18th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy year at St John’s with much to celebrate. Both staff and children have worked hard and continue to grow and flourish.

The end of year performance of ‘Cinderella Rockerfella’, from the Year 6 pupils has been amazing. The children have overcome many fears and barriers to be able to stand up in front of an audience and perform like they have. It has taken courage and bravery. Thank you to all the adults who have supported and encouraged the children. A big thank you to you as parents for providing costumes and helping your children to produce a first-class performance.

Oak Class have been up to the Coleford Bowling Club to play boules. This was arranged by the Town Twinning Partnership.

Beech Class went to Southerdown beach where they were met by a ranger and spent a morning exploring rock pools.

Rowan Class visited Perrygrove for a magical Christmas experience and then had a beach day earlier this team. They built Rowan beach, played and paddled in the water and ‘rock pools’ and sand, experiencing what it’s like to go to the beach.

Chestnut Class has worked with Jason Griffiths from the University of Gloucestershire on a literature project based on authors and poets from the Forest of Dean. They held a show case session to share their fantastic work with their parents. Well done Chestnut Class, you composed some beautiful poems about nature in the Forest of Dean.

Elm Class have spent several days at Dean Academy getting used to what it would be like to go to secondary school.

Hazel Class have worked with an artist called Louise Perry from a company called Canopy. They had an enjoyable time making hanging birds and headdresses. This also linked to the Coleford Art Festival.

Ash Class visited Robinswood Country Park where they had a fascinating time pond dipping and carrying out a bug hunt.

We have taken part in a wide variety of sporting and wellbeing activities this year, including football matches, The Panathlon, Kayaking, Walk and Ride at Norchard, Quad Kids, Taster day at The Dean Academy , Ten Pin Bowling and Cross-Country. This is not an exhaustive list but has been thoroughly enjoyed by all who have taken part and represented St John’s.

As a result of the school disco last week, the School Council helped to raise a wonderful £247.50 towards the Mayoral Charity which is the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity. Thank you to everyone who came to the disco and to the School Council for organising it.

This is just a taster of the amazing experiences your children have done over the course of the year. These events have enriched and enhanced their academic experiences and we will continue to provide these for our pupils

**Classes for September 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Teacher/s | TAs |
| Rowan (Reception) | Miss Griffiths Ms. Donovan (PPA Teacher) | Mrs RobertsMrs Lawrence |
| Ash (Year 1) | Mrs Coleman Ms. Donovan (PPA Teacher) | Mrs Moger Mrs Chatfield |
| Beech (Year 2) | Mrs KennedyMs. Donovan (PPA Teacher)) | Mrs LawrenceMrs MeekMrs JamesMrs Burgess |
| Hazel (Year 3 and 4) | Mrs Smith Mr McKenzie (1.5 days a week) | Mrs ShottonMrs. Meek |
| Elm (Year 4 and 5) | Miss CooksonMrs. Mitchell (PPA Teacher) | Mrs VasylenkoMrs. JamesMiss Lawrence |
| Oak (Year 5 and 6) | Mrs ChamberlainMr McKenzie (PPA and Cover Teacher)Ms Donovan (PPA Teacher) | Mrs. MouilineMrs Burgess |

**School Dinners**

We have tried very hard as a school to keep the cost of school dinners to a minimum but unfortunately due to financial pressures we are having to raise the cost of a lunch to **£2.55** from September 2024.

**Parent Pay Accounts**

Please can you make sure your school lunches, Breakfast Club and Cool Kids account are fully paid up by the end of term. If you go into the next academic year with a balance on your account, we may not be able to offer you the services that you require.

**Attendance Messages**

When you leave a message either on the answer machine or via an email, please leave a reason as to why your child will not be present. If a message is left saying, “Not well!” or “Won’t be in today!” these will be marked as unauthorized.

**Car Park**

At the beginning of the day please do not arrive at the school site before 8.20am.

Also, whilst waiting for the gate to open please ensure that your child/children are standing with you and not running around the parked cars in the car park or climbing on railings/fences. This is for your child’s safety and to protect staff vehicles from becoming damaged.

**Attendance**

At St John’s we have been very reluctant to issue fixed penalty notices for family holidays. However, from September 2024 there has been a change in the new National Attendance Framework and all headteachers will be required to consider issuing a fixed penalty notice for 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorized absence in a 10-week period. This means that a week’s holiday falls into this category.

From August 2024, the fine for school absence across the country will be £80.00 id paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within a three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.00.

Fines are per parent, per child. These fines will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2500.00.

**Governor News**

Dear parents and carers,

On behalf of the school’s Interim Local Governing Board, I wanted to share a quick update with you all. Since January, governors have spent lots of time hearing from children and staff and have been impressed with the fantastic learning that is happening every day in school. We have seen how dedicated the staff are in providing a safe and secure school for children (and sometimes their families too) and how enthusiastic the children are to learn and support each other. There is much joy in school, and one of the times when this is most noticeable is when the children sing together – it really is quite special! The recent SIAMS inspection has highlighted so much of what we already know about the school, and we hope you are as proud of the school as we are.

In September, the ILGB will send out a short survey asking you what you know about our work and how you want us to engage with you. Following this we will be seeking nominations for two elected parents to join the ILGB. I do hope this will be something you all consider.

In the meantime, we wish you all a safe and joyful summer break – let’s hope the good weather returns soon.

Every blessing,

Nicki Wadley

Chair of Governors

**PTA News**

It's been another busy year for the PTA, thank you again for all your support. A special thanks goes to the PTA volunteers and their families; we couldn't do it without you!

Our first ever Colour Run raised a fantastic £1378.00 and the recent Summer Fair has made £690.00. All money raised goes back into the school, either for resources or experiences.

We've recently purchased book bags for our new school starters and leavers hoodies for Year 6. You may have noticed the new 'book swap' cupboard by the school entrance which we helped to fund, feel free to use this throughout the holidays.

For more information about events, purchases and more, please follow our Facebook page: St John's C of E Academy PTA or email stjohnsptacoleford@gmail.com

New members are always welcome - meetings typically take place in the evening and online.

**After-School Clubs**

You will be notified via a letter in September as to which after-school clubs will be running next term.

**Leavers**

We wish all the Year 6 pupils all the best as they go onto their new secondary schools. You will all shine very brightly wherever you go! 😊

We also wish other pupils well who are moving onto a new school both locally and further afield.

We wish Mrs Morris a well-deserved happy and restful retirement after working at St John’s for 47 years! I am sure we will see you around Coleford for a catch-up.

As Miss Williams embarks on new opportunities we wish her well. Thank you for all your hard work and expertise over the past year.

Finally, we send a big St John’s hug to Miss Jenkins and Lua as they move onto the next phase of their professional journey. Miss Jenkins and Lua are moving to a school closer to their home where a new group of children will benefit from the awesome friendship and superb knowledge and skills.

**End of term 6**

Term 6 ends on Monday 22nd July 2024. You will need to pick up your child/children at 1.15pm prompt.

**Thank you**

A big thank you to you all for your support over the past academic year. It is very much appreciated and is a great boost to the school. Over the past year we have all grown and flourished with your help. Thank you.

I hope you enjoy the summer holidays, and we will see you back in school on **Tuesday 3rd September**. Staff will be in school on the **2nd of September Inset day**, if you need anything please call or pop in.

Happy Holidays



Joanne Peaper

Head Teacher