

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

St. John's C.E. Primary School

12 February 2016



## HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Ash Wednesday service in St. John's church as we mark the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar. Assemblies this week have focused on the meaning of Lent and how we as Christians need to think about how we observe Lent and reflect upon this special time. Towards the end of Lent we will be celebrating Easter by having a special Easter concert in St. John's Church at 2pm on the 23rd March.

Thank you to the Friends of St. John's for organising our Valentine's Discos this week. As always they are extremely popular especially with our girls who take full advantage of the bright red lipstick!!

As we approach the end of this half-term, reminding ourselves that we are half way through the school year now, so it is important that we evaluate as a school how well we are doing in achieving the targets that we have set for this year. Throughout this week I have been looking at spellings across the school and disappointed to say that we are nowhere near where I would expect us to be. Therefore, we have made some changes in this area and I would really appreciate parents' support across the school. Reception pupils have their word detective books and all other classes will have their spellings sent home on a Friday, to be tested the following week. Our attendance so far is at 95.4% which again is under the national average of 96%, so we really need to make every effort to get this up to 97% by Easter.

After half-term most of our clubs will be starting again and we would love to see as many pupils as possible availing of these activities. These area as follows:

**Monday:** Netball, Yr3 - Yr6

**Tuesday:** Art Club by invitation only, Spanish Club during lunchtime for all Yr.2 pupils

**Thursday:** Football Club

As soon as we can use Mr. Harold's field we will be starting Running Club on a Tuesday and Friday lunchtime, compulsory for Yr3 - Yr6, Yr2 to join on a Friday if they wish.

Have a relaxing half-term and enjoy Valentine's Day.

Best wishes,

Head Teacher

### This Weeks Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Week</u>
Ruby	94.3%
Sapphire	96.4%
Diamond	98.6%
Emerald	97.6%

**Overall 97.1%**

### Week Beginning

**22 February 2016**

#### Monday

Netball Club (Yr 3-6) 3.15-4.10pm

#### Tuesday

8am Breakfast Club

Spanish Club during school (Yr 2)

Running Club- to commence soon

Science Club (Yr2 by invitation) 3.15-4.10pm

Art Club (by invitation) 3.15-4.10pm

#### Wednesday

8am Breakfast Club

Keyboard Club—school time

Recorder Club—school time

#### Thursday

8am Breakfast Club

Football Club (Yr 3-6) 3.15-4.10pm

#### Friday

8am Breakfast Club

Running Club (Yr3-6)- to commence soon

## Ruby Memories

It has been a busy week in Ruby Class as we have been discussing Lent in preparation for the Ash Wednesday church service. Lent marks the beginning of the period that leads up to Easter which is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. As always this lends itself to some thoughtful discussions and of course links nicely to the making and eating of pancakes a winning combination in the Early Years! Later in the week we explored Chinese New Year which is both fun and educational. In numeracy the children learnt about ordinal numbers as we told the story of the Chinese animals racing across the river. The highlight of these celebrations without a doubt was Jing-Fong coming to Ruby Class to talk about his family celebrations and bringing with him an array of artefacts including dragons

and traditional costumes that Jing-Fong wore when he was a toddler. The children were each given a goody bag which had very kindly been sent by Jing-Fong's grandma and grandad from Malaysia.

Once again we extend our thanks to Mr and Mrs Koh for both their time and generosity in supporting Ruby Class. For the last 8 years Mrs McPartland has approached them every February and has always been greeted with a smile and a positive response. The last two years Jing-Fong has taken over from his mother and has done a brilliant job talking us through his customs and traditions. So all that remains is to thank you all so much and we hope you enjoyed your celebrations as much as we did.

We wish you all a fabulous half term.

[Janet McPartland and Pat Creed](#)

## Sapphire Tales

This week we have continued our work on fractions and the children have enjoyed finding fractions using their Numicon shapes. As a treat we made fractions biscuits on Thursday where the children were able to apply their knowledge to decorating biscuits in halves, quarters and thirds. In literacy we have used our senses for

inspiration to write poems about the different seasons. These poems will be entered into a young poets competition so I will keep you posted about this as we do have some budding poets in Sapphire Class!

