



Attendance this week = 95.29%



Friday, 19th November 2021

St John's Weekly Newsletter **Growing Together in Love and Respect**

Dear St John's families,

I am beginning to feel the festive season slowly creeping into school. The stars the children have made look amazing and the rehearsals for festive activities have started.

This week has been Anti-bullying week and we have talked a lot about the theme One Kind Word. Kindness is very important to everyone at St John's School and each small act of kindness can change the world.

We were delighted that Father Sam joined us for collective worship this week and he shared with us the story of how 'Wolves Change Rivers', which explained the effects of one small action.

I invite everyone to see if they can add one more act of kindness into their week. It can be hard especially when times are challenging but research shows it doesn't just help others but also ourselves.

If you would like to know more there is lots of information out there but one place you could look is: <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Key Dates

Tuesday 23rd November

Year 3A - Retreat day in church

Wednesday 24th November

Flu Vaccinations - Please see separate email.

Year 1 & 2 Trip to Cineworld Watford

Thursday 25th November

Year 3B - Retreat day in church
Stars for decorating the hall due in

Monday 29th November

Inset Day - School Closed

Tuesday 7th December

Year 1 Nativity with Year 1 families, 2pm

Thursday 9th December

Reception Nativity with Reception families, 2pm

Year 3 Collective Worship to parents
2.40pm

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

Monday 20th December

Year 2 Christingle with their families at St John's Church 9.30am

Tuesday 21st December

Last Day of Term. Break up at 2pm.
No After School Club

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Inset Day - School Closed

Thursday 7th January 2022

Back to School


Mrs Samantha da Costa
Headteacher



Communication

When emailing the school please include full name of your child and class. This helps us to deal with your email as quickly as possible.

Thank you

Year 3 Hertfordshire Mini Police

Both Year 3 Classes participated in Mini Police sessions with Hertfordshire Constabulary. The Police Community Officers from Watford Police Station visited our school once a week to teach the Year 3 children about the role of the Police, the importance of staying safe as well as sharing a number of interesting facts about Police Officers.

The children had the opportunity to visit Watford Police Station, see the inside of police vehicles and the equipment used by Police Officers. The children enjoyed presenting what they had learnt during the Mini Police session to the rest of the school in a special Collective Worship. The Police plan to return next year to meet the new year three classes.



Keeping our School Community Safe

We are thankful for our St John's School community. There are guidelines in place to ensure that our school is a safe and happy place for all St John's children, families and staff

Dogs and other pets are not permitted on school premises, either on a leash, pet carrier or carried. Please remember that a dog's presence can be scary for some of our children. The school playground is a busy place filled with excited children, this environment can be overwhelming for animals and can make their behaviour unpredictable.

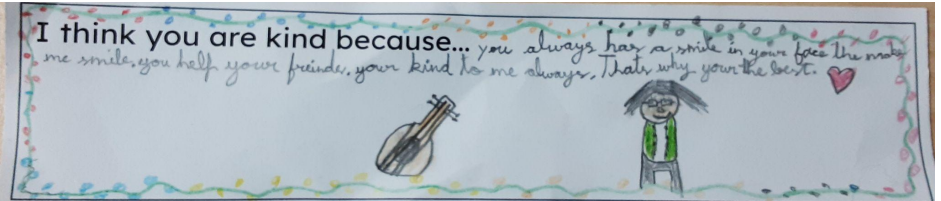
Trim Trial: Families with younger children are welcome to wait on the playground for their older children, however the playground is becoming very busy. Children should not play on the trim trail equipment during pick up. If you only have one child to collect, please enter only at their class's collection time and leave the playground promptly.

Can you please stand to ensure that there is a clear pathway around the playground to help other parents to leave and please. Thank you for your patience.



St John's children at work

Year 5 Aviary discussed friendships and wrote kind messages to brighten each others' day

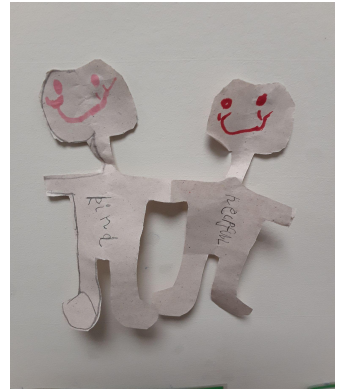


A Recipe for Friendship by Alpha Class

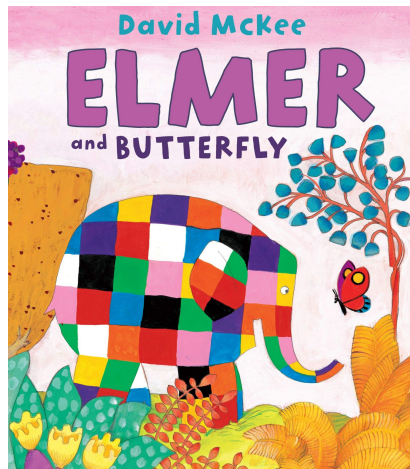
A sprinkle of sharing toys
A handful of love and respect
A spoonful of being kind to friends and teachers
A splash of care for our parents and god
A dash of loving everything



Reception classes have been discussing being a good friend and about being kind. The children create friends from paper and have written a recipe as a class to show what makes a good friend.



