



St John's Weekly Newsletter

Growing Together in Love and Respect

Dear St John's families,

Well the weather has certainly turned to Autumn. We are keen to get the children outside at every opportunity and so we ask you make sure they come in with a coat each day.

It is with great sadness that one of our St John's family is flying the nest. Our much loved Miss Nejla is moving on in her career. Whilst we are very sad to see her go we are also very proud of her. Her last day will be 19th October and I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best.

We also have exciting news, Mrs Bell has given birth to her baby boy. Both are doing well and I am sure we will get a visit soon

In this week's newsletter we have updates on homework for you and also our overview for the term so that you can see what your child is learning. The next page of this newsletter contains links as to how to find all of this on the website.

The term is becoming increasingly busy and we ask that you keep your eyes of the Key Dates which are on this page and also for letters we are sending out. There will be one for the Year 3 families about Harvest and also early next week one about the Update on Learning meetings (Parent's evening).

Thank you for all the wonderful ideas for our school family names. As Harvest approaches we are including a letter about who we are supporting and there is also more information in here.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

In Love and Respect

Headteacher
Mrs Samantha Da Costa



Meet the lost property hamper.

Please pop into the porch to look for lost items. The Property hamper will be emptied every week on a Monday at lunchtime, so if you discover something missing over the weekend, please check by Monday morning.



Friday, 1st October 2021

Key Dates

Wednesday 6th October

Harvest lead by Year 3 in church - Year 3 parents only invited.

Wednesday 13th October

Year 3 classes visit to the police station. Volunteers required in the afternoon. Please contact the school office if you can help.

Wednesday 13th October

Year 4 Retreat Day - held in school.

Monday 18th October

Year 4 Collective Worship with parents.

Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October

Update on Learning - Virtual - Times to be confirmed. An opportunity to meet with the class teacher.

25th to 29th October

Half Term Holiday.

Tuesday 2nd November

Parent Forum 7.30pm - virtual.

Friday 19th November

Bag 2 School - supporting the Friends.

Attendance this week = 94.69%

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR
PDFS OF THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

Homework and Curriculum



The teachers have been hard at work and we are excited to share with you our homework/home learning activities.

For each class you will find a homework grid here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

This has a range of activities for the children to do. You can choose which ones you like and complete them in any order. Information about how to share the work is included on the grid. We have selected a range of tasks to support the children's learning in many ways.

KIRFs - **K**ey **I**ntant **R**ecall **F**acts - These are important maths facts to learn. As you move up the colours the facts get harder.

You will find these here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/communication/>

Underneath the KIRFs you will find key words to learn to spell.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

— Joseph Addison

Termly Overviews:

To help our families know what their children are learning in class we have created overviews which you will find here:

<https://watfordstjohns.org/info-for-parents/curriculum/>

Meet the Teacher Videos

For families who could not attend the live session here are links:

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

Year 3 - to follow

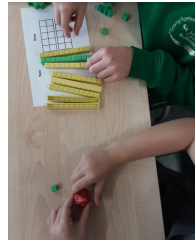
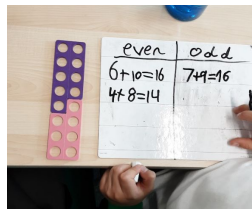
[Year 4](#)

[Year 5 - A powerpoint](#)



School Life

We have been very busy mathematicians in Year 2 Aqueous class this week! We explored the number system to show the difference between numbers involving ones and when we need to exchange for a ten. We also explored rules, called "generalisations" about what happens when we add two odd numbers together, what happens when we add two even numbers together and what happens if you add an odd and an even number together. Ask your children about this to see if they can remember them. In P.E., Shenay showed excellent core strength and stability and held this "boat" stretch for 30 seconds!



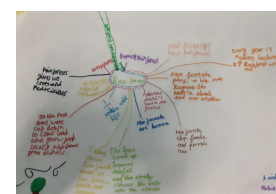
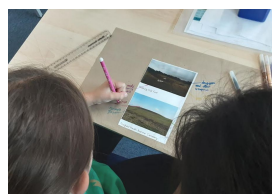
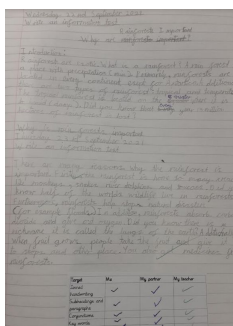
Reception have enjoyed exploring their busy finger morning activities this week. We have been busy building with lego and exploring the home corner too.



Year 2 Terra class have been looking at place value in maths and have been making games using our 10's and 1's. In computing, we have been looking at making a background for our very own space adventure game.



