

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.



A huge thank you to all of the parents who attended the Maths Open Sessions this week. Feedback from parents has been very positive and we hope to hold more sessions in the future. Parents said they enjoyed seeing the children having fun and playing interactive games. Many said they were surprised by the high standard the children were expected to achieve but were given some useful strategies and games by staff to help. The new IT based 'Rockstars' was very popular.



At St. John's we encourage our children to speak up for something they feel passionate about. This week saw just that! As part of this term's Christian Value 'Hope', a group of children (Shania,

Katie, Courtney and Beth) wrote and presented a very thought provoking Collective Worship about the dangers discarded rubbish has on our wildlife. The audience were very motivated to help look after the environment.

You Must be the *change* you wish to see in the world
-Mahatma Gandhi



'Go in Peace be warmed and filled'
James 2:16

Just before Christmas, Thomas wanted to raise money for the homeless people of Darlington to have at least one night in a hostel. With his mum's help he made ginger biscuits to sell at school and raised an amazing £40! Major Shirley from the Salvation Army gladly accepted the cheque and said that this money will allow two people to have a warm bed for the night. Thank you Thomas for being so thoughtful to those less fortunate than ourselves.



On Monday during worship, the children will have an opportunity to put forward any popular charities they think are deserving of a donation from the money the children made from the Christmas raffles. The children will then vote.



Jenny Chapman, MP for Darlington, visited Year 6 to speak about the dangers of playing inappropriate video games. This was in response to letters that the children wrote to her in the summer term. After a discussion about how best to raise awareness amongst

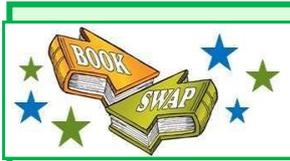
parents, she agreed to feature in a film that Year 6 are going to make as part of their E-Safety curriculum. Within the next few weeks, we will begin shooting the film, which will be displayed on the school website.

SAFETY FIRST!

In our recent Parental Questionnaire, a 100% of parents said their child felt safe in school.

However, a number of parents commented that health and safety could be improved further if all parents adhered to school rules by remembering :

- Parking on the zig-zag and yellow lines outside of school is a serious risk for children and parents trying to cross (registration numbers will be reported to the police).
- Parking in the school car park or walking through the car park is not permitted.
- Dogs are not permitted on the school grounds and parents are requested not to hang around entrances with them since many children are frightened.
- Swearing or inappropriate language is not permitted at any time and may result in a ban from the premises.
- Smoking is not permitted on the premises however some parents are standing chatting at the entrances smoking which isn't nice for children or other parents.



Next Friday will be our very first 'Book Swap'. We will have a selection of book for all ages - including adults. Bring along a book you have read and swap it for a different one in the **school hall from 3.20pm**.



Your child will be bringing home an 'Assessment Information and Target Setting' sheet within the next few days - please look out for it so you can see how much progress your child made last term.



Our Nature garden is used for outdoor learning. We are busy sourcing wooden logs for a seating area, we have been chatting about how to make a tree stump story throne, we have plans to have a fire pit (so we can toast marshmallows al fresco), and we might even make our very own May pole! However, the worst thing about going outdoors is all the mud that we bring back indoors at the end of the session. We would like to build up a bank of old wellies that the children could use when they are outdoors. If your child has outgrown their wellies, we would be very grateful if you could bring them in for us to use. Thank you in advance.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Our attendance target is 96.4% and attendance to date is 96.85%. Well done everyone and thank you to parents.

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1	98%	99%	97%	98%	98%	97%	99%
Week 2	90%	99%	93%	99%	97%	99%	96%



The decision to close school is never taken lightly but the health and safety of our children and staff is our priority. Our ability to open very much depends on enough teachers being able to get into school safely.

- In the event of severe weather conditions we will make a decision at the earliest opportunity usually not before 8.30am unless there has been extreme weather overnight.
- Please look on the home page of our website which will be updated in the first instance. Closure will also be announced on the local radio - BBC Tees, Capital Radio, Star Radio and TFM.
 - For those with no internet access there will be someone to answer calls, but this will be limited. If you are registered with ParentPay we will automatically send you a text message informing you of the situation.

DATES FOR DIARIES

1.2.19	Theatre performance of 'The Selfish Giant' in school - no money required
4.2.19	Y5 & Y6 Girls' Football Tournament 10am-2.30pm
5.2.19	Internet Safety Day 'Working together for a better internet'
5.2.19	Y3 Tennis 12.30-3pm at the Dolphin Centre
6.2.19	Y1 Head of Steam Visit
12.2.19	RNLI Lifeguards safety visit - afternoon
15.2.19	Break up
25.2.19	Return to school
28.2.19	Major Shirley - Collective Worship
3.4.19	Open Evening & Afternoon for Y1, Y2 & Y3
4.4.19	Open Afternoon for Y4, Y5 & Y6