Have a relaxing break.

[Maria Piscitelli](#)

## Diamond Delights

In our final week of the half term, Diamond Class have been busy finishing their paintings that they have been creating in Art, as part of our relationships through art topic. I am hoping to display the colourful paintings in the classroom. Some of the children have also been creating a (near) life sized Anglo Saxon for our display wall. In science, the children had a fun and interactive science lesson with Mrs. Creed making salt crystals as part of our topic on rocks. In literacy, the class have really impressed me with their story writing, as they have been writing their own quest myth, involving some terrifying creatures and a brave hero or heroine. In numeracy, we have continued with our work on

fractions. The children have been recognising tenths of fractions and their decimal equivalents. They also had a go at making their own fraction walls to find equivalent fractions, which led to the children simplifying a range of fractions.

I have spoken to the children about my expectations for the half term break in terms of homework. They should continue to practise their reading and times tables as they do in a normal school week. Spellings should also be practised and the science homework, set by Mrs. Creed should be completed.

Have a relaxing half term

[Hannah Gallagher](#)

## Emerald Echoes

I can't believe another half term has whizzed by! All of the children have settled in well to our temporary home and have made pleasing progress over the last few weeks. We have just finished writing our horror story 'The Classroom' so I am sure I will be spooked reading them over the half term. In maths we have been focusing on money and successfully solving a number of complex money problems. I have been extremely pleased with the work in guided reading; the children are able to answer questions in a more comprehensive manner displaying a sound understanding of the text. I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing half term.

Joe Law

## Swimming

On Monday 29 February (Yr 4 & 5) and Thursday 3 March (Yr 2 & 3) swimming commences.

Letters given out today, please return. Please remember to bring in their swimming costumes, towel, swimming hat and goggles if required.



## Reminders

- Please ensure ParentPay is up to date.

### School Dinners

- £2.30 a day (11.50 a week)
- To be in credit on ParentPay



### Breakfast Club

- £2.50 a day (12.50 a week)
- To be in credit on ParentPay
- Inform the office if the days change which your child normally attends.

## Nursery Admissions—Sept 2016

- 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.

## Friends' Notice

### Friends' Meetings

2 March

13 April

4 May

8 June

6 July

In the school hall at 2.45pm.

All welcome.

## Church Services

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 Schools.





## Date List for Spring Term 2016

<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Monday 15—Friday 19	HALF TERM	
Monday 29	Swimming commencing at Southbury Leisure Centre—Years 4 & 5	11.30am
<b>MARCH</b>		
Thursday 3	Swimming commencing at Southbury Leisure Centre—Years 2 & 3 World Book Day	1.30pm
Tuesday 15	Parents' Evening	
Wednesday 16	Cuffley Camp—Emerald Class	
Thursday 17	Parents' Evening	
Friday 18	Red Nose Day	
Wednesday 23	Easter Concert at St. John's Church—Whole School	2.15pm
Thursday 24	End of Spring Term	1.30pm

## Term Dates for 2016/2017

### Spring term 2016

INSET DAY	Wednesday 6 January
Starts	Thursday 7 January
Half term	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February
Ends	Thursday 24 March

### Summer term 2016

Starts	Monday 11 April
Bank holiday	Monday 2 May
Half term	Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
Ends	Wednesday 20 July

### Autumn term 2016

INSET DAY	Monday 5 September
Starts	Tuesday 6 September
Half Term	Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October
Ends	Wednesday 21 December

### Spring term 2017

INSET DAY	Wednesday 4 January
Starts	Thursday 5 January
Half term	Monday 13 to Friday 17 February
Ends	Friday 31 March

### Summer term 2017

Starts	Tuesday 18 April
Bank holiday	Monday 1 May
Half term	Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June
Ends	Friday 21 July

Please remember that any of the above dates may alter because of changing circumstances.

On INSET days the school is closed to pupils.