is the government's national cycle training programme. Pupils take part in small groups for one day and train with our qualified instructors on a 1:3 ratio. **There is no cost to take part.**

Level 1 is a playground-based session to start the day, practicing and building confidence in key cycle control skills in a traffic-free setting. This session lasts approximately one hour. Pupils who are ready will then progress on to quiet roads near to school for the rest of the day. Level 2 will introduce them to cycling as an everyday, fun, healthy activity and an alternative mode of transport. If you would like to see what activities Level 2 will include, you can visit <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/get-cycling/cycle-training-for-children/bikeability-level-2/>

What will my child need?

- **The ability to ride a cycle unaided.** This can be a two-wheeled bike with no stabilisers or an adapted cycle.
- **A signed consent form.** Please complete on the next page and return to school at least one week before the first day of the course.
- **A cycle helmet.**
- **Appropriate clothing.** It is important, especially during the cooler months, that children wear gloves and warm, dry clothing as they will be outside all day. We recommend wearing a waterproof.
- **A road worthy cycle.** Please follow the simple guide below to check whether your child's cycle is suitable. See law on the use of e-bikes www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules

1 - Bikeability is for all! If your child requires any reasonable adjustments to take part in their school's Bikeability session, please just let us know! You can either speak to your school contact who is arranging the training or get in touch with Bike Right directly on 0161 230 7007

Attendance - Best Since Pandemic



We have reviewed our attendance policy and made some changes in line with the Sandwell Local Authority policy updates. This reflects changes in national legislation. You can view the policy on our website at this link: [St John's Church of England Primary Academy - Policies](#)

Our whole-school attendance is now at 93.6%, which is the highest since the Covid pandemic. Persistent absence halved last year and we have continued to maintain those reduced levels. A huge thank you to the school community for supporting us with this hugely important priority - research shows that if children are in school then they are learning, developing strong friendships and social skills and they are happy.

Mrs Boughton

Family Support Worker

School Council



Our school council have been busy this half term planning a fundraising event for Children in Need.

The council have decided to run a sports activity session on Friday 15th November for all classes to take part in during the day. For this the school council would like all children to wear their school PE kits. If children have Pudsey and/or Blush Bear accessories or t-shirts they are welcome to wear these on the day. Please do not feel you need to purchase any accessories or additional clothes. (This is not a not school uniform event.)

The school council are asking every child who is able to donate £1 towards Children in Need. These donations can be made via the Parent Pay app.

The school council have also been speaking to pupils in their classes about ordering new books for the school library. This order will be sent off in Autumn 2 and will help all children at St John's in their reading progression.

Thank you for supporting our school council.

Parent Action Plan



As part of our ongoing partnership with parents, last year we developed an action plan using responses from the parent survey and discussions in parent forum. This is RAG rated (red, amber, green) regularly. We are making good progress on the plan and more items are becoming 'green' each half-term. The plan can be found on the link below:

[SJ Parent Forum Action Plan.docx](#)

Thank you for your support regarding this. All feedback is valued and taken on board. Thank you to those that have filled in our parent survey for this year.

The new parent forum dates will be sent out in due course.

Events in the community



IS YOUR CHILD DUE TO START RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER?
 ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY ACADEMY IS A SAFE, CARING, HAPPY FAMILY AND
 WE WOULD BE GLAD TO WELCOME YOUR CHILD INTO OUR SCHOOL
 FAMILY.

ST. JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY



WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 9.30AM
 MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM
 MONDAY 9TH JANUARY, 9.30AM

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE TO BOOK:
 0121 556 0269



St. John's
 C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY
 BELIEVE TO ACHIEVE



ST. JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY, ADDISON TERRACE, WEDNESBURY, WS10 9AR
 TELEPHONE: 0121 556 0269 EMAIL: ADMIN@STJOHNSACADEMY.CO.UK

POWERED by CAN

GO PLAY OCTOBER HALF TERM SESSIONS!

