



HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

On behalf of all the staff and governors at St. John's School, I would like to wish you a very Happy New Year and thank you to everyone for all your very generous gifts and cards- it is really appreciated by all the staff. On Tuesday it was lovely to see everyone returning to school looking so refreshed and ready for a very busy term. Please may I remind you to look at the dates' list as there are many activities planned for both parents and pupils this term. Also can I remind everyone about the uniform requirements which includes the P.E. kit, I have already spoken to several pupils about their inappropriate footwear this week and not having the full P.E.kit. Please ensure that by Monday your child has the correct uniform as I will be checking this next week.

This half-term we are focusing on the important school value of wisdom and we have been discussing why this is special to our school. We looked at the book of Colossians in the New Testament and talked about St. Paul's special message to us: 'Be wise in the way you act.' Several times this week I have referred pupils back to this biblical quote when they have made the wrong decision; I can see that many pupils are beginning to realise the huge significance that these words from St. Paul can play in their lives.

Thank you to the many parents who have worked extremely hard last term supporting the various different activities that were organised which funded wet play equipment for all classes and a £5 contribution per child for the pantomime trip. I have arranged for a PTA meeting to take place on the 18th January after Celebration Assembly. Please make every effort to attend this as we will be discussing the way forward for this term along with setting dates for various different fundraising events.

Due to the huge success of the variety of different learning activities that we arranged across the school last term we have made arrangements for this to continue this half-term. Please make every effort to try to attend these as they are extremely beneficial in supporting parents in their child's learning. These are as follows:

14th January at 9am—The Importance of Attendance & Punctuality for Ruby Class parents

17th January at 9am- 9.30am Reading groups in Sapphire Class

22nd January at 9.20 – 10.20 Maths lesson in Emerald Class

23rd January at 2.30pm SATs meeting for Sapphire Class (Yr.1 parents are very welcome to attend as we will also be talking about the phonic test for Yr.1 pupils)

29th January at 2.30pm SATs meeting for Emerald Class (Yr. 5 are also very welcome to attend)

31st January at 9am Reading meeting for Reception Class

7th February at 9am Maths activities in Reception Class

11th February at 9.20am – 9.45am writing activities in Diamond Class

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at the above sessions.

Have a relaxing weekend.

Susan Notley
Headteacher

This Week's Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Week</u>
Ruby	90.0%
Sapphire	96.6%
Diamond	99.2%
Emerald	98.6%
Overall	96.1%

Week Beginning Monday 14 January 2019

Monday

After School Clubs start

8am	Breakfast Club
9.00am	Attendance Meeting for Ruby Class Parents
3.00-4.00pm	Art Club (Invitation only)

Tuesday

8am	Breakfast Club
3.00-4.00pm	Football Club (Yr 3-6)
3.00-4.00pm	School Choir

Wednesday

8am	Breakfast Club
During school	Keyboard
During school	Recorder
3.00-4.00pm	Netball Club (Yr 3-6)
3.00-4.00pm	Science Club (by invitation)

Thursday

8am	Breakfast Club
3.00-4.00pm	Tennis Club (Yr 2-Yr6)

Friday

8am	Breakfast Club
9.30am	Parents' meeting for PTA & Fundraising
11.45-12.10	Circuit Training

RUBY CLASS

A belated Happy New Year to you all and very best wishes for 2019. I would also like to say thank you so much for your gifts and kind wishes for Christmas. It was lovely to see all the children so excited to be back at school on Tuesday and we would like to welcome Harry to Ruby Class and his family to St John's School. In maths this week the reception children have been adding two groups of objects together and have begun to make their own number sentences. We have also been focusing on number recognition and have been using lots of opportunities to look for numbers within the environment. The children have also been sharing and writing their news about Christmas, using their developing phonic skills. The nursery children have been practising their listening skills in their phonic sessions as well as experimenting with bubble painting which has had some interesting results – a very busy week! For next week only, the reception children will need their P.E. kit on Monday. Please can you ensure they have trainers/plimsolls as we are now using the apparatus. Many thanks.

