



St. John's CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

October 2017



ATTENDANCE

It's been a great return to school since September and the attendance of your children should be commended. The whole school attendance, up to Friday 29th September, was 97.9% - let's hope this continues.

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 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.

HARVEST THANKS

Thank you all so much for the kind donations sent in for the Oldham Food Bank as part of our Harvest celebrations. Mr. Barton, the Church Warden, was overwhelmed with the quantity of food donated by St. John's Primary School and he wanted us to pass on his thanks to yourselves.

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**. For further information on this process, please contact the school (0161-681-5270) or the council's Admissions Team (0161 770 4213).

CHILDREN STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2018

For those children currently in Year 6, a letter has been sent home (before we finished for summer) about applying for secondary school places for September 2018, when your child is due to start secondary school. You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website. This is the **ONLY** way that parents can make an application for a secondary school place. The online system opened on the **1st August 2017** and closes at **5:00pm on 31st October 2017**.

If you don't have access to the Internet, there are computers in all Oldham libraries. You will need an email address, but these are very easy to set up and staff in the library will be happy to help.

Children who are intending to attend a voluntary aided school may also be required to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation in addition to the online application. These supplementary forms, for schools such as Blue Coat, are available from, and should be returned to, the respective school. However, please be aware of the admission criteria regarding such admissions, particularly in respect of church attendance, and make sure that you meet them.

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 brought 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.

ASTHMA/ALLERGY/CONTACT DETAILS/NASAL FLU SPRAY/HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENTS

Could any outstanding forms, such as contact details, asthma and allergy forms, home/school agreements and Reception to Year 4 Nasal Flu Spray consents, be returned to school as soon as possible so that we can update and collate our records.

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 EVENT:

18th October: Police Talk (KS1 pm, KS2 am)

24th October: Nasal Flu Spray – Reception to Year 4

24th October: KS1 Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 5:15pm)

25th October: KS1 Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 5:15pm)

26th October: KS2 Parents' Evening (3:40pm – 7:30pm)

27th October: School closes for half term

6th November: School reopens for Autumn II

7th November: Individual photographs in KS2

9th November: KS2 'A Time In History' Disco – Organised by the Y6 Enterprise Team (a letter will be sent out with more details and ticketing information in the coming weeks)

18th November: Church Christmas Fair

20th November: Individual photographs in KS1

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Letters will be sent out detailing appointment times for Parents' Evening during the coming weeks. For EYFS/KS1, Mrs. Parkin will be available from 9:15 on Tuesday 17th October, in the school hall. After 9:30, you may make a telephone appointment via her on 0161 681 5270. In KS2, please make sure appointment letters (these will be sent out during the week beginning 16th October) are returned to school as soon as possible.

KS1 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

The Key Stage 1 celebration assemblies have started up again. They take place on a Friday morning at 9:15am. Parents, friends and family, are warmly invited.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Well done to all the children who completed the Oldham Library's Summer Reading Challenge. They should all have received their certificates and medals in school recently.

POPPY APPEAL

Poppies will be on sale throughout school, between now and the 10th November. As well as selling poppies, for a minimum donation of 20p, this year we will also be selling Wristbands (50p), Reflective Poppies (50p), Friendship Bracelets (£1) and Snap Bands (£1). For Health and Safety reasons, the wristbands and friendship bracelets will not be able to be worn in school.

HEADLICE

It has been brought to our attention that a number of cases of headlice 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.

AFTER SCHOOL - KS2 PLAYGROUND

Could we please remind parents that the fencing around the gym equipment and stage in the Key Stage 2 playground is to keep the children off the equipment when they are not supervised by school staff. Children who are waiting for older brothers and sisters should not be using the equipment, or climbing over these fences during these times when they are not supervised by St. John's staff. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter, which is ultimately about ensuring the safety of children on school premises.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Below is the school's proposed new Mission Statement. Could you please read this and pass on any comments to the school offices. Thank you

St. John's C. of E. Primary School

School Mission Statement

Each of us is special, each of us is unique.

We aim to provide pupils with high quality teaching and learning so that they can become effective life-long learners in this diverse and ever-changing world.

We believe our school should demonstrate clear Christian characteristics and values, whilst at the same time encouraging recognition and respect for other faiths.

We value greatly school, home and parish connections to support our children to become independent, responsible and caring members of the wider community.

We believe in "Living, Loving and Learning" together in God's World.

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 EYFS/KS1) and Mr. C. Gibson (Head of KS2)