

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

St. John's C.E. Primary School

3 February 2017



HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

In our assemblies this week we have been discussing the Chinese New Year and looking at images of how millions of Chinese people celebrate this very special festival. We compared it to how Christians celebrate Christmas in the way that they prepare their homes, buy gifts and the celebrations that they participate in. This year is the year of the rooster and we talked about the characteristics of a rooster and how this can be linked to a person's personality. The pupils were encouraged to research the animal that represented the year that they were born in and see if its characteristics were a true representation of their personality.

During lunchtime duty this week, I have been focusing on the quality of the pupils' packed lunches. On the whole I am really pleased with the packed lunches that our pupils are eating and the drinks that they are having also. May I just remind you that sweets are not permitted in packed lunches, the pupils are allowed to have one small chocolate bar in their packed lunch as a treat. We also encourage the pupils to eat all of their packed lunch and to keep all the packaging in the box so you can monitor what your child is eating as well. Please remember that we have the Silver Award for Healthy Schools and it is really important that we ensure that we can retain this high standard.

Our Educational Welfare Officer visited the school on Thursday and monitored our school gate at 8.45am to see the number of pupils that are arriving after the gate is opened. She was impressed to see that there were no pupils arriving after 9am which is when you officially receive a late mark and the book has to be signed at Reception. It is really important that we maintain this high level of punctuality to ensure that all pupils are ready to start their learning from 8.50am. She also monitored the registers and has made appointments to meet with a number of families whose attendance is causing a concern. We are currently standing at 95.28% which is not as high as I would like, particularly if we are aiming to reach our target of 97% by July.

From our monitoring of the parking this week, we are still having a lot of cars parking on the kerb which is unacceptable. If you are worried about the safety of your car on this busy road, then please park in Strayfield Road.

We had an incident this week with a parent using the bins in Head Start Nursery. Could I please remind you again that this is private property and whilst we have got permission to turn in Head Start at no time should we be parking, allowing children to run around their space or using their rubbish bins. This is the second complaint that I have received from Head Start; I really don't want to be in a position where we are not allowed to use their car park to turn as this will seriously impact on the safety of our pupils.

Have a lovely weekend.

Susan Notley
Headteacher

This Week's Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Week</u>
Ruby	92.9%
Sapphire	93.1%
Diamond	88.6%
Emerald	94.8%
Overall	92.4%

Week Beginning 6 February 2017

Monday

	Viking Day—Emerald Class
8am	Breakfast Club
3.15-4.10pm	Multi Skills (Reception to Year 6)

Tuesday

8am	Breakfast Club
3.15-4.10pm	Art Club (by invitation)
3.15-4.10pm	Science Club (by invitation)

Wednesday

8am	Breakfast Club
During School	Keyboard Club
During School	Recorder Club
3.15-4.10pm	Netball Club (3-6)

Thursday

8am	Breakfast Club
3.15-4.10pm	Dance Club (by invitation)

Friday

	Non Uniform Day—£1.50, fundraising for Vanessa and Rogers, Bridge of Hope Charity
8am	Breakfast Club
3.15-4.00pm	Football Club (Yr 3-6)
	Please note the earlier finish time

Ruby Memories

In Ruby class we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. Our role play area is now a Chinese Restaurant which the children are really enjoying. We have also completed our class dragon today ready for dragon dancing next week! In maths we have been focusing on ordinal numbers which links in with the Chinese Zodiac story, 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. The nursery children have enjoyed playing the dinosaur racing game; turn taking and adding on to reach the podium to win a

gold medal! The polar region outdoor role play is now up and running and the children have been busy writing lists of what to put in their explorers' bags. We will soon be getting our own Early Years notice board which will be outside Sunshine room, please remember to check regularly for any information about Ruby class.

Have a good weekend.

Pat Creed

Sapphire Tales

This week in literacy we have been looking at fairy tales, we have focused on capital letters and full stops using a range of interesting vocabulary including exciting adjectives. In maths we have been focusing on fractions looking at halves and quarters. In science we have planted some seeds and are looking forward to observing

our results over the next few weeks, if we remember to water them!!

