



# St John the Baptist C.E. Primary School

## Newsletter

### Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our new school year, we hope you had a lovely Summer.

A special welcome to our new Reception children and parents who have now joined us, as well as to a few other children who are joining other year groups.

A reminder that our school newsletters come home every Wednesday, please look out for it each week as it is our main way of sharing information with parents about events and news in School. Newsletters and letters are usually emailed out to parents, but if this is a problem, please ask for a hard copy. Hard copies of any letters (or just the reply slip) requiring a reply slip to be returned to school will be sent home to everyone to enable you to do so. If you would prefer to receive hard copies of all letters and newsletters please let the school office know. If you do not receive these weekly emails, please let us know.

We also welcome some new members of staff to school – Miss Paul in Year 1 and Mrs. Whittaker in Year 4.

As we start our new year, please can we remind you of a few things.....

- **Keeping Safe**

Please may we remind you that all children should keep to the pavements when entering and leaving school and not walk across our busy car park. In particular could our new Reception parents help their children (and pre-school children) to stay safe by not playing around the cars in the car park or on the playground equipment.

We are always pleased to see children cycling or scootering to school – but please be aware of how busy pavements get the nearer you get to school. All children must walk with their cycle or scooter when crossing the road with Mrs Atkins (our Crossing Patrol lady), and you must only walk with scooters or cycles once you enter the school grounds.

- **Contact Information**

It is very important that we have up to date contact information for you. If you change address or change your mobile telephone number, please let us know as soon as possible to enable us to contact you if needed. Please also remember that on our contact forms there is also a section naming those people who are allowed to collect children from school. Please ensure that this is updated to avoid problems occurring, as we will not permit children to be collected by people not named on the form.

- **Children going home from school**

You will know that up until Year 4 we have a “hand over” of children to whoever is collecting your child. In Year 5 and Year 6 the number of children who take themselves home tends to increase. **Parents of children in Year 5 & Year 6 are asked to complete the attached form to let us know what arrangements are in place (please complete a form for the new year even if you have given permission previously)**

If you have children in lower year groups who are not going to be collected by an adult then please ensure that class teachers are informed by contacting them directly. It is not generally common place for children to go home by themselves before Year 5, but the appropriateness of this will depend on individual situations. Parents must be sure that they are confident that children walking home without an adult does not pose a safeguarding concern.

- **Updated Medical Conditions and Medication**



If your child brought their inhalers or other medication home at the end of last term, please could you ensure that they now come back into school, complete with the appropriate signed permissions forms in order for us to administer medication.

Please also remember to update the school about any new medical or allergy conditions.

- **Naming School Uniform**

Please remember to name **all** of your child’s uniform, it really does improve the chances of being reunited with any lost items! Please remember that we try to pass on any unclaimed uniform with the school logo on to the Sense Charity Shop in town and encourage any out-grown uniform to be donated.

- **Absence from school**

Please remember if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you should inform school by 9.30a.m. that day. Please contact school on each day of absence unless otherwise agreed.

Also please remember that routine dental and medical appointments should not be made in school time. If you do need to make a routine appointment in school time you should complete a leave of absence form, these should be returned to the school office, along with the appointment letter/card to allow the appointment to be verified. This should be done several days in advance to give us time to get a reply to you. You will need to keep the response with you during the absence in case you are approached by a police officer or child welfare officer.

Government regulations now mean that absence from school can only be because of “exceptional circumstances”, and it is therefore highly unlikely that time off school will be granted in term time. Requests for term time absence must be made at least 10 days before the absence, except in emergencies. **Please also do not book any holiday in term time until you have the outcome of absence requests.**

Absence request forms are available from the school office and on the school website and should be returned to the school office.

- **Hot meals**

Our new menus for the Autumn are now available – all the usual favourites, plus some new exciting dishes for children to try and enjoy. Please remember to book meals by Thursday night for week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September - [hotmeals.st-john.lincs.sch.uk](http://hotmeals.st-john.lincs.sch.uk)

A letter is coming home this evening to Reception parents about ordering hot meals for when the children are here full-time. To ease you into our systems, we are sending home a menu for you to select your child's choices for the first week, and also information about how to register and order meals for the rest of the term.

- **Parent and Pupil Handbook**

Please remember to refer to the Working Together Parent and Pupil Handbook that came home at the end of last term for any queries you may have. Copies will be coming home this evening to those who were not here at the end of last term. If you do not have one of these please request one from the school office as it contains many of the answers to queries about school policies etc.

