



St John's News

Issue 01 - Friday 6th September 2024

WELCOME BACK

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer. I have been popping into Great Harwood throughout the holidays and have seen some of the children, which is wonderful for me.

This week has been an amazing start to the school year. It is fabulous to see all of our children back smiling, happy and ready to learn! It is going to be another busy year and a busy term.

Please note the attendance information that we sent out last half term, (and repeating it here today). This is an important change - every day really does matter and children missing chunks of education due to having a holiday, can have a lasting effect on their progress in school.

Reading will again be our priority this year - please do read with your child and listen to them read regularly, (at least 4 times a week - if not every day!), as this is the only way they will improve. Of course, we do what we can in school, however it is difficult to get round to every child, so reading with your child, even for a short time, is better than none.

I am delighted to say that the children have all settled in well to their new year groups and our new Reception children have been amazing. Your children are a credit to you.

Miss Parker

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Please see that attached letter about how attendance rules are changing.

Friday Worship

We are all aware of the tragic incident in Southport this summer and how this has affected many families, and we continue to pray for them. In light of this we are making some changes in school for the time being. Friday Worship attendance will be **invitation only** - I am sorry to do this but I have to know that the children and staff are 100% safe in school and when I reflect, I feel this is an area that is open to risk. Please do not routinely come to Worship, if your child is receiving the Shining Star of the Week or any other special award, then you will be invited to attend. This will not be the case for the incidental 'Shining Lights', which we will continue to give out.

Attendance

National Target for Attendance	Percentage Attendance For the Period *** to ****	
96%	Robins	%
	Hérons	%
	Kestrels	%
	Kingfishers	%
	Falcons	%
	Owls	%
	SCHOOL TOTAL	%

For those of you who are new to St John's CE Primary School, this is how we report attendance figures on our Newsletter. You will see the National Target for attendance is 96% and we ask that you strive to send your child into school every day and ensure they are on time.

We have great incentives for good attendance such as, our monthly raffle for each child who maintains 100% attendance throughout the month. Their names go into a draw to win a prize from the Attendance Treasure Chest! Plus our weekly Bird Token award for each class with 96% attendance or above – all the tokens will go into a draw at the end of each term for a chance to win a non-uniform day and a VIP Afternoon Tea! Any class achieving 100% weekly attendance will be awarded 2 Bird Tokens, thus improving their chances of winning the VIP tea.

Lockdown Procedures

As a school we have always had a lockdown procedure in place. This has recently been reviewed and we will be practicing this in line with how we practice our fire drills. We will let you know via text when we have had a practice. We will obviously inform the children that this is just for practice.

READING

Reading Competition: We set a reading challenge last term before the children left for the summer. They have until Friday morning to complete this challenge please.

Reader Listeners: Do you have a little spare time on your hands? Want to help us out? We are always looking for people to come in and listen to children read – can you help – please speak to Miss Parker, Mrs Mills or Mrs Newton. A DBS check will be required, (cost covered by school), and then if you can give some consistent time in school, that would really help us out. We would really like one volunteer per class please 😊



SCHOOL VALUE

This half term our school value is 'Thankfulness'



School and Academy Admissions 2025/26

Do you have a child due to start Primary or Secondary School or Academy in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?

Apply for a place on line at

www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/

or phone 01254 220718

Applications are open NOW!

Closing dates for applications: 31st October 2024 for Secondary School
and 15th January 2025 for Primary School

SCHOOL SAFETY

Please remember to keep all our children safe around school, drive sensibly and slowly and

DO NOT DRIVE ALONG NUTTALL AVENUE.

This road is for residents only.

School gates will be locked until 8.45 a.m. and again after school finishes at 3.30 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation in not coming to school too early, (but not being late), and leaving in good time.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Times: Both school sites start at 8.55 a.m. (Drop older siblings off first before going to Nuttall Avenue. Both sites finish at 3.25 p.m. (Pick up at Nuttall Avenue first and then St John's Street). Don't arrive at Nuttall before 8.45 a.m. please.