I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Maria Piscitelli

Diamond Delights

Diamond Class had a fantastic time on Monday for the Victorian day. Thank you to all the parents for making an effort with their outfits; they really did look the part and they certainly felt it as well! The children experienced what it was like to be a child in a Victorian classroom. They especially enjoyed learning about the punishments that the poor children had to

suffer if they did something wrong! In literacy, the children have been writing and editing their stories. In numeracy, we have focused on plotting co-ordinates and translating shapes across a quadrant. Towards the end of the week, we have moved onto finding fractions of shapes.

Have a super weekend

Hannah Gallagher

Emerald Echoes

This week in Emerald class has been extremely busy. The children have completed some great arguments based on their opinions regarding graffiti; they have used excellent persuasive vocabulary and new elements of grammar including past progressive and the subjunctive. In maths they all looked extremely alarmed when they saw letters on the board on Monday morning, but over the next few days they truly cracked algebra, which I was delighted with. In science we have been looking at materials and this week we were deserted on a desert island and had to change seawater into drinking water.

The children were able to use their knowledge of evaporation, dissolving and condensation to solve the problem. Please remember that on Monday Emerald class have 'Viking Day' where the children complete a number of tasks based on the topic. They also need to come to school, if possible, dressed as a Viking.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Joe Law & Claire Hill

NOTICES

SPORTS NEWS



The children are all participating well in the various after school clubs. Netball and football matches will start again after February half-term, once we have the lighter evenings.



PARENTPAY



ParentPay is very effective for our school as it is an online payment system which allows parents to pay quickly and securely for school meals, trips and activities, uniforms, music lessons and fees.

You simply top-up your ParentPay account online by debit or credit card.

Please can parents/carers visit their ParentPay account regularly to keep up to date with payments.

This will greatly reduce the amount of administration time taken.

Many thanks.

Swimming—Year 2 & 3



Please remember to bring in your completed forms to school





Date List for Spring Term 2017

FEBRUARY		
Monday 6	Viking Day—Emerald Class	
Friday 10	Non Uniform Day—Fundraising for Vanessa and Rogers, Bridge of Hope Charity, (please bring in £1.50)	
Monday 13—Friday 17	HALF TERM	
Monday 27	Poetry week	
MARCH		
Wednesday 1	Ash Wednesday Service	2.45pm
Wednesday 1	Emerald & Diamond Class to participate in the Lord Mayor's Writing competition	
Thursday 2	World Book Day	
Thursday 2	Swimming commences—Year 2 & 3 (every Thursday for 15 weeks)	2.30-3.00pm
Monday 13	Science Week	
Monday 20	Dress the Egg Competition to start	
Tuesday 21	Parents' Evening—Parent Questionnaires and E-Safety Questionnaires to be completed	
Wednesday 22	Spring Concert—Nursery, Reception & Sapphire Class	2.30pm
Thursday 23	Parents' Evening—Parent Questionnaires and E-Safety Questionnaires to be completed	
Wednesday 29	Spring Concert—Diamond & Emerald Class	2.30pm
Thursday 30	Dance Festival	
Thursday 30	Dress the Egg Competition to be judged	
Friday 31	Final Assembly—Easter Bonnet competition. School finishes at 1.30pm	

Term Dates for 2017

Spring Term 2017

INSET DAY	Thursday 5 January
Starts	Friday 6 January
Half term	Monday 13 to Friday 17 February
Ends (1.30pm)	Friday 31 March

Autumn Term 2017

INSET DAY	Monday 4 September
Starts	Tuesday 5 September
Half term	Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October
Ends (1.30pm)	Thursday 21 December

Summer Term 2017

Starts	Tuesday 18 April
Bank holiday	Monday 1 May
Half term	Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June
INSET DAY	Friday 23 June
Ends (1.30pm)	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.