

St John's Church of England Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mr Phil Thomson



Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second Friday update! I hope it is as enjoyable as the regular newsletter when we are in school.

Home Learning

It is fantastic to see how many of you are signed up to Class Dojo now. At most, there are only a few children (and parents) not signed up in each year group. I strongly encourage all parents to sign up to Class Dojo so that children feel part of their class whilst we are away, so that you have access to work each week (if you wish) and so we can pass on key messages to you. I will be posting the weekly update on the School Story page of Class Dojo each week for your attention.

It has been lovely to view some of the work sent in by children to their teachers and I know teachers are enjoying the opportunity to give feedback and build up some communication with you all. The timetable set each week is a guide only and please do not feel that it has to be followed to the letter. There is no expectation for all the work to be completed each week; it is there to keep key skills ticking over and to provide some fun, ensuring boredom is avoided! We have produced a sheet with 'Top Tips' for home learning which may help as we appreciate how difficult and 'patience-testing', yet hugely rewarding the home learning process can be at times!

Should you have any questions about the work set each week, please contact your child's teacher through Class Dojo or I can forward a message on if you email enquiries@stjohnsprimary.co.uk. Guides for accessing Class Dojo were emailed out over Easter and are available on the school website. If you experience difficulties, please give school a ring.

The Weekly Challenge

We have had plenty of responses to our first challenge: Build a tower as tall as you are! Some are incredibly creative, others are structural masterpieces: the challenges each week are meant as a bit of fun. All children who have sent in a picture have been entered into a draw for a special prize. The draw will take place later today and I shall be in contact with the winner...

Next week's challenge ties in with the VE celebrations which were initially planned for the bank holiday on Friday. In addition to this update, I enclose a poster about a planned event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day across Southport. It would be great if anybody wanted to share photos showing off their own celebrations at home!

Free School Meals

E-vouchers were emailed out late this week to families who are eligible for the government's free school meal voucher scheme. From next week, Aldi and McColls have been added to the list of supermarkets I can

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redeem the vouchers against – we run a week later than the government announcements as I am doing the ordering and distribution of the vouchers myself rather than leaving the accessing of the government website to parents – as you may have heard on the news, the process 'takes a long time' to say the least!

Should any parent wish to change the supermarket their voucher is for, please let me know. Some parents who have had recent changes in work may find that they are eligible for free school meals entitlement. If you believe this is the case, please contact school and we shall send an application form home.

Critical Workers

We will be open all week for the children of critical workers, including the bank holiday. Should you require this service for your child / children, please let us know. Booking forms are also on the website.

Return to School

You may have heard on the news that the government are planning a phased return to school when we eventually re-open. That is all I know for now as well. When I have further information, I shall ensure I include this in the weekly update. Rest assured though, that when we return, it will be well planned to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our entire school community.

Communication

Thank you to everyone who has updated or checked email addresses with the office. These are updated on our school system and you should receive emails in the future. Please let us know if you don't. This update will be emailed out each week and added to the website; additionally from this week, this letter will be uploaded to Class Dojo.

Support

It is vital that we continue to support each other during the current coronavirus pandemic. Please let us know if there is any way in which we can help in school. We have been blown away by the support from home in the form of messages and the fantastic video in response to staff. I need to say a huge thank you to all parents and families who organised and contributed to the recent crowd funding appeal to give the staff at St. John's a little treat and thank you for when this is all over.

I try to add some web links each week of organisations who are able to provide support if needed, this week instead, there are some additional letters attached. The first is a letter from the NHS about their bereavement helpline and the second is a letter from our school nurse, Katie Dalton, if any parent feels they may need her support with anything at the moment.

In the meantime, thank you all for your continued support and kind messages. We hope to see you all soon back at school, but, in the meantime, we look forward to keeping up with you via Class Dojo.

Kind Regards and stay safe

Mr P Thomson

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