



Newsletter

Issue 11

4th December 2020

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



The Reception children enjoyed supporting Children in Need. They made Pudsey bookmarks, cut out Pudsey characters to work on their cutting skills, completed a colour by numbers Pudsey and decorated Pudsey biscuits. It was lots of fun!



TEES VALLEY SPORT

Year 3 and 4 participated in the Tees Valley Virtual Sportshall Athletics competition this week. Sara Wrangham, from the Darlington Schools Sports Partnership, came in to deliver a range of exciting activities. The children practised their athletic skills on the speed bounce, vertical jump, standing long jump, shuttle run and chest push, trying their hardest and working to improve their personal bests. Everyone was very excited to be able to participate and showed great sportsmanship throughout. The children have really been missing the opportunity to get involved in competitive sporting activity, so it has been lovely to find a way that we can incorporate more competition into our school calendar. We look forward to many more opportunities like this in the New Year. Thanks to Darlington School Sports Partnership who have been a fantastic help in keeping us all active during Covid-19.



Catch Up Funding



The Government have allocated funding to schools to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time due to Covid-19; St John's will receive £16,250. Our Local Governing Body have agreed our Catch up plan which can be viewed on our website and they will be monitoring how well our plans are working throughout the year.

In September, our priority was to make sure the children were happy and settled back into school using a Recovery Curriculum and then identify gaps in the children's learning which includes:

- Increased gaps in reading, writing (handwriting and basic sentence punctuation) and maths including mental maths speed (tables and number bonds)
- Missed daily phonic teaching in EYFS and Y1 which has impacted significantly on early reading and writing
- Learning behaviours have deteriorated significantly e.g. listening skills, independence, resilience and pace of learning
- Social, emotional and mental health needs of some children

At St John's we have high quality teachers and for every class we have prioritised an extra member of staff to support with their planned programme of 'Catch Up' which is based on the needs of individual classes. We have also bought some new computers that the children use to access their personalised learning programmes which they also access at home.

We thank parents for supporting the children with homework and home learning when children need to self-isolate as this makes a huge difference to how quickly the children progress.



Lots of children are talking about receiving a new laptop/tablet from Santa. This is an excellent idea to support their learning.



SUPER LEARNER

Week ending: **4th December 2020**



Rec	Louie Sutcliffe—for demonstrating a good understanding of length.
	Myla Wilson—for making good progress and being more confident during phonics.
Year 1	Aimee Ballan— being helpful, working hard and having great ideas. Little Miss Positive
	Emily Woodford— giving 100% in all areas with a super smile.
Year 2	Riley Bainbridge—for super enthusiasm in class and fantastic presentation in all of his written work.
	Reenie Shotton—for a fantastic effort with her home reading and online learning.
Year 3	Alice Baldwin—for fantastic effort in mastering the column addition method.
	Ollie Pitchers—for great improvements in his handwriting.
Year 4	Lacey-Leigh Davies for superb determination and participation in her maths lessons and building confidence with her times tables.
	Esme Ingledew - for a fantastic attitude to learning and working hard to be the best you can be!
Year 6	Jason Kelly—Fantastic effort with adding fractions this week and a superb performance of 'The Night Before Christmas' in guided reading.
	Kaelyn McGee— <u>Much</u> better presentation, especially handwriting.

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

We have planned lots of fun for the children over the next two weeks.

- * **10th December** - 'The Big Sing'
- * **11th December** is Christmas Jumper Day (please don't buy something new) Children from Years 3 to 6 may bring in a £1 coin for 'Save the Children'
- * **Monday 14th December** - Durham Music Concert 'Jingle Bells'
- * **Tuesday 15th December** - Durham Music Concert 'Christmas Cracker Brass'.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

- * **Thursday 17th December (pm)**
2yr & 3yr Nursery
Reception Class
Year 2
Year 4
- * **Friday 18th December (pm)**
Year 1
Year 3
Year 5
Year 6

Children can wear their own clothes for the parties but please bear in mind that windows are open so it would be advisable to wear something warm!





Please note that there will be **no** after school sporting clubs in the **last week of term.**

SCHOOL OVERALL ATTENDANCE

96.64%

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	Week 5	95%	98%	96%	98%	99%	97%

DATES FOR DIARIES

Friday 18.12.20	Break up for Christmas Celebrations
Tuesday 5.1.21	Return to school
Friday 12.2.21	Half term holiday
Monday 22.2.21	Return to school