

# St. John's Church of England Academy

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Chair of Governors: Mrs V Cadd

## Newsletter

3rd December 2015  
Issue 84

**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



### *A Journey into the Past*

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, Years 5 and 6 experienced life in Victorian school. For the whole day, the children and teachers were in role to give the children the chance to see what it would have been like to attend a school 150 years ago. They discovered that the teachers were much stricter and that the work could get rather boring. The children experienced practising copper plate handwriting, arithmetic and reading before having a playtime of Victorian games. After the short break, they experienced how maths was taught by being shown one example and if they didn't understand, it was the dunce's hat! They even had soda bread and gruel for lunch. Despite a few children getting the cane (or acting as if they had) the children really enjoyed it and found the experience extremely informative and educational, but were glad to get back to normal the following day. Well done to Year 5 and 6 for joining in and making the day as authentic as possible.



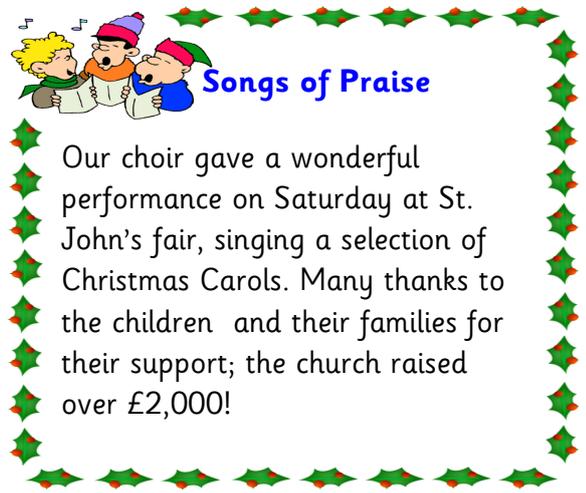
We hope you can come along to the Fayre on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm until 4.30pm. There will be lots of stalls, refreshments a Tombola and Santa Claus! If you can't make the event but would like your child to go, please send no more than £2 in change in a sealed envelope. For health and safety reasons, we may have to limit the number of people who enter the hall at anyone time. Parents may take children home after they have visited the Fayre apart from year 6 who will be swimming. Please note, we will not release children to go with another parent/adult unless we have written permission from the actual child's parent/carer. Many thanks to parents who have sent in donations or sold raffle tickets; all raffle tickets sold or unsold to be returned to school by Friday morning at the latest.



## Car Parking

We have been informed that the council are building two pairs of semi detached houses across the road from school along with four blocks of flats. The preliminary work has started but the main work will commence on January 4th and is estimated to take a year for completion. We are very disappointed to lose the luxury of a large car park but have been assured that there will be thirty nine parking places for the shops/school available following the completion of the project. We will need the co-operation of all parents using cars to park responsibly for the safety of children and parents crossing the roads.

We have our own team of Sustainable Travel Ambassadors who have been recently monitoring parking near school and a full report will be published soon.

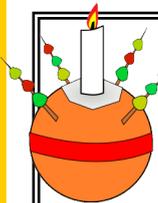


## Songs of Praise

Our choir gave a wonderful performance on Saturday at St. John's fair, singing a selection of Christmas Carols. Many thanks to the children and their families for their support; the church raised over £2,000!

Can your School Photograph orders be returned to school no later than the **8th December 2015**.

Thank you



## Christingle Service

On Thursday 17th December we will be going to St. John's Church for a magical

Christingle Service, starting at 2pm. Your child will be bringing home an envelope or box for donations for the Children's Society which we will take to the service. We will be grateful for any contributions but it will be easier for admin purposes if 10p, 20p, 50p or £1 coins are donated rather than pennies. Thank you.

## MEGA MOTION COMPETITION

Throughout December, Monty the Mega Motion Bear will be touring Darlington's primary schools for a very festive game of hide and seek. Photos of Monty in his hiding places will be posted on Facebook and people will be invited to guess Monty's location for a chance to win some great prizes. As the Mega Motion programme is targeted at families of primary school children, they're using school locations within the campaign. This will be the third image in the campaign. Can you guess where Monty was this week?

*Due to age restriction on Facebook please make sure you as parents/carers and not your child, log on to the site below for the other clues and join in the fun together!*

[www.facebook.com/megamotiondarlington](http://www.facebook.com/megamotiondarlington)



The Road Safety Officer has informed school that it may be awhile before a new Crossing Patrol Officer is placed on the Geneva Road/Fenby Avenue corner. Despite advertising this post and others, she has not received any applicants. If you are interested in being a Crossing Patrol Officer please contact Mrs Caley on 01325 406695 or email [denise.caley@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:denise.caley@darlington.gov.uk)

Dates for Diaries	
4.12.15	School Christmas Fayre
9.12.15	<b>Year 3 Class Assembly 9am</b> 
15.12.15	Christmas Lunch
16.12.15	<b>Christmas Concerts - Nursery &amp; Reception 10am</b> <b>KS1 &amp; 2 start at 2pm and 6pm</b>
17.12.15	<b>Christingle at St. John's Church 2pm.All welcome.</b>
17.12.15	KS1 Christmas Party AM 
18.12.15	Foundation Party AM KS2 Christmas Party PM
18.12.15	Break up for Christmas Holidays 
5.1.16	Children return to school 



## After School Clubs

There will be no after school clubs the last week of this term (week commencing 14.12.15). The last week will be very busy with parties and Christmas concerts!