Reception read the story Elmer and the Butterfly by David McKee. The children spoke about how the butterfly helped Elmer even though he was smaller and different to Elmer. The children discussed how they helped each other and coloured in an Elmer picture.



Reception have been learning about Road Safety this week. We have learnt how important it is to wear a helmet when on your scooter, bike or skateboard. We designed our own helmets. We learnt a song about how to safely cross the road. We also looked at our coats to see who's had a reflective strip on them so that they could be seen better in the dark.



Year 3 Botanical created Kind Hands from paper for Kindness Week. The children thought about how they could help each other if someone was being unkind. They wrote their ideas on the Kind Hands.

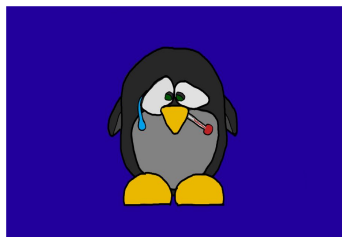


Reporting Sickness Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to come to school, please call the school office as soon as possible on 01923 255 017 (please leave a voicemail if there is no reply).

Please tell the office team the following information: Child's First and Last Name. Year Group and Class and reason for Absence

Vomiting and Diarrhoea is a 48 hours absence from school from the time of the last incident. It is important that families follow these guideline to prevent vomiting and sickness spreading throughout the school community.



Activities for Families

Storytime at Watford Palace Theatre

Watford Palace Theatre, one of our neighbours and a familiar presence in Watford is offering free storytelling and creative play session for families with younger children. These sessions are drop in in nature meaning no commitment or advance booking is needed. The sessions will take place on the following dates and times:

Thursday 25th November 1:30pm-2:30pm

Thursday 2nd December 1:30-2:30pm

Thursday 9th December 9am-10am and 1:30pm-2:30pm



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](#)

Information for St John's Families

Super Steps After School Club

We are pleased to announce that Super Steps After School Club is getting ready to open its doors to those St John's families who still require wraparound childcare. This service is run Super Steps Nursery, an external company who will collect the children from St John's Church of England Primary School at the end of the school day and walk with them to their premises in the church hall in Estcourt Road.

Families will need to book directly with Super Steps using the following link <https://supersteps.magicbooking.co.uk> All enquiries for Super Steps After School Club bookings will need to be made directly to them and not to the school. The link for bookings is now live for sessions starting from 22nd November.

We hope that this will support our families who still need after school childcare and mean that we will have more flexibility so that those who need ad hoc sessions will be able to book at either the school's service or through Super Steps.



St John's School Admissions Consultation

St John's Church of England Primary School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023-24 and is seeking responses from parents/carers, schools and community group.

The consultation runs until 12th December 2021.

Please view the **Consultations** page on our school website for full details.

Comments should be sent direct to our school.

Past newsletters will be available as links on our school website.

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

Festive Celebrations at St John's School

We are excited to be able to invite our St John's families to our festive celebrations, these events are part of a programme of events scheduled to take place throughout the school year.

It is important that we continue to work together to keep our community safe during the current Covid pandemic, therefore we ask that only **ONE family member attend per child.** Please wear a face covering unless except and please do not attend if you are feeling unwell.

Celebration	Year Group	Date	Time	
Nativity	Year 1	7th December 2021	2:00pm	1 family member from Y1
Collective Worship	Year 3	9th December 2021	2:40pm	1 family member from Y3
Nativity	Reception	9th December 2021	2:00pm	1 family member from Reception
Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day (details to follow - no need to buy a Christmas jumper)	Whole School	15th December 2021	All Day	Pupils and staff only
Christingle	Year 2	20th December 2021	9:30am	1 family member from Y2

St John's School Festive Stars

We hope that you have enjoyed working together with your children to design and create a St John's festive star, it's been lovely to the unique and varied collection of stars. Please don't worry, if you haven't made a star yet, there's still time.

The star should be at least 20 cm in height and no larger than 40cm. It can be as colourful and can sparkly as you like. Please do not make it too heavy as we need to hang each start from string, however you are welcome to make it 3D.

Please bring your star to school with a piece or ribbon or string securely attached of about ½ metre and your name written clearly but discreetly on it.

Your completed star should be handed to your class teacher by Thursday 25th November 2021

