

Friday 6th September 2024

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# St John's Church of England Primary School

## Weekly News

### Headteacher's Message:

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year - it always feels like such a positive time and I have talked to the children about a new year being a fresh canvas in terms of what they can achieve. So far it has been a brilliant start by the children who have come back looking incredibly smart and ready to learn. Attendance and punctuality has been superb and I hope this can continue over the next year.

There are a host of new children throughout the school and we very much welcome them and their families to our wonderful community. It is always a nerve wracking time for pupils changing school and efforts have been made to support them with their integration into classes. And of course we have a new cohort of Reception pupils who have come into Windsor class as if they have always been there! The confidence they are already demonstrating is a delight to see and I look forward to see how they progress throughout the school.

There are a number of new staff members starting this term. We have Mrs Mead starting her role as Business Manager; Mrs Chappell working in the Windsor teaching team; Miss Horwood in the kitchen; and also Miss Daly has joined our cleaning team. We welcome them all to St John's C of E Primary School staff. Also my thanks go out to Mr Mitchell who has finished making the ship sea worthy again with multiple improvements. A wonderful job has been done.

Kind regards

Olly Priestley - Headteacher

#### Certificate Winners:

Attenborough - Grayson  
Mandela - Leo  
McCartney - Elsie-May  
Hawking - Jason  
Simmonds - Heather  
Pankhurst - Molly  
Rashford - Lleylan

#### Attendance:

Windsor - 100%  
Attenborough - 100%  
Mandela - 100%  
McCartney - 100%  
Hawking - 96.3%  
Simmonds - 100%  
Pankhurst - 92.6%  
Rashford - 100%  
School: 98.5%

#### Safeguarding/Well being:

A reminder to all that the Safeguarding lead at the school is the Headteacher, Olly Priestley. The deputy safeguarding leads are Laura Plant and Linda Roberts. In her role as Pastoral Lead, Laura Plant focuses on the general welfare of the children and also co-ordinates mental health support across the school. If there are any concerns or if assistance is needed, then please contact her or one of the other members of the team.

Sharing joy and hope in the community

### Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Is your child entitled to free school meals? If so, the school will receive additional funding to help support your child, by providing extra educational provision and resources, academic interventions and wellbeing and self-esteem interventions.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year One or Year Two and receives free meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meal Scheme you should still apply. To find out if you are eligible please go to [Free school meals \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk)

### Thursday 3rd October, Free Meal for all Children

On Thursday 3rd October all children are invited to enjoy a free school meal. The menu choices are on the school website [School Lunches | St John's C of E Primary School \(stjohnscofeprimary.co.uk\)](http://stjohnscofeprimary.co.uk). If your child chooses not to take the meal you will need to opt out on Scopay please.

### Absence from School

If your child is absent from school because of illness please contact the school **EACH DAY** to enable us to keep our records up to date and for safeguarding reasons.

If your child is going to be absent for exceptional reasons such as a medical appointment, funeral or religious observance, please complete and return a term time leave request form which is available on the school website or from the office, giving us as much notice as possible. Absence for holidays will not be authorised during term time, and if you take your child out of school the absence may result in a penalty fine from Somerset Council.

Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the learning they have missed. Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, or may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.

If you wish to discuss any potential absence please speak to Mr Priestley.

### Upcoming events:

|                            |                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 28th October –1st November | Half Term                        |
| 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          |