

# St. John's Church of England Academy



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## Newsletter

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Guided by God, to be the best that we can be.



Year 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Eucharist service last week, led by Rev. Sheilagh and Rev. Sue. The children received a special blessing. Some responses from the children include: *'It was lovely and made me feel glad that we have Jesus.'* *'I felt loved, like someone had put their arms around me.'* *'It made me feel like God was with us.'* It was lovely that some parents were able to join us.



A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our maths open sessions this week.

From the feedback we have received, it is clear that all attendees found the sessions informative and useful for

supporting their children at home. Parents also got to see Maths in a Flash, a new IT program that children can access at home. If you have any other questions about our maths curriculum or could not make the sessions this week then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher and they will be more than happy to help. We look forward to holding more open sessions in the future.



Everyone got into the spirit of Children in Need day with a whole school assembly, with parents and grandparents joining the fun. The whole school community dressed up in support with prizes for the best outfits that would be seen in the dark mornings/evenings to promote safe travel to school. Olivia

(Y5) came up with her own initiative, making brightly coloured wristbands and bags and raised £12.67, well done! The EYFS children made and decorated special Pudsey biscuits. £175.55 has been raised for children in Need. Thank you once again for your generosity.



Our Christmas fair will be on **Friday 1st December at 2pm.**

There will be prizes to be won and lots of stalls for you to start your Christmas shopping! We are still in urgent need of toys, unopened bottles or unwanted gifts. So have a good sort out this weekend and bring your unwanted, good as new items to school, we would be very grateful. Thank you.

PCSO Becky Heseline from the police visited Years 5 and 6 to talk about E-safety. They are very concerned about some of the content and activities that children are accessing online; they reminded the children that they should not have Facebook accounts until the age of 13. This is because of the content that is available to them and the risks of being contacted by strangers. Some children in school are playing games that are not appropriate for their age group. Games such as Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto and Mortal Kombat have extreme violence and, in some cases, extreme sexual content and are absolutely not appropriate for people under the age of 18. Please have a chat with your child about what online content they are accessing and checking the age-restrictions on these along with games. The children were also reminded about Apps and websites that they are legally allowed to access and how to ensure that they stay safe online. Simple steps to keep safe included:

- Only make friends with people who you are friends with in real life.
- Make sure your security settings are set to the maximum privacy.
- Do not give out any personal details online – this includes using your real name when playing games.
- Turn off GPS on devices. With certain APPs such as Snapchat and Facebook, this allows people to see where your child is and where they have been.
- Never post a picture online that you would not be happy for your family to see.
- Do not subscribe to YouTube channels. Once you subscribe to a channel, that person can private message you. You can access all videos on YouTube without subscribing to individual channels.
- If you are contacted by anybody online who you do not know, report it by clicking the CEOPS button (the children have been shown where this is).

If you have any questions regarding how to keep your child safe online, please contact Mr Ramsay.



We have had a number of recent cases of head lice in KS1. Please ensure you check your child's hair weekly. If your child has head lice, treatments are available for free from the most local pharmacies. Head lice can also be removed by wet combing with a specially designed comb and conditioner on the hair. If you require any further information or support, please look on the NHS website [www.nhs.uk/condition/headlice](http://www.nhs.uk/condition/headlice) or contact our school nurse, Karen Guy 03000030013.

### Attendance Winners for Autumn Term 2

Week 1	Y4	100%
Week 2	Y1 & Y4	98%

### Dates for Diaries

29.11.17	Y6 visit the Safety Carousel - Newton Aycliffe
1.12.17	<b>PTFA Christmas Fair in the school hall. Doors open at 2pm</b>
2.12.62	<b>St John's Church Christmas Fair 11am - 2pm. All welcome</b>
6.12.17	Golf Final at Seaton Carew Dome 10.30am - 12noon
20.12.17	<b>Christmas Concerts</b> (performance times to be confirmed)
21.12.17	<b>Christingle at St John's Church. Start 2pm all are welcome.</b>
22.12.17	<b>School closes for Christmas Holiday</b>
8.1.18	<b>Children return to school</b>

### Exploring Bowes

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Bowes Museum. The children had a fabulous time exploring the museum and learning about how toys have changed over the years. They really enjoyed watching the clockwork swan. Many of the children were in awe of the wonderful staircase and lots thought that it was the one from Beauty and the Beast!



**Parentpay** is proving to be hugely successful. This tool allows us to communicate promptly via texts and emails. This way of communication ensures urgent messages are sent out and received immediately. Please note that you now need to be accessing it if your child is attending an after school club. Parentpay is also a much more convenient way to pay for school lunches.

**Please note that with effect from 8th January 2018, school lunch payments will no longer be taken at the school office and all lunch payments will be required to be paid via Parentpay.** Therefore it is imperative that you sign up to Parentpay. If you have any queries or require assistance please contact Mr Cook our Business Manager.



### New Accident Information

We will shortly be changing the way we record accidents within school. If your child has an accident during school we will be sending home an accident slip explaining what has happened. In the case of a bumped head or a more serious accident we will of course phone you. Please ensure that you check your child's school bag every day, they may have an accident slip or any other important information you need to read. Thank you