Year 4 Solar class have been using the picture book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. They have gathered information, created mind maps and wrote information texts on the importance of the bio-diversity and ecology of rainforests. They also read the poem 'For Forest' by Grace Nichols and performed and acted out the poem. In History they worked in pairs and investigated the bronze and Iron age settlements. They made deductions about what they might have been found if two local hills were excavated.



Bishop's Harvest Appeal

THE BISHOP OF ST ALBANS' HARVEST APPEAL 2021

WATER IS LIFE

Water is life, but in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), water is their number one problem.

For many communities, water for drinking, cooking and washing is unsafe and brings with it a devastatingly high risk of cholera.

Your generous support for this year's Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal can bring clean, safe water to many more people in the DRC, giving them life and hope, and transforming their communities.

www.harvestappeal.org



**'FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU
GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT,
I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME
SOMETHING TO DRINK.'**

(MATTHEW 25:35)



☛ Above right: A drilling rig in the DRC that brings safe, clean water to people and communities

Photo: Tearfund Partner

☛ Above left: Children washing their hands at a water point

Photo: Will Baines/Tearfund



FREE gardening equipment for your school

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.

We will be able to exchange their Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment to get kids growing.

We are registered please choose us in the APP.



Parent Information

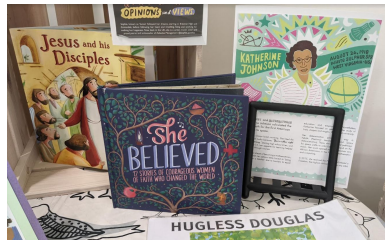
Google Classroom accounts for Update on Learning sessions

This year's Update on Learning on 19th and 21st October will be a virtual event taking place on Google Meets. Please ensure that you are able to access your child's school google account in preparation for this event. Please be aware that you will require access to your child's Google account to access Update on Learning and you will not be able to access the meeting via your personal email account.

Reception families, will receive an email with login details together with instruction on how to access Google Classroom.

Year 1-5 families, Please complete the following [Google Form](#), if you are unable to access your child's Google Classroom and email account.

Some of our displays in school



Cool Milk

School Milk

If your child is over the age of 5 and you want to register them for school milk. Please use this [link](#).

Online Safety

For e-safety support and advice please click on this [link](#) Please click on the links below for more information on e-safety.

[Think you know](#)

[Disney Wild](#)

[About Safety](#)

[Smartie The Penguin](#)

[Childnet Safety Internet](#)

[A useful guide to apps to help keep your child safe online](#)

After School Clubs

Clubs run by School staff

We have a selection of school clubs run voluntarily by school staff. Lunchtime clubs do not need to be pre-booked and the children make their own choice on the day whether to attend.

Y4/5 Chess Club after school on Thursdays does need to be booked through the school office.

Mondays	Y4/5 Library
Tuesdays	Y1 Art Club
Wednesdays	Y4/5 Speed stacking
Thursdays	Y3 Makaton
Fridays	Y2 Computing
	Y4/5 Book Club

For clubs run by external providers - please book directly with them. See the flyers below.

ST JOHN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

DANCE CLUB

YEAR 1

Tuesdays
3:15 - 4:15

21st Sep - 19th Oct
2021

5 sessions
£27.50

CONTACT BETH DIRECTLY TO BOOK

07956 516545 beth@b-dance.co.uk

PLEASE SEE OUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

1 to 1 & Group Lessons

Piano, Violin, Cello, Guitar, Flute, Vocals

Grade Exams
&
11+ Music Aptitude
Test Preparation

Call now to join!
0755 2611 877

KidsYoga
With Yana

St John's CofE School Yoga Club - Y2

24th Sept - 22nd Oct 2021
5 sessions - £30

Fridays 3:20 - 4:20pm, £6/class,
Booking is for the rest of the
half term

Contact Yana on
07857 421 111 or
kotlova.jana@gmail.com

Yoga improves
flexibility & focus.
Helps with anxiety &
worry.

St John's After School Clubs

Football: Year 4 & 5 (Wednesday)

Start Date: Wednesday 15th September 2021

End date: Wednesday 15th December 2021

Tennis: Year 3 (Thursday)

Start Date: Thursday 16th September 2021

End date: Thursday 16th December 2021

Both Clubs 3.15pm - 4.15pm

Book by 14th & 15th September

Please go online to secure your Child(s) booking

www.xtratime.co.uk

Email: **sportsservices@xtratime.co.uk**

We run a Saturday football fun club every single week. All year around at Cassiobury Infant School. For ages 3 -13 years - from 10 am to 12 pm.

Please refer to our website for terms & conditions.