Have a lovely weekend **Pat Creed**

SAPPHIRE CLASS

On behalf of myself and Mrs Hargate in Sapphire, I would like to wish all parents/carers etc a very Happy New Year and a big thank you for all your generous gifts and Christmas cards – they were all very much appreciated! I have been very impressed with how the children have returned to school for what is a shorter but a very important term.

Firstly, a few gentle reminders. Please ensure that reading records are signed on a daily basis and that times tables booklets (Y2 only) are filled in three times (or more!) a week in line with our expectations. Thank you for your cooperation in this! Secondly, on Thursday (17th January), we will be having a reading group workshop in Sapphire, where you will have the opportunity to visit Sapphire Class and experience how a reading session is delivered to your child and their small group on a daily basis. This will also give you the opportunity to see how, through careful planning, phonics and reading really support each other! Thirdly, **we have changed the way we set homework**. Whilst Wednesday's hand in date **remains the same**, your child will now have 2 books – a Literacy homework book and a Numeracy homework book. Maths Homework will obviously be set in the Maths book but the Literacy homework book will include both the homework task **and** the weekly spellings! Homework will continue to be set on a Friday. This week in Literacy, we have shown a lot of enthusiasm in writing about our Christmas holidays, working hard in using our finger spaces, capital letters, full stops and for some, more in-depth skills such as suffixes (Y2) and expanded noun phrases. From this writing alone, it sounds like everybody has had an amazing Christmas which is fantastic. In Maths, we have been looking at tally charts. We have been drawing tally charts, linking this with partitioning and writing numbers as numerals and words (Y2) and we even conducted our own data based on ice-cream flavours and a subject of our choice! Tally charts can be a very tricky concept to grasp, especially when you hit a multiple of 5 and the tally goes through the other four tally marks. However, we have worked incredibly hard with this and I have been extremely proud! In Topic we have been looking at our new Geography Topic, the Ugandan charity we work with, Bridge of Hope. We were given a variety of pictures and, from watching a YouTube clip comparing the two countries, we had to stick in the picture under the correct country heading.

Have a lovely, fun-filled weekend! **James Stringer and Tracey Hargate**.

DIAMOND CLASS

Diamond Class have had a busy week back, after all the festivities of the Christmas break!

In Literacy, the class planned short stories using personification, giving the moon human characteristics. A short story written by one child in each year group will be submitted to the Mayor's Awards for Illustrated Writing 2018-19, so the children are working really hard to achieve this.

In Maths, the children began the week by learning to read and write roman numerals. They then moved onto practising identifying place value, including finding 10, 100 or 1000 more or less than a number.

The class enjoyed learning about solids and liquids in our Science lesson. They sorted materials according to whether they were solids or liquids, and recorded the properties of each type of state of matter, using words such as opaque, transparent and viscous. This half term in Geography, we are learning about weather and climate. This week, the children used atlases to search for different countries located in various regions, including the polar climate zone, the temperate climate zone and the tropical climate zone. They established where the hottest places and the coldest places in the world are located.

Well done Diamond Class! Have a lovely weekend. **Sabrina Anderson**

EMERALD CLASS

This week in English, the children in Emerald Class have started work on the Mayor's Writing Competition. They will be writing stories that are between 500 and 700 words around the theme of 'connections'. We began by looking at examples of short stories and listing the features we liked in them to use as ideas in our own work. There are some great ideas and we can't wait to see the finished entries! It's going to be very difficult to judge! In maths we have been focusing on algebra. On Tuesday when the children saw all the letters and number they were a little confused, to say the least. Through the week they have become much more confident and have really worked well on some tricky problems. In history we are looking at the Vikings. We studied the invasion of Lindisfarne in 793AD; the children were shocked at the brutality on the innocent monks. In design and technology this half term we will be looking at shelters. The idea being that the children design and make their own shelter, please could you collect any materials that you think the children could use in their project (strong cardboard, wood off-cuts etc.). A note for your diary, we will be holding a maths workshop where you have the opportunity to come in and see a maths lesson in Emerald class and work alongside your child. This will be on Tuesday 22nd January at 9:20am and on 29th January a meeting re SATs for both Year 5 & Year 6 parents. We hope you have a relaxing weekend. **Joe Law & Kamran Ezel**

NOTICES

Attendance for the week

DIAMOND CLASS have received the highest attendance this week and will be allowed to come into school in non-uniform on Monday 14 January in recognition for their achievement this week for the most attendance this week.



