

Friday 27th September 2024

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# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Weekly News

### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an important week for the school as we had our SIAMS inspection on Wednesday. A SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish. During the day the inspector observed teaching, assessed the learning environment, attended Collective worship and evaluated the RE curriculum. She held discussions with staff, pupils, governors and some parents in order to make her judgements. A SIAMS inspection is held every five years - but due to the pandemic it has been a little longer since our last inspection. It was our chance to demonstrate that 'Sharing joy and hope' is central to our world in St John's.

The report will be available for all in approximately a month but I can share with you that it was a rewarding experience where the inspector made it clear that she thoroughly enjoyed being in our school and meeting the community. I am very proud of the school, the community, the staff and most importantly the children and there are many positives that will be celebrated.

My congratulations also go out to the Wellbeing Champions and School Councillors that have been voted in by their classes. The pupil voice is vital at St John's and I am sure the children selected will represent their classes brilliantly. The new Pupil Chaplains have also been selected for training and will be commissioned at the Harvest Festival.

Kind regards  
Olly Priestley - Headteacher

#### Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Martha  
Mandela - Frankie  
McCartney - Vivaan  
Hawking - Madison  
Simmonds - Mia  
Pankhurst - Lily  
Rashford - Oliver  
Medal - Eliza (5)

#### Attendance:

Attenborough - 96.9%  
Mandela - 95.7%  
McCartney - 99%  
Hawking - 98.1%  
Simmonds - 95.2%  
Pankhurst - 96.2%  
Rashford - 93.5%  
School: 96.1%

#### Safeguarding/Well being:

With daylight hours reducing there can be an impact on mental health due to lack of daylight, and also bad weather preventing activities outside of the home. If we're staying inside due to bad weather or recovering from a bad cold, it's still important to take time to enjoy ourselves each day. Whether it's reading, watching a box set under a blanket, making handmade gifts or seasonal baking, it can also be fun to try something new, get creative or dust off an old hobby.

# Sharing joy and hope in the community

## Weekly House Point Winner: ST ANDREW

### School Crossing

There will be no school crossing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week. Please allow extra time to cross the road safely, thank you. A reminder that you should not park in the bus stop and drop your children to cross the road on their own.

### Attendance

New guidance regarding attendance at school has been issued by the Department for Education. We will be implementing changes at school but we would like to remind parents of their responsibilities.

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school. Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school. This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival celebration will be held in St John's Church on Thursday 17th October at 1.30pm. Once again we are supporting the Taunton Foodbank and ask for children to bring in an item for the Harvest Table which we will donate after the service. The Foodbank supports local families in need by providing food boxes. They are desperately in need of tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, long life fruit juice and treats and snacks, although any donation will be welcomed.

### School Photos

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 19th November. Photos will be taken of individuals and sibling groups. If you wish to have a photo taken with siblings that do not attend St John's please come to school at 8am.

### Data Collection Sheets

There are still a few parents who have not returned their forms. Please check, sign and return them next week, thank you.

### Application for a child starting school in September 2025

Do you have a child born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021? If so, you can apply for their school place from September 30th online at [Apply to start school for the first time \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time). Don't forget that we have open mornings on Thursday 3rd October and Wednesday 9th October.

### Upcoming events:

3rd October	9.30-11.30	Open morning for 2025 Reception children
9th October	9.30-11.30	Open morning for 2025 Reception children
17th October	1.30pm	Harvest Festival in Church
23rd October		Flu vaccinations in school
28th October –1st November		Half Term
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
30th June		School Closed for Staff Training
23rd July		Last day of Summer Term

### MHST Webinars

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn.

Supporting your child's mental health & wellbeing

- Supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding & supporting anxiety & low mood

Find out more & register here:

<https://bit.ly/mhstwebinars2024>

### Name a Gritter

Somerset Council, in collaboration with Kier, invites schools to participate in our winter gritter naming competition. To give the fleet some personality and to raise awareness of winter road safety, the county's youngsters are being invited to give the new vehicles a name. It might be Taylor Snow-Drift, Reubus HaGrit or, Sir Ian Snowtham - why not put your thinking caps on. Submit your best name by sending it in to the school office by Wednesday 9th October. The schools providing the chosen names will receive a visit from the gritter and have the honour of seeing the name emblazoned on the side of the vehicle.