

St John's Newsletter, Half-Term

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Executive Headteacher's Message



The first half-term is always a very busy one. Children are settling back in after the holidays, teachers are getting to know their classes and, in our case, I have been getting to know everyone better. I've really enjoyed it and have appreciated all the feedback and support from everyone.

In school, we are working on developing our curriculum (the curriculum is everything that you learn at school), particularly in the 'foundation subjects' (anything that's not maths and English), to make it even more interesting and engaging for the children. The subject leaders are thinking hard about the best ways to do this, drawing on good practice from other settings.

We are also working on refining behaviour further. Every moment counts so we want to make sure the children are able to learn every minute of the day so we will be using our behaviour policy to support all children to make the right choices. This will benefit everyone.

Our new attendance policy was launched in the final week of the half-term. You will have received a letter with some information about it. The intention is to work with families to overcome barriers to good attendance. We look forward to working in partnership.

Finally, our parents evening was well attended. We are having catch-up meetings with the final few parents, which will take us to 100% attendance by the time they are finished. It was a pleasure catching up with everyone and I hope you found the meetings informative and helpful.

I hope you've had a great half-term break. Welcome back.

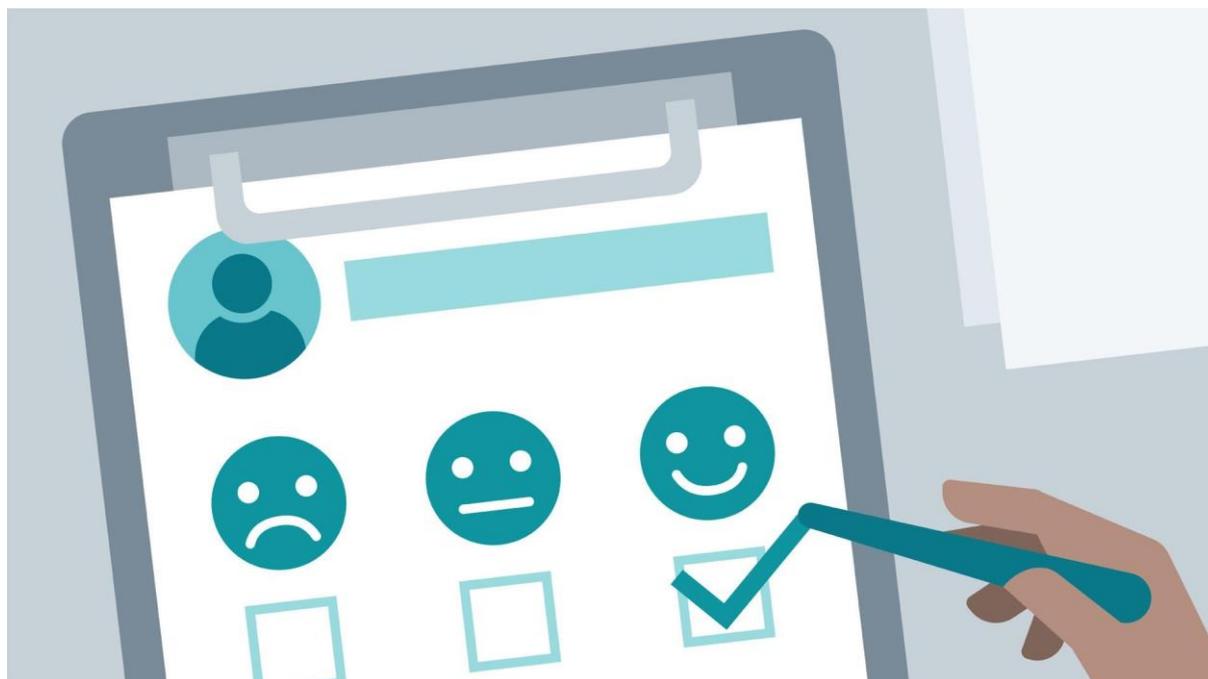
Mr Seex

Parents Evening



It was a pleasure seeing everyone for parents evening. Although schools don't usually have the books out in autumn, we thought it was important that you could see how your child is progressing. We hope the meetings were useful and informative. The class teacher is always available to help so please ask if you would like some support about how you can help your child at home.

Parent Survey



One of our targets from the parent survey was to improve the quality and timeliness of our communication to you. Part of our strategy will be this monthly newsletter to keep you updated about school priorities. We will develop the newsletter over the year in response to feedback and events happening in school.

We have also implemented a system of communicating in a more timely way. For this half-term, our target is to begin the communication process 4 weeks before any event, including in-school events. As a result, you will receive plenty of notice (and we will send reminders as we get closer to the date too). We appreciate any feedback on how we're doing with this so please let us know.

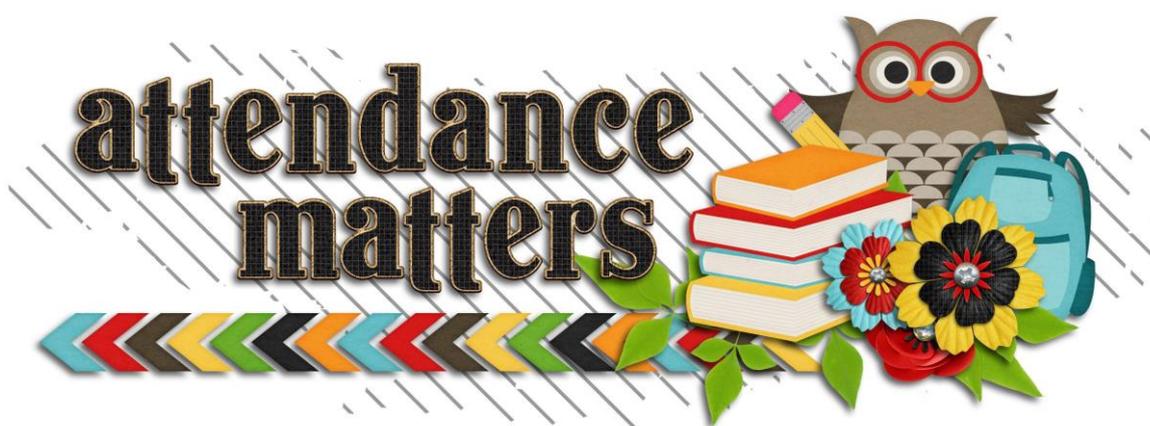
Academy Improvement Plan



The Academy Improvement Plan is the key strategic document for driving change in the academy. The key areas that we are looking to work on this year are as follows:

- Refining our behaviour approach so that all children are supported highly effectively. All children deserve to learn free from disruption.
- Developing the curriculum so that it is even more exciting, interesting and informative, which will prepare the children even better for the next stage
- Improve attendance across the academy so that all children are able to enjoy the benefits of consistent attendance (better academic outcomes, higher levels of happiness in school, better social relationships in school)

Attendance



In the last week of last half-term, you will have received a letter about our new attendance policy. Attendance is a really important priority at St John's. Our aim is to work with families to support them to remove barriers to attendance so that our children can flourish. Research shows that strong attendance is linked to better academic outcomes and improved happiness at school.

The policy can be found on our website and some of the key details are covered in the letter. If you would like further information then please contact Mrs Broughton through the school office or speak to a leader on the playground.

School Dinners

As communicated in summer, school dinners will now be charged at £2.50 per meal. This should be paid through School Gateway and goes directly to our catering supplier.

All Key Stage One children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, which means they can order their meals through the Gateway without any charge.

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.

Contact Us



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

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