



Tel: 01594 832046 E-mail: admin@st-johns.gloucs.sch.uk Website: www.sjacademy.co.uk

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university."

Albert Einstein

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back

On behalf of all of the staff at St John's, I'd like to welcome you back to school after what I hope was a fun filled and relaxing summer holiday.

As always we have spent the summer holiday reflecting on the progress the school has made and what needs to be improved further. Action plans have been drafted, revisions have been made to policies and already we've hit the ground running to ensure that St John's goes from strength to strength. I'll inform you of any important changes to the education the children are receiving over the course of the year.

Importantly, communication with you will be vastly improved upon this academic year. As parents and carers you are key to our school improvement plans and every member of staff at St John's is committed to an effective home school partnership.

Attendance

Having analysed the school attendance from last year, I am pleased to report that our attendance increased to 94.9%, an improvement of 0.8% on the previous academic year. Thank you for your support. However, there are still areas we can work together on to ensure this percentage continues to rise.

- 1) Holidays in term time:** Last year holidays taken in term accounted for 19% of pupil absence which is alarmingly high when compared to the national average of 9%. Furthermore, the percentage of pupils who missed at least one session due to a holiday is significantly above national averages. Last year, 38% of our pupils missed school to go on a family holiday. The national figure is much lower at 7%.
- 2) Lates:** The analysis when looking at late marks is also concerning. Last year 13% of pupils at St John's were regularly marked late throughout the academic year.

As I'm sure you'll agree the above figures are really concerning and will have a detrimental impact on the attainment and progress of the children at St Johns. Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, as parents/carers you are "responsible for making sure that children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education". Therefore, the senior leadership team are working with the local authority to review our attendance policy and will be sharing this with you for consultation in the next few weeks.

Parental Engagement – Parent Council

Pivotal to school improvement is providing opportunities for parents and carers to engage with school. Therefore, for this academic year I would like to create a 'Parent Council' with a view to ensuring parents and carers have a voice in school improvement.

The parent council will have four main aims:

- To work in partnership with the school to create a welcoming and inclusive environment
- To promote a partnership between the school/pupils and parents
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils
- To identify and represent all parents' views on educational and welfare matters

The Parent Council will form the representative body for all parents of pupils at St John's CofE Academy. It is designed to be parent-friendly and it's a great opportunity to become more involved in, and more informed about, the decisions which affect your child's school. We will have one meeting a term and discuss a range of issues such as communication, homework and the way it is set, consultations and reports and school dinners.

Our aim is to have at least one parent from each class, the headteacher and other key members of staff on the parent council. However, any parent and member of staff are welcome to attend the meetings. A parent will act as the chair and minutes will be recorded and made available on the school website.

If you are interested in this new initiative, please do not hesitate to contact the school office where you can complete an interest form, which will be collected on **Friday 21st of September**.

Notices

A Warm Welcome

Please join me in welcoming Mrs Rachel Beddington to St John's, who we appointed as Catering Manager in the final week of last term. Mrs Beddington comes with a lot of experience in school catering and I know will be a great addition to the staffing team.

Save the Date

Friday 21st September: Harvest Service at the Baptist Church, 9:45am start.

Monday 24th September: School Photos

Friday 28th September: Macmillan Coffee Morning

Monday 1st October: Parent/Carer Workshop focussing on Maths (Time tbc)

Friday 19th October: Enquiry Workshop for Parents/Carers starting at 2:45pm.

Many thanks,



David Le Templier
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR (STICK ON THE FRIDGE!!)

Term 1

Monday 3 rd September	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th September	Back to school (Values Day)
Friday 21 st September	Harvest Service at the Baptist Church (9:45am start)
Monday 24 th September	School Photographs
Wednesday 26 th September	European Day of Languages
	Phonics Workshop for Rowan Parents (time tbc)
Friday 28 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Monday 1 st October	Parent Workshop – Maths: How we do it and how to support your child to learn their times tables.
Thursday 4 th October	National Poetry Day
Thursday 11 th October	Chestnut Class Worship (2:45pm start)
Tuesday 16 th October	School Nurse in school for Height & Weight measurements for Oak & Rowan
Friday 19 th October	Shining Stars Worship
	Term 1 Enquiry Workshop (2:45pm start)

Term 2

Monday 29 th October	INSET Day
Wednesday 31 st October –	Parent Consultations (More information to follow)
Thursday 8 th November	
Thursday 8 th November	Oak Class Worship
Friday 16 th November	Children In Need
Monday 19 th November	Parent Workshop – Reading: How you can support your child to become an amazing reader.
Thursday 6 th December	Hour of Code Day
Monday 10 th December	School Nurse In
Monday 10 th – Friday 14 th	EYFS/Key Stage One Nativity Performances (Dates tbc)
December	
Friday 14 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 21 st December	Christmas Service at the Baptist Church (9:45am start) 1:15pm school closes

Term 3

Thursday 17 th January	Beech Class Worship
Monday 21 st January	World Religion Day
Tuesday 5 th February	National E-safety Day
Thursday 14 th February	Hazel Class Worship
Friday 15 th February	Term 3 Enquiry Workshop (2:45pm start)

Term 4

Monday 25 th February	INSET Day
Wednesday 6 th March	World Maths Day
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 12 th – Thursday 21 st	Parent Consultations (More information to follow)
March	
Thursday 28 th March	Rowan Class Worship
Thursday 4 th April	Sponsored Walk
Friday 5 th April	Easter Service at the Baptist Church ((:45am start) 1:15pm school closes

Term 5

W/B Monday 6 th May	Key Stage One SATS Week
--------------------------------	-------------------------

W/B Monday 13 th May	Key Stage Two SATS Week
Thursday 16 th May	New EYFS Parents Meeting
Monday 20 th – Thursday 23 rd May	Year 5/6 Residential
Thursday 23 rd May	Ash Class Worship
Friday 24 th May	Term 5 Enquiry Workshop (2:45pm start)

Term 6

Wednesday 5 th June	Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral
Thursday 6 th and Friday 7 th June	Sports Day
Thursday 13 th June	Elm Class Worship
Thursday 20 th and Friday 21 st June	Reserve Sports Day
Monday 24 th June	Wrong Trousers Day
Monday 8 th July	Reports issued to parents/carers
Wednesday 11 th July	Year 6 Production
Friday 19 th July	Leavers Service at the Baptist Church (9:45am start) 1:15pm school closes