

# St. John's Church of England Academy



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## Newsletter

6th December 2019  
Issue 160



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



We celebrated the start of Advent by lighting the first candle which symbolizes 'Hope'. Advent is a very special time of the year as Christians prepare for Jesus' birthday. Our preparations are well on the way! The children have decorated the tree and are practising their Christmas performances to entertain you; please see attached letter for information.

The children will bring home a Christingle box from the Children's Society next week. Any donations may be returned to school and they will be taken to our Christingle service at St. John's Church on Thursday 19th December.



Thank you to all the children, and their parents, who joined us at St John's Church Christmas Fair on Saturday. The children dealt very professionally with some technical hitches and sang brilliantly. 'The show must go on' was very much the motto. Thank you to our parents and the rest of the audience who supported us wonderfully.



*Victorian Day*

Year 5 and Year 6 did some time travelling this week to experience life in a Victorian school. They began the day with a hand and shoe inspection, the moral homily and a Bible reading. There was lots of chanting, learning by rote and lunch was gruel and soda bread. The children enjoyed the copperplate handwriting (the left-handed children not so much!) but were not so keen on the dunce's hat or the teachers embarrassing them. Most escaped the cane! Thank you so much parents for making the day so authentic by providing such wonderful costumes - and clean shoes!

The day helped the children gain a real understanding of difference between periods of history.

## ANALYSIS OF PARENTAL SURVEY Autumn 2019

Many thanks to all those parents who completed our annual survey; 201 questionnaires were given and 110 were returned (55 %). From those that were returned...

- 100% agreed that their child is happy in school
- 100% agreed their child feels safe in school
- 100% agreed that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
- 80 parents said that their child had never been bullied; 100% agreed that if their child had been bullied the school had dealt with it quickly and effectively.
- 100% agreed that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year.
- 60 parents agreed that when they have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly; 46 parents said they had not raised any concerns with the school.
- 99% agreed that the school has high expectations for their child
- 100% thought that their child was doing well.
- 99% agreed that the school lets them know how their child is doing at school
- 99% agreed that there is a good range of subjects available
- 96% agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities
- 99% agreed that the school supports their child's wider personal development
- 100% agreed that they would recommend the school to another

Governors and staff were delighted with the overwhelmingly positive response and were very appreciative of the lovely comments. Some quotes from parents/carers included:

- "The school keeps me well informed of what my child is learning and how they are learning so I can keep them going at home." Reception
- "Offers extra help and support to both parents and children." Year 1
- "St John's is the best school and they have brilliant teachers. I would highly recommend it." Y2
- "Gives children high aspirations and the belief that they can achieve what they want to." Y3
- "Teaches good morals and values to take forward in life." Y4
- "We are very happy with the progress he is making. All our dealings with staff are first class." Y5
- "It caters well for working parents i.e. Breakfast club each morning and after school club every night." Y6

Although three quarters of parents still wanted a paper copy of the newsletter, many were happy to view it on line. Governors will be looking at the best way forward with our Newsletter in the New Year but as a reminder the Newsletters are always accessible through our website under the tab that says News. Governors and staff constantly strive to give your children the very best education and we thank you for your continued support and suggestions.

A full summary of the analysis may be viewed on our website under **Parents and Carers** tab. If you have five minutes we would be very grateful if you could complete the Ofsted questionnaire – there is a direct link to **Parent View** via our website



Year 1 put on a fantastic Class Assembly for proud mams and dads, all about the General Election! They really impressed us that they knew all about 'democracy' and the importance of voting and urged parents to read the 'manifestos' if they were still unsure. They performed some great drama scenes, entertained us with their singing and even gave us a Geography lesson on Great Britain!

Please note there will be **no after school clubs** during the last week of term.  
**Monday 16th December to Friday 20th December.**

We are very mindful that Christmas is a very expensive time for parents so we do not promote Christmas Jumper day. If children have special jumpers, they may be worn only on their party day.



Whole school attendance is only **95.7%** which is well below our target of 96.4%. Hospital appointments are difficult to arrange out of school time but please support us by arranging other appointments out of school hours.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 3	95%	90%	98%	92%	98%	94%	96%
Week 4	94%	89%	96%	96%	96%	95%	94%

### DATES FOR DIARIES

13.12.19	Y6 Basketball at St Aidan's - pm
17.12.19	Christmas Lunch for school dinner children (pack lunch children will be enjoying the fun too!)
<b>18.12.19</b>	<b>Christmas Concert</b> 9.20am Year 1 & Year 2 performance 10.30am Nursery & Reception performance (EYFS) 1.45pm KS1 & KS2 performance 6pm KS2 only performance
<b>19.12.19</b>	<b>Christingle at St. John's Church</b> (weather permitting) - <b>2pm all welcome</b>
19.12.19	Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party - morning
20.12.19	EYFS Christmas Party - morning
20.12.19	KS2 Christmas Party - afternoon
<b>20.12.19</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas</b>
<b>6.1.20</b>	<b>Return to school</b>