- **Tuck Shop**

The break time tuck shop run by our School Council continues to run on a **Friday** morning. It is open to all year groups and children can buy healthy snacks. There is a spending limit of £1 per child and items cost between 10p and 35p.



### **Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

We will once again be supporting the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee morning on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. Please come along and join us!

We will also be grateful for donations of cakes for this fundraising event – either home baked or bought. Please send these into school by Thursday after school so that we can make sure we have enough or the next day– Thank you!

- **Swimming Lessons**

Class 4CD will start their swimming lessons next Tuesday – please return the consent form if you have not already done so.

If anyone has any school “stock” swimming kit that they have borrowed and not yet returned, we would be grateful if this could come back into school in case it is needed. Also if anyone has outgrown swimming costumes or trunks, all donations gratefully received to enable us to have spares for if children forget their own kit.

- **Club letters**

Also coming home this evening for Years 1 – 6 are letters regarding this term's After School Activity Clubs. As usual there is the usual choice of lots of different activities for children to join. Please make your choices and return the booking forms to school by **Monday (11<sup>th</sup> September) at 9am.**

- **Singing Lessons**

We have a few spaces available for the Key Stage 2 singing lessons offered by one of our music providers.



Lessons will be in small groups or on a 1 – 1 basis.

Group lessons - £12 per month (£48 per term)

15 minute individual lesson, or 30 minute paired lesson - £19 per month (£75 per term)

20 minute individual lesson - £24 per month (£95 per term)

30 minute individual lesson - £34 per month (£135 per term)

If your child would like to start singing, application forms are available from the school office. Spaces are limited and will be taken on a first come first served basis.

- **Harvest Service**

Our Harvest Service celebration will be held in Church on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm and all parents are welcome to attend. We will send further information about harvest donations nearer the time.



- **School Leadership Changes**

We would like to make parents aware of some small changes to our school leadership structure. Mrs Blom has relinquished her role as Phase 2 Leader and we have decided that we will now split leadership responsibilities between an Upper School Leader who will take charge of Years 4, 5 and 6 and a Lower School Leader, who will take charge of Years 1, 2 and 3 (supporting transition between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2). Our Upper School Leader is Mr Crick and our Lower School Leader is Mrs Blackburn. Mr Crick will manage day to day running of their area of school, monitoring etc.

In Reception Mrs Duffill and Miss Casson work closely together and will manage most day to day responsibilities, with Mrs Duffill taking a lead in areas such as phonics etc.

In addition to these posts Mrs Crampton is taking on a temporary leadership role which is focussing on aspects of curriculum development and staff professional development. Mrs Stray remains as deputy and Mr Reid as Headteacher.

For most of your queries class teachers or the school office should be your first point of contact, but please remember that the school's leadership team will be very happy to discuss any matter that you feel needs to be brought to their attention.

- **Collective Worship in Church**

Every Wednesday morning at 9 am we hold Collective Worship in Church – all parents are welcome to come along and sit at the back and join in our Worship. The pattern of worship for this term is as follows

- 13<sup>th</sup> September – Years 1, 2 and 3
- 20<sup>th</sup> September – Years 4, 5 and 6
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – Years 1, 2 and 3
- 4<sup>th</sup> October – Years 4, 5 and 6
- 11<sup>th</sup> October – Years 1, 2 and 3
- 18<sup>th</sup> October – Years 4, 5 and 6

Reception children will join Collective Worship later in the year, once they are settled into school. Until then they will have reflective and worship time in class. Once Reception join Year 1 and 2, Year 3 children will join Years 4, 5 and 6 for worship time.

You may also not know that over the summer Revd. Steve Simcox has left his position as vicar of St John's to take up a new position in Stamford. The church is currently in interregnum until a new vicar can be found and during this time the school will work with the Church Warden's.

### **Term dates for 2017/18**

Term 1	5 <sup>th</sup> September – 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Term 2	31 <sup>st</sup> October - 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> January - 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 4	19 <sup>th</sup> February - 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Term 5	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2018 - 25 <sup>th</sup> May
Term 6	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 - 20 <sup>th</sup> July

### **Also coming Home**

- Reception Classes: Hot meal information
- Years 1 to 6: After School Activity Club Letters
- Years 5 & 6: Permission to Walk Home Letters