No need to book, Just rock up and play for **FREE**. To find out more
 about our amazing session running across Sandwell check out our
 online calendar www.goplaysandwell.co.uk

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Redwood Road Community Centre W55 4LB 11AM TO 4PM	Wednesbury Library WS10 9EH 11AM TO 4PM	Hamstead Library B43 5EL 11AM TO 4PM
Stone Cross Library B71 2LH 11AM TO 4PM	Brasshouse Community Centre B66 1BA 11AM TO 4PM	Brandhall Library B68 0JT 11AM TO 4PM
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Millennium Centre WS10 0JS 11AM TO 4PM	West Bromwich Central Library B70 8DZ 11AM TO 4PM	
Bleakhouse Library B68 9DS 11AM TO 4PM	Smethwick Library B66 1AA 11AM TO 4PM	

Go play Sandwell

Oldbury Rowley Regis Smethwick Tipton Wednesbury West Bromwich



Dates For Your Diary



In school activities (Please note these are subject to change)

Autumn Term 2

5/11/24 - All pupils return to school.

11/11/24 - Remembrance Day and the launch of Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day. All pupils to wear school uniform with odd socks, no cost to any family.

15/11/24 - Children in Need event planned by the School Council. All pupils to wear PE kit with Pudsey bear accessories/t-shirts welcome if you have them. (No face paint or hair dye please)

18/11/24 - Year 6 **SATs** information meeting for parents, carers and pupils. 3.30pm-4.00pm

19/11/24 - Year 6 leading worship for Remembrance. Year 6 parents and carers warmly invited to attend, 1.15pm

25/11/24 - Year 3 and Year 4 **times tables and MTC** information meeting for parents, carers and pupils. 3.30pm-4.00pm

28/11/24 - Reception and Year 1 **phonics** information meeting for parents, carers and pupils. 3.30pm-4.00pm

3/12/24 - Year 2 leading worship for Advent. Year 2 parents and carers warmly invited to attend, 1.15pm

5/12/24 - Christmas Grotto

12/12/24 - Christmas lunch. Pupils invited to wear Christmas jumpers for the day.

17/12/24 and 18/12/24 - Phase 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) Nativity play. Tickets will be free via Parent Pay.

19/12/24 - Phase 2 Christmas Carol Concert. Tickets will be free via Parent Pay.

20/12/24 - Class parties and last day of term.

Spring Term 1

7/1/25 - All pupils return to school.

14/1/25 - Year 5 leading worship for Saint John the Apostle. Year 5 parents and carers warmly invited to attend, 1.15pm

14/2/25 - Year 4 leading worship for Saint Valentine. Year 4 parents and carers warmly invited to attend, 1.15pm

17/2/25 - 21/2/25 - Half term holiday

INSET Dates for 2024-2025 academic year:

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- Monday 4th November 2024
- Friday 23rd May 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025

These can also be found on our school website: [St John's Church of England Primary Academy - Term Dates \(stjohnsacademy.co.uk\)](https://stjohnsacademy.co.uk)

Polite Reminder: Smoking Outside School



Polite reminder: we ask that you avoid smoking directly outside of the school site as this can affect everyone. Thank you for your support with this.

Polite Reminder: Language on school premises

It has come to our attention that a small minority of parents/carers are using bad language on the school site. Please remember that children may hear this and using bad language on school premises is inappropriate. Therefore, we ask that no bad language is used on the school site. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

If you have any concerns about things that have happened in school, please speak to a member of school staff and we will be happy to help. This avoids unnecessary confrontations, which can make people feel intimidated.

Lunchtime



Thank you for ensuring your child's meals are booked.

We have seen an increase in booked meals.

We have lots of events and themes with upcoming meals. Please keep an eye out for these events.

Parking



Please park considerately and safely. As a polite reminder, **cars should not park on the zig-zag yellow lines** as this space should be kept clear so that children and parents/carers can walk safely to school. It is important that everyone puts the safety of the children first. We have asked for PCSOs to be present outside to support with this.

Please also take note of surrounding houses and ensure drives are not blocked

Contact Us



If we can help, please get in touch on the details below:

St. John's C of E Primary Academy

Addison Terrace

Wednesbury

WS10 9AR

<https://www.stjohnsacademy.co.uk/>

T: 0121 556 0269

E: admin@stjohnsacademy.co.uk