Online Safety Update

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about POKÉMON GO



Pokémon GO has been among the world's most popular mobile games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks partly to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown. In Pokémon GO – like the Pokémon TV show, trading card series and other video games – players capture, train and battle with their Pokémon creatures: physically exploring locations while using augmented reality via their phone's screen. The game generally provides a positive experience, but there are still some safety concerns to consider.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Pokémon GO requires players to visit in-game landmarks like Pokéstops and Gyms. These are often situated at public real-world locations such as churches or post offices. Sometimes, however, they can inadvertently end up being placed in dangerous areas which are unsuitable for children, even when accompanied by an adult: near a construction site or a main road, for example.

STRANGERS & MEETING OFFLINE

Players often cooperate with friends in the game, and there are many online discussion hangouts. As well as sharing tips and info, these groups may arrange to meet offline to catch Pokémon or attend raids (communal events where players flock to the same real-world place for a mass battle). This can put children at risk of being messaged and invited to meet by strangers under the pretence of talking about the game.

DATA COLLECTION

When a player logs into their Pokémon GO account, the game collects personal data about the user and their device. Locations, emails, names, ages and even camera images can all be accessed. What then happens to this information is open to debate. Niantic, the game's developers, maintain that they do not sell user information to third parties – but the fact that they have it at all is a concern, nonetheless.

VISIBLE PROFILES & LOCATION

Pokémon GO players can add each other as 'friends' in the game by sharing their trainer codes. Two trainers who do this can then view each other's information, such as their username. If a username gives any clues to the player's real name or personal details, a stranger may then be able to look them up online. The game also lets users upload images to social media, which could publicly disclose a child's exact location.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game uses a currency called Pokécoins, which can be bought for real money (in bundles between £0.79 and £99.99) and exchanged for in-game items such as Pokéballs and berries. It's extremely easy for a child to purchase Pokécoins (even accidentally) if there's a payment method connected to their mobile phone – and possibly rack up a sizeable bill without realising it!

Advice for Parents & Carers

PLAY ALONGSIDE YOUR CHILD

Finding and catching Pokémon with young ones could turn into a great mutual hobby. At 25 years old, it's one of the few games franchises that spans two generations. Enjoying the game together will give you plenty of new things to talk about with your child – and if you played Pokémon in your own childhood, you might impress them with your knowledge of the digital critters!

ENCOURAGE AWARENESS

Remind your child of the physical dangers they could face while catching Pokémon and emphasise staying aware of their surroundings. The game will often alert children (through their phone) when they are close to an interesting Pokémon item – usually sending them excitedly rushing off to find it – so they should never play Pokémon GO near busy roads or in places they don't know well.

DISGUISE THE EXERCISE

One of Pokémon GO's benefits is that it encourages young (and not-so-young!) ones to get exercise outdoors. Some parts of the game can be completed from home, but it's best experienced while walking around your local area. Certain tasks (like visiting Pokéstops) can be repeated every day – and an hour outside having fun catching Pokémon will hardly feel like exercise at all!

USE AN OLDER PHONE

If children use an older phone to play Pokémon GO, then they won't be walking around with their own new device, which could get broken or stolen. Parents are also far less likely to have left a credit card linked to the old mobile. It also means that you can limit the amount of information used to set up an account, and what companies who gain access to your data can do with it.

AGREE PLAY BOUNDARIES

Ensure your child knows where they are (and aren't) allowed to go searching for Pokémon, when they have to be home, and how often they can play the game. Talk to other young Pokémon GO fans' parents or carers to see what boundaries they set for their children. Lunchtimes (if allowed by the school) or after school are ideal times for getting some exercise and catching all those Pokémon!

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://heimdatasecurity.com/blog/is-pokemon-go-safe/>
<https://bleedingcool.com/games/pokemon-go-announces-quality-of-life-updates-for-february-2021/>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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Friends of St John's Primary School



Friends of St John's
Primary School
Working for our School and Community

REASONS TO JOIN FOSTJ

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL

- Events held at school and funds raised enrich your child's learning and their school experience.

IT'S TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

- Everyone can get involved, it's not as much commitment as you think. You can put in as much or as little time as you want.

IT'S FUN AND REWARDING

- Volunteering is a fun, rewarding experience. Seeing the children enjoying events you've organised/helped at makes it very worthwhile.

BE BETTER CONNECTED

- Create closer links with the school, staff and other parents and gain a better understanding as to what's going on in school.

CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

- Our children are only at school for a short time, but they will remember the fun events held and how they benefitted from funds raised.

HAVE YOUR SAY

- Give your input into how funds raised should be spent.



USE YOUR SKILLS

- Everyone has something they can bring to help due to the variety of events held. It can be a great opportunity to use skills you don't often get chance to.

GET INVOLVED

As parents leave the school, we need new volunteers to ensure the friends of St John's continues.

For more information please email:
fostjs@gmail.com

To keep up to date with FofStJ news and events, please join our facebook group:
Friends of St John's

Friends of St John's