

Friday 13th December 2024

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# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Weekly News

### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been one of so many mixed blessings for me personally - starting with a dose of flu symptoms which is sadly doing the rounds. On returning though I have been buoyed by the positivity oozing through the building with so many memorable moments throughout the school. It has certainly made me feel much better!

The Year 1 and Year 2 children were absolutely marvellous with their performance of 'Donkey for Sale'. It was a real treat for the families and staff watching them sing and act so confidently, all done with big smiles on their faces. The Year 1 children followed this up with an impromptu concert to members of the Church community, where they shared more joy with the community. Year 5 have been rehearsing all week for their performance next Tuesday. The school netball team competed superbly well against Rockwell Green with a positive result - their coaching has certainly brought about improvement. Another choir visit as well thrown in the mix - it has been a busy time for all at school.


As many of you would have seen, Rashford Class made it onto the BBC news yesterday for their fund raising. The report was uplifting and poignant for everybody at school in equal measure. The school is delighted to be supporting Mr Foster with his fund raising and the Rashford cycle challenge has now raised over £1200 which is an incredible achievement from the kids.

I write this feeling very proud of the pupils of my school.

Kind Regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher



<p><b>Certificate Winners:</b></p> <p>Attenborough - Seli</p> <p>Mandela - Alice</p> <p>McCartney - Eyram</p> <p>Hawking - Cameron</p> <p>Simmonds - Darcie &amp; Munya</p> <p>Pankhurst - Lily-Rose</p> <p>Rashford - Iz</p> <p>Medal - Nathaniel (R)</p>	<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p>Please see information below about changes to absence penalty notices. These changes came into force in August.</p>  <p>The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.</p> <p><b>1 FIRST OFFENCE</b> The second level of Penalty Notice is issued for 5-10 unauthorised sessions of unauthorised absence. The fine is £50 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.</p> <p><b>2 SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)</b> The second level of Penalty Notice is issued for 11-15 unauthorised sessions of unauthorised absence. The fine is £75 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.</p> <p><b>3 THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)</b> The third level of offence is considered for 16-20 unauthorised sessions of unauthorised absence. The fine is £100 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.</p> <p><b>10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD</b> Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.</p> <p>Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance">www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance</a></p>	<p><b>Safeguarding/Well being:</b></p> <p>There are free parent and carer webinars available from the Somerset Mental Health Support Team. A link can be found here</p> <p><a href="#">Mental Health   St John's C of E Primary School</a></p> <p>Please find below a video about the Somerset Mental Health Team</p> <p><a href="#">Who are Somerset's Mental Health Support Team?</a></p>
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# Sharing joy and hope in the community

## Weekly House Point Winner: ST GEORGE

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

#### Carol Service and Nativity, Thursday 19th December 2pm

You are all invited to join us next Thursday for our Carol Service and Nativity in St John's Church, where we will join together in celebrating this special season. **Please do not arrive at the church before 1.30pm.**

#### Wear Something Christmassy Day, Friday 20th December

On Friday 20th December we are inviting children to come to school wearing something Christmassy, a jumper, hair ties, some tinsel, or if you do not have anything please come in non-uniform. A donation can be made to 2Wish via Scopay if you choose, thank you.

### SMALL CRITTERS RESCUE

This Christmas Dexter is helping the Small Critters Rescue charity by collecting tins and packets of pet food. There is a collection box in reception if you would like to donate.

### BOOKING MEALS FOR JANUARY

Please ensure that you have booked any school meals you wish your child to take in January on Scopay by Friday 20th December, to allow the kitchen time to place sufficient orders, thank you.

### NETBALL

A huge well done to our St John's Netball Team who took part in a friendly match against Rockwell Green. Both teams put in a great performance, demonstrated good sportsmanship and the scoreline was very close! A 4-4 draw in the last quarter added to the suspense and the St John's team were pleased with a super final shot through the hoop just as the whistle blew! A fantastic win! Well done everyone



### ABSENCE PENALTY NOTICES

Following the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes came into force for Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences recorded after 19 August 2024.

#### What is a Penalty Notice?

A penalty notice is a fixed penalty fine issued to parents as an alternative to prosecution in relation to unauthorised school absence.

#### Who can be a Penalty be Issued to?

For example, in a family with two parents and three children taking unauthorised term-time leave, each parent could receive a penalty notice for each child resulting in six penalty notices being issued.

Full information about penalty notices can be found here [Attendance and Absence | St John's C of E Primary School](#)

#### Further Offences

A parent cannot be issued with more than two penalty notices in relation to each child within a three-year period. Where this threshold is met and further offences occur, the Local Authority will consider other measures to address attendance concerns.

This may include prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £2,500 and the parent having a criminal record. In rare cases, parents may receive a custodial sentence. If convicted, the offence will also show on any future DBS checks.

### Upcoming events:

19th December	Christmas Lunch-free to all pupils
19th December	<b>2pm</b> Carol Service and Nativity in Church
20th December	Wear something Christmassy to school
20th December	2pm Last day of Autumn Term
6th January	School Closed for Staff Training
7th January	First day of Spring Term
17th-21st February	Half Term
4th April	Last day of Spring Term
22nd April	First day of Summer Term
5th May	Bank Holiday
26th-30th May	Half Term
27th June	School Closed for Staff Training

### Holiday Activities at Wells Cathedral.

#### Festive Foliage

Get the holidays off to a festive start with this creative workshop for children!

Using natural materials – including foliage from the Cathedral gardens - make a seasonal centrepiece to adorn your table this Christmas.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 11:15 am – 3:15 pm in the Cathedral Education Room

FREE with adult entry. No need to book, just drop in on the day!

While you're there, take a closer look at Christmas in the Cathedral with our free Christmas Story Trail – available throughout Advent.

*(There is no charge for children. Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for **12 months** from date of purchase, so you can enjoy access to a number of seasonal events, including exhibitions and Family Holiday Activities beyond your initial visit.)*

Only assistance dogs are allowed at this activity.

<https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/visit/families>