



St John's Newsletter, February

- Executive Headteacher's Message

What's going on in school

- Parent Forum
- Attendance
- What we're working on
- Lockdown Procedures
- Internet Safety Day
- Wear it Red Day
- Celebration
- School Council

Updates on upcoming events

- Red Nose Day
- Maternity

Regular messages

- Key Dates
- Polite Reminders
- School Dinners
- Parking
- Contact Us

Message from Executive Principal



Spring term is always very busy. Two short, 5 week half-terms means a lot has to be fit into a short space of time. As a result, the school is abuzz with activity. The children are working hard, showing our GETFAB values and impressing me every day. We were pleased with a very positive 2-day trust-commissioned external review that took place recently; some of the feedback from that can be found below in the 'What We're Working On' section. Moving forward, I want to use this new section of the newsletter to share with you the things we are developing and focusing on as a staff team.

As always, the children have been asked to think about how we can help others in-line with our Christian values. This month we did it by celebrating Just Wear Red Day to raise money for the air ambulance. Along with this, we had a full programme of activities for Safer Internet Day, which the children really enjoyed. Online safety and using technology sensibly is becoming a growing issue nationally with so many conflicts escalating from online arguments. We teach safe technology use through our themed days but also through an embedded e-safety curriculum.

This newsletter contains a blend of information about what's happening in school and events happening in the local community. I hope it's of use.

As always, we appreciate your support and feedback so please do share your thoughts with us about what we're doing well and what we could improve on when you see us on the playground.

Mr Seex

Parent Forum



Following on from a productive parent forum last term and useful input from the parent survey, an action plan was created. This is continually reviewed and shared in the newsletter monthly. The RAG rating works as follows:

- Red - unsuccessful in the action
- Amber/yellow - some progress made
- Green - good progress made
- Blank - not yet actioned

The aim is to keep you informed of the progress we are making on agreed actions and for the school to be accountable for addressing feedback in a transparent manner. The action plan can be found at the link below:

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

The remaining Parent Forums for this year are:

- **Tues 5th March, 2.15pm**
- Mon 17th June, 4.30pm

I'd love to see you at the upcoming one. Please let the school office know if you can attend.



1 - Easter Basket For Attendance

Join us for an EGGhilarating opportunity to win this Easter hamper by attending school every single day this term! Let's make this term an EGGcellent one.

What we're working on



Following on from the work around behaviour and routines in spring 1, we are continuing to implement behaviour and reward systems, including a Dojo School Shop so that the children's Dojo

points, given for good behaviour and hard work, can be swapped for prizes. Watch out for this over the next few weeks.

We are also working on 'high-ratio questioning'. This is where teachers skilfully ensure that **all** children are thinking hard through their use of questioning. For example, all children might respond on a mini-whiteboard or by sharing an answer with a partner, ready to discuss with the class.

Recently, we had a 2-day review (all schools in the trust have an annual review) from an external partner of the trust. This went really well. Here is an extract from the report linked to what we have been working on:

"Pupils behave well and have positive attitudes to their learning. There are good routines and systems in place and adults implement these consistently. Leaders and staff have high expectations for behaviour and conduct. Pupils understand these expectations and adhere to them. As a result they learn well."

"Pupils' good personal development is seen in the way they engage well with their learning and are confident and resilient when facing new or difficult challenges. Pastoral support for pupils is good and the academy prepares them well for life in modern Britain. They learn how to show respect for people from different backgrounds and adults show them how to be respectful and responsible in the way they conduct themselves."

We will continue to endeavour to provide the best school experience possible for all children.

Emergency Procedures



Following on from incidents across Sandwell, the school has reviewed our emergency lockdown procedures and made them even more robust. A new alarm system has been installed so that there can be a rapid response to any intruder, dog on site, or perceived danger.

In the event of the lockdown alarm, classrooms will be locked, blinds closed and children will move out of sight. The police will be called. Parents/carers will be notified. We want to be prepared for every eventuality so that we can respond instantly. Children have been spoken to about this and there will be 'drills' (practise) of the procedure so that it becomes second nature. Although we don't expect anything to happen, where children are involved we can never be too careful and there is no such thing as being too well prepared.

As well as robust procedures, we are also educating the children about the dangers of knife crime, exploitation and gang culture so that they are able to keep themselves safe and also can identify the signs when people are trying to involve them. This is important given the national challenges around youth violence that we have all seen on the news.

Online Safety

Follow the **SMART** rules to help stay safe online.

Safe

S

Stay **safe** online by not sharing your personal information.



Meet

M

Do not **meet** anyone who you have only become friends with online.



Accept

A

Do not **accept** messages and friend requests from people you do not know.



Reliable

R

Not everything online is **reliable**. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.



Tell

T

Tell an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.



Be careful what you share online!

Stop and think before you share information online.
Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!



On Tuesday 6th February St John's joined schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2024. This year's campaign focused on: ***Inspiring change, Making a difference, Managing influence and Navigating change online.*** As a school, we compared different devices from past to present and predicted what a phone, a laptop would look like in the future. We discussed the positive changes we have experienced using these devices and how we can stay safe. Reception had the opportunity to discuss their trusted adults and design child friendly emojis. Key Stage 1 participated in quizzes, discussed their trusted adults and identified how to stay safe online. Key Stage 2 participated in quizzes on how to stay safe online, watched the BBC live lesson, and wrote letters to Parliament to ensure children are protected online. Along with this, we had a competition to design our very own mascot for St John's, to remind us on how to stay safe online. As a prize, the winners will have their design made into a real mascot. The winner from Key Stage 1 is **Jennifer** from year 2, the winners from Key Stage 2 are **Rehnuma** and **Madeeha**.



