

St. John's Church of England Academy



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Chair of Governors: Mrs V Cadd

Newsletter

8th February 2019
Issue 145



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



Last week several children (Courtney, Sarah-May, Olivia L, Charlotte B, Chalotte C and Taylor) showed a great deal of courage and compassion when they wrote and delivered speeches to the whole school around a charity they were passionate about; we were very proud of them all. The children voted for 'Joseph's dream' a little boy who is profoundly disabled in our local community so a £100 cheque will be presented to the foundation with the remaining money (£160) from our Christmas raffle going towards the cost of a defibrillator which will be kept in school but will benefit our local community. We still have a lot of money to raise though as they cost about £900.



Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 5th February, the school took part in Safer Internet Day. Mr Ramsay held an assembly for the whole school, highlighting the importance of asking permission when using the internet. This could be anything from asking parents' permission before going online to asking permission to post photos of somebody other than themselves. Ask your child what they learnt about in class during the week and talk to them about the importance of internet safety.

SPORT NEWS



Tennis Festival

Four boys and four girls competed in a Tennis Festival at Wyvern Academy. They took part in skills challenges, learnt how to control the tennis ball, work as a team and competed in

matches. The children had an enjoyable morning; all improved their tennis skills.

Football Festival

The girls from Y3 and Y4 played in a Football Festival on Thursday 7th February at Eastbourne Sports Centre. The girls played Rydal Academy, Whinfield, St. Augustine and Skerne Park. They drew 1 game and lost 3. The boys played West Park, Mowden, Rydal Academy, Reid Street and Red Hall. They drew 1, lost 1 and won 3 games. All the children had a fantastic time.

SPORT NEWS



Reception Class celebrated Chinese New Year (year of the Pig) this week. They looked at Chinese artefacts and made lanterns and dragons to use when performing lovely traditional Chinese dancing!



We were sad to say goodbye to Mrs Wakelin this week. She has worked at St. John's for 13 years and in that time has taught and supported all subjects including cooking and gardening...a lady with many talents. We hope she enjoys her free time

Don't forget your Valentine Disco tickets!

Disco is next Thursday 14th February. Tickets on sale until Tuesday. Thank you

All the children have taken home their 'Autumn Term Assessment and Progress' sheet. Feedback from parents has been very, very positive.

The children were disappointed when the 'Selfish Giant' theatre production was cancelled last Friday due to the snow. It has been re-schedule for Friday 1st March. We also had to cancel our Book Swap due to the weather and this will now take place tonight (Friday 8th) and the next one will be Friday 8th March.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Our attendance target is 96.4% and attendance to date is 96.69%.

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 3	90%	94%	98%	97%	94%	98%	98%
Week 4	88%	89%	94%	94%	94%	98%	97%



Many thanks to all those parents who completed our annual survey; 203 were given out and 129 were returned (64%). The governors and staff constantly strive to make St. John's the best place for your child and the results continue to be overwhelmingly positive.

98% agreed that their child is happy in school

100% agreed their child feels safe in school

100% agreed that their child is taught well

98% agreed that their child is making good progress

98% agreed that they receive valuable information about their child's progress

97% agreed that the school keeps them well informed

94% agreed their child receives appropriate homework for their age

98% agreed there is a good standard of behaviour at school

98% agreed that the school is well led and managed

95% agreed that the school deals effectively with bullying

95% agreed the school responds well to any concerns raised

99% agreed that they would recommend the school to another parent

Your main suggestions for improvement which governors discussed was **flexible, after school child care**. This year we have used all available staffing to offer even more clubs to support working parents although we appreciate that this is not enough for some. Our school is too small to make it viable for an outside company to deliver after school care and at present the rules of our academy don't allow us to charge which we would need to do to pay for the extra staffing needed. This will be an on going area for governors.

Parents were asked whether there would be sufficient interest if we were to extend our nursery provision from 15 hours to 30 hours for those working parents who would be eligible for the free extra provision. Lots of parents said they would be interested so governors are exploring the feasibility from September - we will keep you posted.

We were very touched by the lovely comments many of you wrote:

"The support and help for parents and children is amazing. So much love goes into this school, you can tell this is more than just a job." Reception

"St John's school have helped me and my family out in so many ways beyond anything I could have imagined. Absolutely fantastic school that I am proud to say my children attend." Y1

"All my children have done brilliantly due to your school. I have had my opinions valued which means a lot." Y2

"Creates a caring community for the children and sets high moral and academic standards." Y2

"The school invites parents in to enjoy the children receiving awards and encourages parent/school relations." Y3

"My child enjoys the way lessons are taught and enjoys the whole curriculum even if he's not particularly good at something. All teachers know the children well and are inclusive." Y4

"If myself or my child have any worries or concerns they are dealt with immediately and effectively. I am very happy with the school." Y5

"Teachers are always there for the children and listen to what they have to say. My child loves coming to school." Y6

A full summary of the report maybe viewed on our website under Parent & Carers. If you have five minutes we would be grateful if you could complete the Ofsted questionnaire - there is a direct link to Parent View on our website.

DATES FOR DIARIES

12.2.19	RNLI Lifeguards safety visit - afternoon	8.3.19	Book Character Day - dress up as your favourite book character
14.2.19	Valentine Disco - tickets on sale	12.3.19	Dance Festival
15.2.19	Break up	19.3.19	Year 3 & 4 visit to the Jorvik Centre - full day
25.2.19	Return to school	25.3.19	BIG PEDAL - 2 weeks
27.2.19	Year 5 Library Bench Painting	27.3.19	Bike-it breakfast
28.2.19	Major Shirley - Collective Worship	28.3.19	Change 4 life at Eastbourne Complex
1.3.19	Theatre company perform 'The Selfish Giant' - am	28.3.19	Major Shirley - Collective Worship
1.3.19	Darlington Primary Schools Mayor's Song Contest - 6pm Dolphin C	3.4.19	Open Evening & Afternoon for Y1, Y2 & Y3
5.3.19	Book Fair 3.20pm until Friday	4.4.19	Open Afternoon for Y4, Y5 & Y6
5.3.19	Year 1 & 2 visit to Beamish - full day	5.4.19	Bling Your Bike Day and Year 5 Bike Ride
5.3.19	Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala at the Dolphin Centre 9.30 -12.30pm	5.4.19	Break up for Easter Holidays
7.3.19	Year 2 visit Peter Barron at the Library	23.4.19	Tuesday. Return to school