



St John's C of E Primary School

Together we grow stronger



The final Headteacher 'HEADLINES' 28.9.18

Homework

Homework is fully underway in all classes. It is often seen by some children and parents as a dreaded event – and indeed the additional planning and marking workload it presents teachers (who mark 500+ books a week) means it is not always the favourite thing for teachers! But, with the demands of the National Curriculum, with the challenges they will face in Secondary, and with learning theories informing us of the need to practice things (at least 14 times) before we begin to start to take them in – homework remains a vital thing. Fortunately, we try to personalise our homework through our unique approach of PPT and Learning Log homework in order to help all involved to see it as valuable, useful and even enjoyable. BUT remember – 30mins is enough for the PPTs, so they can stop after that...even if your child has not completed the task (but if they want to, then let them). This is not to say these are not challenging, but as they are personal to the learning of each and every child you can rest assured they are 'right' for your child. The weekly spellings and mental maths also provide that vital daily practice of essential skills (5mins spellings, 5 mins maths each day) – I am sure you will remember it from your days in school! These spellings and maths are appropriate to the age of the children – it builds them over the year to be able to reach the national standards for each year - Age Related Expectations. This may be challenging for some but the 'exposure' is vital if your child is to succeed. We encourage you not to see daily reading with your child as homework but rather an essential aspect of parenting, and actually a joyous time with your child.

Hot meals

It has been wonderful to see the very high quality of the food being delivered from Acorn – all of which has been truly delicious as well as meeting / exceeding the nutritional standards required. If your child did not like one of the meals you may wish to have some of these at home so as to help your child to persevere with new foods. At first we explored offering 'seconds' if available. However, with portion sizes being so good, and in order to ensure that the food is delivered at exactly the correct temperature for every single meal (as all the first portions have always been done), 'seconds' will no longer be offered. We are also thrilled that Acorn are also offering a packed lunch option – such a range is rarely given by school lunch providers.

Governors (Academy Councillors)

A warm welcome to Shayne Hyde who has joined us this year as a governor and who is already enjoying the chance to support the school in our continued journey. It is a rewarding voluntary position that also helps develop some key skills that may support you in your current / future employment. **We also have vacancies for 2 PARENT GOVERNORS. If any parent would like to know more please contact the school office.**

Headlines

Please note that due to improved digital communication systems, GDPR limitations, and teaching commitments there will no longer be weekly Headteacher Headlines. This will be replaced with the more traditional twice termly newsletters, as seen in other schools...this will now be called the St John's Journal. This will not include notification of recipients of our 'rewards' – please check your child's book bag for these.

Diary dates for parents

Please look at the 'diary dates for parents' issued at the start of the year and available on our website as there will no longer be regular reminders through Headteacher Headlines. Additional dates such as Y6 parent meetings and class visits will arise but letters will be sent to the relevant classes as these are confirmed by venues / staff.

Harvest Festival

Next Friday 5th October at 2.30pm is our Harvest Festival in St Johns Church. We do hope that families will be able to join us. As part of this service we traditionally ask for donations of items from each and every child in school for the Warminster Foodbank – a charity close to all our hearts and beloved by the children as they know it helps over 300 children a week! Items requested are as follows: Tins of fish, tins of beans, tins of meat, tins of tomatoes, tins of milk pudding, packets of dried spaghetti / macaroni, tins of vegetables, packets of biscuits, packets of chocolate bars, long life milk or fruit juice (not fresh), packets of instant mashed potato, jars or tins of instant coffee . Please do not provide fresh goods, or other items not on this list.