

St John's Church of England Primary School

'The JOY of the Lord is Your Strength' (Nehemiah 8:10)

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parents,

Good morning and welcome to the latest update from St John's. I have moved the update to a Friday now to coincide with when our newsletter would have been written each week. I hope you have all had a pleasant start to the summer term and have been making the most of the opportunity to fit in the daily exercise in the sun!

Home Learning

Class Dojo is now up and running for all classes and I know teachers have been ecstatic to have some everyday contact back with children and families. I hope it has been beneficial for you too. Activities and timetables for the week are uploaded to Class Dojo and will also be available on the Home Learning page of our website. Please try to sign up for Class Dojo if possible so that we are able to keep you updated with everything happening at St. John's. The letters for joining Class Dojo were emailed out and are available on the website.

I have loved seeing some of the work created in response to the challenge for this week – I have seen some pictures of very full plates! From next week, we will be awarding a small prize drawn randomly from all children who have entered the Challenge for that week.

The government have produced some guidance for supporting the learning of children during coronavirus. We appreciate that it is not an easy job and certainly requires a degree of patience (and yes – I have the battles at home as well!). I have added the links below but there is also a Parent Top Tips sheet to go along with the Class Dojo resources...

Guidance on helping children aged 2 to 4 learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on helping primary school aged children learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on helping children with special educational needs and disabilities learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

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Communication

We have been made aware that some parents are not receiving emails – some or all – from school and we apologise if this is the case. If you are missing out on the latest updates, please contact the office and we shall check your details or add you to the system should you not have previously provided us with an email address. Any letter sent out to parents via email is also added to the website so please make sure you check the site regularly just in case.

Key Workers

We continue to stay open for the children of Key Workers. Booking forms are available in the foyer and on the website each week. You can also book your child / children in to care by ringing or emailing us. We will be open each day with a reduced staff but it is handy to know how many children are attending each day for planning purposes. I am not quite sure what happened to the booking forms in the foyer this week so please email us if you need places for next week. We are as flexible as you need...

Can I please ask that any children coming to school are prepared for the lovely weather with hats and sun cream each day.

Free School Meals

E-vouchers are available for parents of children in receipt of Free School Meals. These are bought by school and distributed to parents for use in a range of supermarkets. From next week, Aldi are joining the scheme so any parents who wish to change their supermarket preference to Aldi, please let me know and that can be arranged.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed many lives and if you feel that your home circumstances have changed and that you may be eligible for Free School Meals support, then please speak to us and we will arrange to provide you with an application form.

Back to School

As I am sure you have heard, there is plenty of speculation on the news about when schools will return. As yet, I have heard nothing regarding a specific date but, rest assured, I will ensure that you are informed of any date and plans as soon as I am aware. In the meantime, we will continue to provide learning remotely for children at St. John's as well as the Key Worker service within school. The government have updated their guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings and this can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

I think that is about all the updates I have for now. I will continue to send regular updates to you all but hope in the meantime that you all stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind Regards

Mr Phil Thomson

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