

# St. John's Church of England Academy



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## Newsletter

**Guided by God, to be the best that you can be.**



# LENT

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter, started on Wednesday the 10th February and so did our 40 acts challenge! In Collective Worship we talked about instead of giving up something for lent we could do something positive. So all the school community have been invited to take part in a daily simple act of kindness. This could include simple gestures such as making someone smile, chatting with someone outside their usual group of friends or giving something away like a donation to our local Food Bank. Displayed on each classroom there is a wall chart which we are encouraging the children to record on a post it when they have been the recipient of an act of kindness.

These will be collected for our kindness tree in the school hall.



### What a performance!

On Monday, the children had a real treat to start off the new half term. Image Musical Theatre performed 'The Sword in the Stone.', the production was a retelling of the classic tale in which King Arthur becomes king by taking the sword out of the stone. The children loved the performance which gave them and teachers some great ideas for story writing in Literacy. We are looking forward to seeing the work that the children produce.

### Our Shining Lights

Well done to those children who were awarded a Citizenship Certificate for their sense of fairness for all and their concern for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves.



### Lyla takes the lead!

Monday was a special day for boys and girls all over the world. 'World Thinking Day' is a time when Brownies, Guides and Rainbows think about their 'sisters' around the world. Many of our girls came to school in their uni-



forms and Lyla in Year 5 wrote and led a fantastic assembly, teaching the rest of the school about World Thinking Day and what the Brownies, Guides and Rainbows strive to achieve. Well done Lyla!



Safer Internet Day 2016 took place on 9th February. At St John's we have always taken e-Safety very seriously and our children are very aware of how to keep themselves safe online. This year the theme was slightly

different and looked more closely at how to behave kindly towards other people when using the Internet and especially Social Media. We also looked at how new technologies including mobile phones, social media (Facebook and Instagram etc) and online gaming were new areas where care needed to be taken in how people communicate.

If you would like some advice on how to help your child with safe use of these new technologies, you could look at the Safer Internet Day website at [www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2016](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2016), or as ever please feel free to talk to Mr Darling at school.

## Easter Egg Competition

Our annual Easter Egg Competition will start on **Monday 21st March** and be judged on Tuesday 22nd March. So get creative and join the fun! We look forward to seeing your fabulous eggs.



## The animals came in two by two...

Would you like a snake as a scarf or a meerkat peeping in your ear? On Tuesday 23rd February Year 1 and 2 experienced this when Jay brought his animals in for the children to

experience. Most of his animals come from rainforests around the world and as this is Year 1 and 2's topic this term it was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn more about some rainforest natives. As well as listening and asking questions, the children also had the chance to hold these creatures, if they wanted to. Most of the children really enjoyed this, holding animals such as a scorpion, a tarantula called Marie as well as Merlin, the meerkat. It was a fabulous day for both classes with Year 2 learning about spiders in more detail as a reward for being the class with the highest attendance record last term. Interesting fact, did you know the biggest spider in the world is the size of a dinner plate?

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please note if you are planning any breaks that there are eleven days (from 27th May to 6th June) when the children

are on holiday. Training days have been positioned either side of the spring holiday to give parents more scope to plan holidays. Parents have had a paper copy of the school calendar but it is always available to view on our website.



Tees Valley Basketball Final

We progressed to the Tees Valley Basketball Final for the second year running, where we won two of our league games to get through to the knockout stages where we were beaten again in a shootout. We are so proud of the children for making it that far and for their hard work and performance. It has been a pleasure to coach them. More sports reports in our next newsletter.

### Dates for Diaries

29.2.16	Y3 Tennis Festival 12 - 3pm	
1.3.16	Dodgeball Festival at Billingham Y5 12 - 4pm	
<b>3.3.16</b>	<b>Parent Open Afternoon/Evening</b>	
<b>4.3.16</b>	<b>Parent Open Afternoon for KS2 (not Y6)</b>	
<b>3.3.16</b>	<b>Y3 Assembly 9am parents welcome</b>	
4.3.16	Y6 visit the Safety Carousel 9 - 2pm	
5.3.16	Crossbar Challenge at Mowden Rugby Arena	
<b>7.3.16</b>	<b>Book Fair in school. Monday to Thursday. 3.20 - 4pm. Parents welcome</b>	
7.3.16	Police Dogs visit Nursery	
<b>8.3.16</b>	<b>Year 2 Assembly 9am - parents welcome</b>	
8.3.16	Y5/6 Swimming Gala at the Dolphin Centre - am	
<b>9.3.16</b>	<b>Year 1 Assembly 9am - parents welcome</b>	
<b>11.3.16</b>	<b>Book character dressing up day</b>	
10.3.16	Y5/6 Swimming Gala at the Dolphin Centre - am	
14.3.16	Y3 Tennis Festival at the Dolphin Centre - 12 - 3pm	
<b>15.3.16</b>	<b>Year 4 assembly 9am - parents welcome</b>	
<b>16.3.16</b>	<b>Year 5 assembly 9am - parents welcome</b>	
21.3.16	<b>Easter Egg Competition</b>	
24.3.16	<b>Easter Service at St. John's Church - 2pm all welcome</b>	
24.3.16	Break up for Easter Holidays	
11.4.16	Return to school	



On Monday you will be receiving our school menu for the summer term. Please help your child choose and fill in the accompanying form and return it to the office by **Friday 4th March 2016**. Thank you.

## Reception Celebrate Chinese New Year

We had a great time celebrating Chinese New Year! We learned the story of how the Chinese Zodiac was created, tasted Chinese food, looked at traditional Chinese items – chopsticks, lanterns, lion puppets, parasol, tried on traditional clothing, made dragon puppets and lanterns, listened to Chinese music and tried ribbon dancing. As 2016 is the year of the monkey we also made monkey masks!



## Celebrating Book Week

It's Book Week starting Monday 7th March. A week filled with allsorts of events related to reading including a Book Fair which will be available after school during this week. Don't forget at the end of the week, on **Friday 11th March**, you can come to school dressed as your favourite book character.