



St. John's CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

January 2018



WELCOME BACK

On behalf of all the staff and governors of St. John's, we'd like to welcome you back for the Spring term 2018. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas, and that all the children are raring to go this term.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

The school has recently updated the attendance policy and it will be available shortly, once it has been ratified by the governors. Once this has been done, a letter will be sent to parents informing them of this and highlighting the changes that have been made. 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 11th, 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.

JUNIOR PLAYGROUND

Could we please take this opportunity to ask that parents and guardians do not allow young children to ride scooters bikes etc. onto the school playground either before or after school. Most of the time we're sure that there would not be a problem, however, as the playground gets very crowded, very quickly, we want to do all we can to avoid potential accidents.

Also, could parents please ensure that their children stay away from the stage and 'hut' if they are coned off. The wood can become slippery when it is wet and we put the cones in front of them to help stop accidents.

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 at the end of January. Please inform the school office if your child is going to be absent for any reason. The current attendance figure for the whole school is 96.2%, which is quite positive.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION APPLICATIONS – FINAL REMINDER

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 10th January (for St. John's applications) and 15th 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).

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. 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 EVENTS:

29th January: Jeff Rich (Status Quo) Drumming and Percussion Workshop in KS2
7th February: Freddie Fit in KS1
9th February: School closes for half-term
19th February: School reopens
27th February: Glodwick visiting KS1
28th February: Attendance Panel Meetings
5th March: Assessment week
20th March: Parents' Evening – KS1 (afternoon)
21st March: Parents' Evening – KS1 (afternoon)
22nd March: Parents' Evening – KS2 (afternoon / evening)
29th March: Easter Service – KS1 & KS2
29th March: Final date for Robinwood payments
29th March: School closes for Easter
16th April: School reopens for Summer term.

KS1 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Key Stage 1 Celebration Assemblies are beginning again. They take place every Friday morning at 9:15 in the infant site hall. Parents, carers, friends and family are warmly invited.

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.

Parents collecting children from KS1 are also asked not to park in the vet's carpark. There have been a number of occasions before Christmas when they phoned to complain about parents and carers parking on their grounds and blocking spaces for use by their customers. The vets have also warned that they intend starting clamping cars, that they know to be non-customers.

200 CLUB

The 200 Club has now finished and the school would like to thank Mrs. Flanagan for all her hard work in running and organising the club, and she in turn would like to thank all those who have contributed over the years, raising much needed money for school fund. There will be a replacement for the 200 Club starting up shortly, and more information will be sent out regarding this in due course. The last 2 winners of the 200 Club draw were no.47 (Peter Tomlinson) and no.13 (Mark Flanagan). Anyone with a Direct Debit to the 200 Club can now safely stop it before any further payments are taken.

ROBINWOOD TRIP

The final payment of £100 is due to be paid before we finish for Easter on 29th March. Individual letters will be sent out before the end of January to remind parents of the exact amount owed.

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 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)