Year 5/6 are taking part in a safer internet quiz this morning!



Kicking off our safer internet day with a worship from Mrs Hipgrave explaining the layout of the day.



Year 6 are taking part in the live lesson on the BBC and designing a St John's internet safety mascot.

Wear it red day



Thank you to all who donated to our Wear It Red Day. We raised **£142.00** for Air Ambulance.

Celebration



Well done to all the pupils who have had Star of the Week over the last 3 weeks.

Yasin, Christopher, Harry(2), Gulmehak, Ismail, Michelle, evangali, Anreet, Hafsa, Saimon, Gabriel, Bradley, Millie, Jason, Ava Grace, Vinnie, Isma, Kavae, Keaton, Nhyira, Esmail, Lexi, Eydon, Gursnajh, Jason, Blossom, Guy, Mankirat and Mahad.

Red Nose Day - Coming Up

This year we are having a Sponsored obstacle course - Children will need to wear PE kit on Red Nose Day. We have a Just Giving page which will be added to dojo closer to the date to send sponsor money in for this event

School Council



The school council has been busy organizing and implementing a litter-picking rota for break times, so that every class gets a chance to help keep the school clean. They are currently planning a sponsored obstacle course to raise money for Red Nose Day on the 15th of March.

Maternity



When we break up for Easter, Mrs Timmins (Bright) will be starting her maternity leave. We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming her back next year.

Year 3 will be taught by Miss Ash for the summer term, who the children know as she has been working with us through spring.

Events in the community



Family Hub Project: Healthy Pregnancy Pathway

As part of the Family Hub Project, Sandwell are proud to launch the Healthy Pregnancy Journey – an easy-to-read guide for all expectant parents helping them to navigate their pregnancy journey and signposting them to the FREE support and services offered across Sandwell.

For printed posters and leaflets please contact [Nikki Quaife@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Nikki.Quaife@sandwell.gov.uk)

Sandwell Prevent Team: Protecting Faith Organisations

The Sandwell Prevent team are hosting an event to explore how faith organisations and places of worship can better protect themselves from hate incidents. The event will take place in Smethwick on Monday 26 February 2024, 5pm - 7.30pm at Ileys Community Association.

This will be an excellent opportunity to hear from an expert in the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU), who will be providing an overview on the current government legislation around protecting venues, along with guidance on how communities can best protect their organisations through physical measures such as installing CCTV, lighting, and fencing etc.

The session will also provide a regional hate crime overview from the organisation - TellMama who support victims of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate. TellMama will explore current online/social trends and how these can contribute to hatred in our communities and could translate to physical violence.

The session will end with a local update from our Hate Crime team in Sandwell, along with information on how to report hate crime incidents.

The event is open to all communities, faith organisations and professionals who work in the community. Dinner will also be included!

I hope you are all able to attend, please RSVP to the Prevent_inbox@sandwell.gov.uk confirming attendance. If you cannot attend, please could you promote this widely in your respective organisations.

Dates For Your Diary



March

- St. David's Day - Fri 01/03/2024
- World Book Day - Thu 07/03/2024
- Parents' forum - Tues 05/03/2024, 2.15 pm
- Mother's Day Event – Fri 08/03/2024
- Science Week – Mon 11/03/2024
- St. Patrick's Day – Mon 18/03/2024 (Sun 17th)
- Parent's Evening – Tues 19/03/2024 and Wed 20/03/2024
- Church Service – Fri 22/03/2024

- Break up Easter – Fri 22/03/24

April

- Back to school – Mon 08/04/2024
- Eid-ul-Fitr – Wed 10/04/2024 (Could also be 09/04/2024)
- World Art Day – Mon 15/04/2024
- St. Georges Day – Tue 23/04/2024

May

- May Bank Holiday – Mon 06/05/2024
- KS2 SATs Begin – Mon 13/05/2024
- Break up – Thur 23/05/2024
- Inset Day – Fri 24/05/2024 (school closed to pupils)

June

- Frank Chapman Y4/5/6 (TBC) – Mon 03/06/2024
- Children back in – Mon 03/06/2024
- Y4 MTC begin – Mon 03/06/2023
- Y1 Phonics Screen begin – Mon 10/06/2024
- Father's Day Event – Fri 14/06/2024
- Parents' forum - Mon 17/06/2024, 4.30pm
- Sports Day 1 (part of National Sports Week) – Thur 20/06/2024
- Sports Day 2 (part of National Sports Week) – Fri 21/06/2024

July

- Reports Out – Fri 05/07/2024
- Transition @ St. John's – Mon 08/07/2024
- Open Session after reports – Tues 09/07/2024
- Summer Fayre – Tues 16/07/2024
- Y6 Leaver Production – Thur 18/07/2024
- Church Service – Fri 19/07/2024
- Children Break up – Fri 19/07/2024
- Inset Day – Mon 22/07/2024 (school closed to pupils)

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