

# St. John's Church of England Academy



Telephone 01325 380725 - email: admin@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss C Large B.Ed (Hons)

Chair of Governors: Mrs V Cadd

## Newsletter

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**Be the best that you can be:** 'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as if working for the Lord and not for people'.  
Colossians 3.23



Shining Light Award winners

### Shining Lights - Love God, love each other

Last term, our Christian value was 'Love'. Jesus said the greatest command was, 'Love God love each other'. In Worship and class we thought about ways we could show our love for others.

Our Christian values for this half term is 'Peace'. We will be looking at inner peace, peace between each other in school - making and keeping friends, peace in the community, respecting differences, peace in the world and with God.



### Workers of the Week

Well done to those who received a Workers of the Week award for outstanding work and showing determination to learn.



### Teach us about the Bible

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, Year 5 performed their class assembly. We have been learning about The Bible as part of our RE lessons and we loved telling everyone else what we have learnt. From the Creation to Moses receiving the Ten Commandments and The King James Bible, Year 5 covered it all through drama.



### Scary Competition

Congratulations to the winners our first ever PTFA 'Design a Pumpkin' competition. The entries were amazing and so many for the committee to judge! A huge thank you to our PTFA for organizing a fun packed Autumn Disco. An amazing £555.36 was raised!

Our School Travel Ambassadors will be surveying how we come to school over the next month. They will be monitoring traffic outside school. More details about our ambassadors and their reports to follow in future newsletters.





Weeks of training with Mr Quinn and Mrs Brown saw our KS2 runners ready to compete in the Darlington Cross Country event held last half term. Our children showed grit and determination running in rough and



muddy ground but thoroughly enjoyed competing against other schools. Tori ran an outstanding race and came 9th out of hundreds that raced. She will go on to represent Darlington in other Cross Country races. Well done to you all it can't have been easy!



Reception have been learning about the changes in nature during Autumn. The children learnt about why the leaves change colour and fall from the trees and the effects it has on our creatures. They all made a hedgehog out of clay and made an extra one for Miss Large!

| Dates for Diaries |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 9.11.15           | Year 2 trip to Bowes Museum                            |
| 11.11.15          | Flu prevention - nasal vaccination for Year 1 & 2 (am) |
| 13.11.15          | Children in Need - Brighter Biker Day                  |
| 16.11.15          | Anti-bullying Week - 'Make a noise about bullying'     |
| 17.11.15          | E-safety Assembly 2pm                                  |
| 20.11.15          | Sports Hall Athletics at the Dolphin Centre Y5/6       |
| 25.11.15          | Road Safety Officer visit Early Years                  |
| 25.11.15          | Gymnastics Festival                                    |
| 26.11.15          | School Photographer                                    |
| 27.11.15          | Year 1 trip to Bowes Museum                            |
| 28.11.15          | St. John's Church Fair                                 |
| 4.12.15           | School Christmas Fair - details to follow              |
| 1.12.15           | Gymnastics Final                                       |
| 18.12.15          | Break up for Christmas Holidays                        |
| 5.1.16            | Children return to school                              |

The Fire Service visited school on Tuesday to talk to the children about Bonfire Night and how to keep themselves safe around fireworks and sparklers. Ask your children about the 'Fire Work Code'.



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

### ATTENDANCE

From September 2015, the government is reducing the persistent absence threshold from 15% to 10%. Therefore, a pupil is now considered to have persistent absence if their attendance falls below 90% in the year. This change came about because to have 85% attendance means a pupil has to be absent for 56 sessions (a session equals half a day) of school. This is a great deal of schooling to miss! The following table shows estimated cumulative absent session thresholds for around 15% and 10%.

| TERM   | Sessions Absent |     |
|--|-----------------|-----|
|  | 15%             | 10% |
| First half Autumn Term                             | 10              | 7   |
| Autumn Term  | 22              | 14  |
| Autumn Term plus first half of spring              | 30              | 20  |
| Autumn and Spring Terms                            | 38              | 25  |
| Autumn and Spring Terms + 1st half of Summer Term. | 46              | 31  |
| Whole of the academic year                         | 56              | 38  |

| St. John's class results | % Attend |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Reception                | 94.6     |
| Year 1                   | 96.7     |
| Year 2                   | 98.7     |
| Year 3                   | 96.9     |
| Year 4                   | 96.5     |
| Year 5                   | 97.7     |
| Year 6                   | 96.7     |

Apart from Reception all classes managed to achieve 96.2% which is our school target. Well done! Special congratulations to Year 2 who had the best overall attendance for last term with a wonderful 98.7%!



### Relief Kitchen Assistant Needed

We are looking for people willing to be included in a pool of relief catering assistants for our school kitchen, this will be on a casual basis as and when required so will not be regular work. As the post involves working with children you will be required to apply for a Disclosure of Criminal Records. Ideally you will have experience of working in a catering environment, and be able to work flexibly. If you are interested please leave your contact details at the school office.