As per our school policy, please remember that medical evidence is required on the 4th day of absence or if attendance has dropped below 90%.

Eco-Committee

Having monitored packed lunches again this week, some pupils are bringing in chocolate bars as part of their packed lunch when everyone knows that only a health bar is allowed. Please ensure that your child's packed lunch is in line with the rules that have been set for this.

Many pupils have raised their concerns about the amount of litter outside our school and we have agreed to organise regular litter picks to address this but also to raise the awareness of everyone's responsibility in looking after our world.



Lost Property

If you would like to look in the Lost Property box, it is situated outside the school office.



School Council



This year the School Council will begin the 2p Challenge. This is a challenge suggested by the councillors themselves to help raise money in an exciting way. We will meet to discuss what we could raise money for and how we will go about the

After School Clubs Spring Term 2019

Letters have gone out with your child today if a slip was handed in and payment was made on ParentPay.

If you would still like your child to attend one of these clubs, please hand the slip into the office and pay on ParentPay.

A reminder that Science Club and Art Club are by invitation only and you will receive a letter.

The clubs start w/c Monday 14 January 2019.



Nursery Admissions

- Complete our supplementary forms, which can be found on the school website or collect them from the school office.
- Return the supplementary forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Worship

St. John's Church, Strayfield Road, Sunday at 9am

St. Luke's Church, Phipps Hatch Lane: Sundays at 10.30am

Children and their parents are welcome at both churches and both have Sunday



Date List for Spring Term 2019



JANUARY		
Monday 14	Attendance Meeting for Ruby Class Parents	9.00am
Monday 14	After School Clubs start	
Thursday 17	Reading Groups—Sapphire Class Parents	9.00-9.30am
Friday 18	Parents' meeting re: PTA & Fundraising	9.30am
Monday 21	NO Art Club due to staff training	
Tuesday 22	Maths Lesson—Emerald Class Parents	9.20-10.20am
Wednesday 23	SATS Meeting for Year 2 parents (Year 1 parents are also welcome)	2.30pm
Tuesday 29	SATS Meeting for Year 6 parents (Year 5 parents are also welcome)	2.30pm
Thursday 31	Reading Meeting—Reception Class parents	9.00am
FEBRUARY		
Thursday 7	Maths Activities for parents—Reception Class	9.00am
Monday 11	Writing Activities for parents—Diamond Class	9.20-9.45am
Monday 18—22	HALF TERM	
MARCH		
Wednesday 6	Ash Wednesday Service in St. Johns Church	2.20pm
Thursday 7	World Book Day (dress up as your favourite book character) £1.50	
Wednesday 13	Ruby Class Assembly	9.00am
Thursday 14	International Day for all pupils	
Wednesday 18	Science Week	
Tuesday 19	Parents' Evening	
Tuesday 19	No After School Clubs due to Parents' Evening	
Wednesday 20	Sapphire Class Assembly	9.00am
Thursday 21	Parents' Evening	
Thursday 21	No After School Clubs due to Parents' Evening	
Friday 22	World Water Day—Eco-Committee to present in Celebration Assembly	9.00am
Wednesday 27	Diamond Class Assembly	9.00am
Wednesday 27	Easter Concert in St. John's Church for EYFS and KS1	2.00pm
APRIL		
Monday 1	Last week for After School Clubs	
Wednesday 3	Emerald Class Assembly	9.00am
Wednesday 3	Easter Concert in St. John's Church for KS2	2.00pm
Friday 5	END OF SPRING TERM	1.15pm

Term Dates for 2019/2020

Spring	2019	Summer	2019
INSET DAY	Monday 7 January	Starts	Tuesday 23 April
Starts	Tuesday 8 January	Half Term	Monday 27 May—Friday 31 May
Half Term	Monday 18 February—Friday 22 February	Ends (1.30pm)	Friday 19 July
Ends (1.30pm)	Friday 5 April	Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May & Monday 27 May 2018
		INSET DAY	Friday 28 June

Please remember that any of the above dates may alter because of changing circumstances.
On INSET days the school is closed to pupils.