Dinner Money & Breakfast Club Fees: Dinner Money is now £2.60 per day / £13 per week payable in advance either via ParentPay, (ask Mrs. Vooght for details), or in cash at the school office. Breakfast Club is open from 7.30 a.m. and costs £2.50 per session, payable in cash on the day or in advance please.

PE Days: Please remember our PE kit is a white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms, red jumper (or hoodie) and plain black trainers. Apart from Robins, all children to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have PE.

Owl Class: Monday - Forest School/Orienteering and Wednesday – Swimming.

Falcon Class: Monday and Wednesday.

Kingfisher Class: Monday and Tuesday.

Kestrel Class: Monday and Wednesday.

Heron Class: Thursday and Friday.

Robin Class: PE kits are brought in and kept in school.

WELLIES AND WATERPROOFS

To further our use of the Forest School, we are wondering if anyone has any good quality wellies or waterproofs that your child has grown out of. If so, please send them into school. Thank you.

We would also like to set up a stall for old uniform - so, if you have any good quality, used items of uniform that your child has grown out of, please donate them and we will set up a stall for anyone who needs additional uniform.

THANK YOU.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PACKED LUNCHES

I really must remind you that we are a 'nut free' school. This means no Nutella, (or any other hazelnut/chocolate spread) in sandwiches as well as no products containing nuts of any kind. This is vital as we do have children in the school with nut allergies.

Also, please be as healthy as possible when packing your child's lunch boxes.



Operation Encompass

This is a reminder to all that our school takes part in 'Operation Encompass'. This is a safeguarding initiative between the police and schools. If the police have attended your home then school will be notified, this is to ensure we are in the right place to support your child should they need it. If you have had police attendance at home, please speak to Miss Parker, Mrs Mills, Mrs S. Smith or Mrs Newton, who are our DSL (designated safeguarding leads). We can offer support if you need it at home.

We take part in Operation Encompass



Friends of St Johns

Thanks to the Friends of St John's. We had some wonderful events throughout last year and we thank them for all their support. We have some events in the pipeline for this year and if you have any ideas, please speak to a member of the Friends Committee or Miss Parker/Mrs Newton.

I am delighted to say that 'St John's Got Talent' will be back again this year, so have a think and get practicing. We will be holding auditions in the near future! Successful candidates will then be invited to an after school club to help with polishing up their act!

MEET THE TEACHER

Next week we will start our 'meet the teacher' days. You will be invited via text to visit the class your child is in and because we have families with children in several classes, we are doing this over a number of days. Therefore, you can meet all the teachers that you need to.

Remember, look out for a text with your invite.

We are starting with Kingfisher Class next Wednesday, 11th September, straight after school. The teacher may give a short talk about the class and you can ask any questions or share any worries you may have.

Robin Class won't have a 'meet the teacher' day, as parents have already met their child's teacher during our induction process and she is available at the door every day.

HOMEWORK

We are having a little shift in the homework and will be really concentrating on the basics of reading, times tables and spellings. We are expecting children to read at home at least 4 times a week and spellings will be sent home along with Times Tables Rock Stars. Purple Mash will also still be in use and 'to do's' will be set on there also, as an optional half termly project.

We want to free up time at home to ensure that reading takes a priority. Thank you for helping your child. Any additional homework children wish to do, will always be rewarded.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WC: 9th Sept: Meet the teacher sessions begin.

Tues 24th Sept: Accrington Stanley Shirt Giveaway - Kingfishers.

Thurs 17th Oct: School closes for Half-Term.

Fri 18th Oct: INSET Day.

Mon 28th Oct: Back to school.

Please keep an eye on these dates as they are added to and changed sometimes at short notice. We do our best to keep you informed so please make sure your mobile number is up to date on our records so that we can text you.

