

Friday 10th January 2025

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# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Weekly News

### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

We are now half way through the half term and there has been lots going on around school. The Year 5 children have already enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum in Bristol which was a great success. A number of children are enjoying music lessons with iRock where they have been playing drums, guitar and keyboards with our music teacher. The Year 4 children have enjoyed a visit from the Museum as well where they completed a workshop about crime and punishment through the ages - but made it clear to me they didn't want to introduce any punishments they had learnt about!

The school council have been working with Mrs Mair in the kitchen to put a new menu together for the Summer term. Since the children have got involved the amount of food waste has reduced considerably and also children buying meals has risen. At St John's the voice of the pupils is imperative to running the school so their support in this matter has been extremely valuable.

In assembly this week I spoke to the children about the Parable of the Sower, which explores how children listen to advice and guidance. All the pupils are aspiring to be the seeds that flourish on good ground by listening and following the help they get from trusted adults, rather than forgetting, distracted by negative behaviours or giving up when things are hard. I hope they use this teaching to be positive in and out of school.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

#### Certificate Winners:

Windsor - Lindsey  
Attenborough - Theodrick  
Mandela - Ishani  
McCartney - Freddie & Flo  
Hawking - Jenson  
Simmonds - Nataniel & Noella  
Pankhurst - Charlie  
Rashford - Hayden  
Medal - Luca (4)

#### Attendance:

A reminder to all that the expectation for all the children is to be 95%+ with regards to their attendance. When children miss school this can impact their learning because they are missing valuable stages of teaching. We appreciate that there are bugs and illnesses around but families do need to consider if it is considerable enough for the child to need to be kept from school. If parents are ill every attempt must be made to still get children to school.

#### Safeguarding/Well being:

Is your child spending too much time online?  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/child-online-time-limit-warnings-b2684268.html>

The above is an interesting article which highlights some indicators when the children have been on screens for too long. This can impact sleep, motivation and behaviour and thought needed as to how to manage in the home.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

## Weekly House Point Winner: ST ANDREW

Our medal winner Luca is in Year 4 and has written some reports on the Crime and Punishment Workshop and also about the new Google Chrome Books.

### Crime and Punishment

On Wednesday morning, Sam from Taunton Museum came to school to teach us about Crime and Punishment. There were three workshops for us to try; old artefacts for punishment; finding out about young people that went to prison; and fingerprinting and exploring about our own prints. Some of the artefacts that we got to try included a cane which was used at schools. We don't want that back at St John's! There were punishments for people that talked too much and weren't very kind called the Scold's Bridle. On occasions criminals had to unpick rope as a punishment because it tore through the skin on their fingers. Some of the young people we learnt about were only 11 and 12. They had stolen different things and had to go to prison. I am pleased that it is not like that here any more as it would be terrible. The workshop was fun and we learnt a lot.

Luca

### Chrome Books

At school we have recently bought new Chrome Books for the children to study and learn. On these Chrome Books we have used different APPS like TT Rockstars. In class we have also used them to search for information about different countries and their cultures. It has made learning a lot easier for us in the classroom. We can also use them to present our work and other classes have used them to write up their research. The Chrome Books can be used for so many subjects across the curriculum. I am very excited about using the new Chrome Books.

Luca

### Upcoming events:

13th February	School Disco
17th-21st February	Half Term
4th April	Last day of Spring Term
22nd April	First day of Summer Term
28th-29th April	Y3 & 4 residential trip to Barton Hall
5th May	Bank Holiday
26th-30th May	Half Term
27th June	School Closed for Staff Training
30th June	School Closed for Staff Training
23rd July	Last day of Summer Term

### Ties

A reminder to families that there are ties available in the school office if they have been lost or damaged. The tie is an expected part of the school uniform children should be wearing unless it has been agreed for them not to on an individual basis with the school.

### Parking

There are still some families that are ignoring the safety and welfare of the community by parking illegally when dropping off children and picking them up. Please give yourself some extra time on pick ups in order to park correctly even if this is a slightly longer walk from school. The police are aware after complaints and will be following up.

### School Disco

The Friends of St John's will be organising a disco for the children on the 13th February - details should be attached to this letter. Please see the details of when they are happening for each Year Group to avoid any disappointment on the evening.