



# St. John's CE Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

### December 2017



#### **HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME**

For over two years now, the school has issued the same advice regarding term time holidays. Following instructions from the government, we are no longer able to authorise any requests for such absences. Therefore, for that reason, please could we make a special request that you don't arrange holidays during term time. Apart from the potential fine (Oldham MBC have, since September 11<sup>th</sup>, reintroduced fines for term time holidays of longer than 10 sessions (5 full days)), it is particularly disruptive, not only for the school, but also for your children. They will miss out on important lessons and this all needs catching up. It is also important to note, that you may be asked to account for unexplained absences, which means that going on holiday and not informing school is unacceptable. Therefore, please inform us if your child is going to be absent.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Thank you for bringing your children to school every day and on time. We are still monitoring the attendance of children very closely and will send out invitations to Attendance Panel Meetings to all children whose attendance (less than 90%) or lateness is causing concern in the next week. Please inform the school office if your child is going to be absent for any reason.

#### **NURSERY AND RECEPTION APPLICATIONS**

Application forms for places in both the Nursery and Reception classes starting in September 2018 are now available from Mrs. Parkin at the infant site office. Once completed, the application form must be returned to the school. However, applications for a place in the Reception class **must also be made online to Oldham Council**. The closing date for this is 10<sup>th</sup> January (for St. John's applications) and 15<sup>th</sup> January (for Oldham). For further information on this process, please contact the school (0161-681-5270) or the council's Admissions Team (0161 770 4213).

#### **RETIREMENTS: MRS. ATKINSON and MRS. THOMPSON**

Sadly, after many years of working at St. John's, both Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Thompson will be retiring on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. They have both hugely enjoyed their time here and will be sadly missed by everyone in the St. John's community. We all wish them a very happy, healthy and long, retirement, and hope that they enjoy the extra time with family and friends, that retirement will allow.

#### **KS2 MID-DAY ASSISTANT VACANCY**

Also leaving us at Christmas, will be Mrs. Carter, one of our mid-day assistants in KS2, who has been offered a post of teaching assistant at New Bridge School. We wish her all the best in this new and exciting opportunity. The role of mid-day assistant is vital to retaining order, calmness and harmony at dinnertimes. As so, we are now looking for someone who feels they could support the school in this matter. If you know anyone, or you yourself fancy the chance to work alongside an established mid-day team, please contact the school office (0161-681-5713) to find out further information.

#### **MRS. FRASER**

As I'm sure many of you who regularly come into school are aware, Mrs. Fraser has been supporting St. John's since we returned in September. She is the headteacher of St. Anne's Lydgate, who are part of the Sola Fide Multi Academy Trust (the currently proposed sponsor for St. John's). In her role as School-to-School support, she has been assisting Miss. Bonter and Mr. Gibson in the running of the school and setting up new policies and procedures during the move to academy status. If at any point you see her around, please feel free to ask her any questions you may have.

#### **FRESH FRUIT IN KS2**

Fresh fruit is sold on a daily basis in the KS2 playground at break time. This usually includes those fruits that need no preparation, such as apples, bananas and pears etc. The cost is 20p per piece and can be bought on a day-to-day basis. This initiative has now been taken over by the Y6 Enterprise Group who are finding new and interesting ways of raising money for the school. The other alternative is that the children bring their own fresh fruit, but **not** fruit winders or fruit flakes etc. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

#### **SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Information about the school, including important up-coming dates and events will be on the school's website, which can be found at [www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk](http://www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk) . Copies of this letter and any other 'whole school' letters can be found on there. Copies of any class, or year group specific letters, can be obtained from the relevant school office, or the class teacher.

### **UPCOMING EVENT:**

7<sup>th</sup> December: Choir to sing at Tesco (11:30am)

8<sup>th</sup> December: KS2 Christmas Fair (2pm)

11<sup>th</sup> December: Artefact Theatre – Infant Site (am)

12<sup>th</sup> December: Infant Christmas Nativity (11am – a few tickets are still available for this)

13<sup>th</sup> December: Infant Christmas Nativity (2:15pm – SOLD OUT)

14<sup>th</sup> December: Infant Christmas Nativity (11am – a few tickets are still available for this)

14<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Christmas Panto Trip (pm – return approximately 5:00 – 5:30)

17<sup>th</sup> December: Choir singing at St John's Church (7pm)

18<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Nativity Performance (2pm – a few tickets are still available for this)

18<sup>th</sup> December: Junior Nativity Performance (6pm – SOLD OUT)

19<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Party Day

19<sup>th</sup> December: Lower KS2 Party (pm)

20<sup>th</sup> December: Upper KS2 Party (pm)

20<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Dinner

21<sup>st</sup> December: KS2 Carol Service (2pm)

21<sup>st</sup> December: School Closes

### **RAFFLES**

To raise money for school fund, both sites will be holding raffles during the Christmas performances. Tickets will be sold by our school governors as you enter the building before the performances for £1 per strip (tickets for the KS1 raffles will also be available from Mrs. Parkin). The draws will take place at the end of the five Christmas performances.

### **HEAD LICE**

It has been brought to our attention that a number of cases of head lice have been reported in local schools. Could you please check your child's hair, as we know you always do, on a regular basis and treat them appropriately if needed.

### **PARKING**

Could we please remind all parents and carers to be vigilant when parking near school. If you park close to school, where the children are walking on the pavements, and possibly crossing roads, please be extra careful when reversing and manoeuvring your vehicle. We worry that it is only a matter of time before a careless driver injures a child.

### **ROBINWOOD TRIP**

Could parents of the children going on the 2018 Robinwood Trip please remember that the second deposit of £50 is due before we break up for Christmas on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for the donations of bottles, cakes and biscuits for the school's Christmas Fair / activities. Without your continued support in these matters, we wouldn't be able to run events to raise money for School Fund.

**For further information contact the relevant sites: 0161-681-5270 (EYFS/KS1) or 0161-681-5713 (KS2). You can visit the school website at [www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk](http://www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk) which contains the Infant site blogs. Thank you for your continued support Miss L.Bonter (Head of Nursery/Infant Site) and Mr. C. Gibson (Head of Junior Site)**