

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.

Project success for our community



Great news for children who use Lascelles Park! Two years ago, as part of the Archie Bishop scheme, the then Year 6 began a project to improve the play area across the road from the school. It was not an easy task! The children wrote to Jenny Chapman (MP), bid for money and met with the MP and local councillors to put forward their ideas to improve the park. After two years of hard work, the park now has two new pieces of play equipment for all the children to enjoy. The current Year 6 attended

the grand opening of the new and improved play area with the Mayor and Jenny Chapman. We hope that everyone in the local area enjoys using it and a huge thank you to all the children who worked so hard to make it happen.



Fun with Phonics!

Reception held phonics drop-in sessions for parents so they could see how phonics is taught in school. The children enjoyed showing

some of their favourite games and songs. Miss Tricker talked about the importance of pronouncing the sounds correctly to help the children blend. Parents were given some ideas of how they can help the children to practise phonics at home. Reception children are working so hard to learn their new sounds—a big thank you to our parents for their support.



Bake Sale to Help the Environment

In September, we started a new afterschool club called Eco-Club; it intends to help St. John's become more of an eco-friendly school.

The group of Year 6 children that take part are running a cake sale on the last day of term (**Friday 26th October**) to raise money to buy a reusable drinks bottle for each child, reducing the amount of waste and pollution caused by children using a bottle once and throwing it away.

There will be a range of products on sale such as: brownies, cookies and cupcakes. Prices will range from 50p to £1. Some of the children have also made Autumn Terrariums, which will be available for £1. There will be a selection of bakes available for children who have any food allergies. Please ask on the day, which would be suitable for your child. If you would like your child to buy some cakes, they must bring their money to school on the morning of Friday 26th October in a clearly named envelope.

PTFA Autumn Disco

We are looking forward to having fun at the Autumn Disco on **Thursday 25th October**; tickets need to be purchased by **Tuesday 23rd October**. Wearing a costume is optional but please do not go to a lot of expense! The local police popped in to school to let us know that they were doing more patrols in the local area. **Please note that Multi-Sports after school club for Year 1 and 2 will not take place.**



Pumpkin Competition

The PTFA are holding a 'Design a Pumpkin' competition for you to do at home. If you wish to enter a pumpkin, bring it in Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday marked clearly with your name and class. If you wish to put a light in the pumpkin, please use the battery operated tea lights. The entries will be judged on Thursday at the disco and winners will be announced on Friday when they need to be taken home.



Year 2 were extremely excited to meet meet Michael De Souza, the author of Rastamouse, at Darlington Library. Michael read a number of his poems and the children enjoyed learning actions and reciting them. Michael then read a Rastamouse story with Mr Goldsbrough, Mr Cook, Benjamin and Natalia all acting out roles.



A big part of our PSHE curriculum involves giving our children the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe. The NSPCC came to deliver their interactive child friendly 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' assemblies for KS1 and 2, designed to help our children to:

- Know how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- Understand different forms of abuse and recognise the signs.
- Know how to get help and sources of help available to them, including the Childline Service.



Year 5 and 6 participated enthusiastically in follow up workshops.

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's work there is a wide range of information and advice available to parents and carers on their website nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

They also have some great child friendly materials including the PANTS rule to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org/pants

Romans for the day

We were amazed at the fantastic Roman outfits Year 3 & 4 arrived in. It was clear to see lots of effort and research had gone into them. The children were so excited to become a Roman for the day! Michael and Paddy from Durham University's Oriental Museum joined us. The children learnt about the Roman Empire, the Colosseum and discovered that Romans loved chariot racing as much as some of Year 3 & 4 love football! The children studied artefacts, excavated by archaeologists; some were 1900 years old!

They enjoyed being Roman soldiers and learning battle strategies. It was a fascinating and fun packed day.



There have been reports of parents using the school car park to drop off and collect children which is a safety issue. May we remind you that the school car park is for staff and visitors only. Please use the car park behind the houses opposite school. Thank you.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Our target for attendance is 96.4% and attendance to date is 97.19%. Well done to Year 3 who achieved 100%, they will receive 5 minutes extra playtime.

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 5	97%	96%	99%	100%	98%	99%	99%
Week 6	95%	92%	99%	99%	99%	98%	92%



Mowden Festival

A mixed team from Year 5 and from Year 6 took part in a Tag Rugby Festival. All children took part in 4 games and had an enjoyable afternoon. The Year 6 team were unbeaten and came top of their group which means they have progressed to the Primary Schools Finals. We were very proud of both teams who shared great team spirit.



DATES FOR DIARIES

20.10.18	Durham Tigers presentation night
24.10.18	Nursery & Reception Rhyme Time with Suzy Hill
25.10.18	Collective Worship with Major Shirley
25.10.18	Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby Festival - 12 - 3pm
25.10.18	Autumn Disco
26.10.18	Judo Dan 9am - 11.45am
26.10.18	Autumn Half Term holiday
6.11.18	Children return to school (Tuesday)
16.11.18	Children in Need Day
28.11.18	School Photographer