

Friday 18th October 2024

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St John's Church of England Primary School

Weekly News

Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

Another Harvest Festival at St John's and I left feeling full of joy and hope. The confidence of the children in the service performing or participating always astounds me. As a Headteacher there are always a fluttering of butterflies before addressing a large group of people, but the pupils conquer all fears and impress with their public speaking. The service was also a great success due to the huge quantity of donations made to the Taunton foodbank. By giving thanks we are also supporting many vulnerable families which is pleasing.

There was another visitor this week in school - a representative from the County coming into support and review the progress the school has made. She was absolutely delighted and commented on how happy and welcoming the children of the school were - something that doesn't surprise me. Our guest has the privilege of seeing a lot of schools, but she was so enthused by the presentation and displays all around showing off the pupil's achievements. I am thankful to the wonderful team we have for looking after our learning environment with such care. A group of pupils talked to her as part of the visit and she articulated that she thought their school was a lovely place to be; the pride they showed and pleasure that somebody had made this comment was wonderful to observe.

There will be another confabulation with the School Council this week to set plans for 'Children in Need' day where we will be raising funds for 2wish. Keep an eye out for further details!

Kind regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Logan
Mandela - Darcey
McCartney - Esjay
Hawking - Walter
Simmonds - Austin
Pankhurst - Kuukua
Rashford - Michael
Medal - Ayva (1)

Attendance:



Safeguarding/Well being:

The following link is an article related to screen time for children.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/203/education-committee/news/201715/stronger-guidance-and-controls-needed-to-protect-children-from-screen-time-education-committee-finds/>

An interesting read and highlights the importance of avoiding excessive screen time for children.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

Weekly House Point Winner: **ST ANDREW**

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended our Harvest celebration yesterday, it was wonderful to see the church so full, and the children performed brilliantly. Thanks also for the huge amount of food which was donated, we are grateful to Miss Eddy who has delivered it all to the Taunton Food Bank this morning. Your generosity will help local families in need.

Applying for a Reception or Y7 Place for September 2025

The online portal is live for parents and carers of children due to start or transfer school in September 2025 to make an application. The closing date for secondary school applications is 31 October 2024.

The online portal is live for parents and carers of children due to start or transfer school in September 2025 to make an application.

The closing date for secondary school applications is 31 October 2024 and for starting school applications is 15 January 2025.

Please [click here](#) and choose school place applications for the relevant webpages.

If you have any queries, please contact

schooladmissions@somerset.gov.uk.

Autumn Weather

The temperature had very much taken a chillier turn in recent weeks and it is imperative that children come to school with the appropriate clothing. As always, we endeavour for all children to go out at breaks to get fresh air and so they need coats and even hats/gloves if the weather gets really cold.

School Ties

A reminder that there is an expectation that children from Year 1 to Year 6 should be wearing a school tie each day unless it is a PE day. If ties have gone missing then we have some in the school office that can be bought so come and see the team for more help.

Times Table Rockstars

I am delighted that so many children are progressing through the different levels of Times Table Rockstars in recent weeks. It is an APP that the school subscribes to and the children can recall their times tables and earn certificates. The children have been given log ins and can practice at home but a reminder to ensure they don't spend too much time on their screens! If there are any problems accessing the APP then please contact the school.

Priory Gardens

Parking across the road in Priory Gardens is becoming hazardous with people ignoring the yellow lines and causing blockages. A reminder that there is a care home at the end of this road that does require access at all times. Traffic police are doing spot checks throughout the year due to inconsiderate parking. Traveling to the school by car is a challenge but the school was built originally without cars in mind. Please allow for extra time so that cars can be parked in appropriate places and not cause health and safety risks.

Upcoming events:

23rd October	Flu vaccinations in school
24th October	Magical Dress Up Day
28th October –1st November	Half Term
15th November	School Fundraising Day
19th November	School Photos
18th December	Christmas Lunch-free to all pupils
19th December	1.30 Carol Service and Nativity in Church
20th December	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