

# The Early Bird



Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7

Issue 11: Friday 17th March 2023

## From the Headteacher.....

Dear parents/carers,

We have had some wonderful successes this week in school, in relation to sports and also to see our nursery and reception children lead us in worship. We are proud of their unique talents.

Our weekly monitoring has focused in on Design and Technology (D&T). It was excellent to see our children using the technical vocabulary and evaluating their work. Year 1/2 were evaluating their moving vehicles and it was great to see how much the children enjoyed the soup taste testing in year 5 and 5/6. Certainly some engineers in the making!

Our team captains have worked hard with Mr Farrell to get our new team points token system up and running. Ask your children about how they will get a token for their team. Also remind them of the St. John's behaviour values : STARS

Safe, Team, Achieve, Respect, Smile.

Finally we have had confirmation that the school will be used as a polling station on 4th May. The school will be closed on that day to pupils and work will be sent home.

Enjoy a great weekend and look closely for the signs of spring time on its way.

*SM Bowyer* Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

### Parent/Carer invitation to Worship:

- March 27th at 10.30 am  
**Year 5**

**Every Tuesday** : 8.45 am - 10 am :  
Parents / Carers' Club

**Every Wednesday** 8.45am - 10am :  
Mums / Dads & Tots group—£1 per session

### Group and Leavers Photos

Monday 20th March - **please read the information on page 2**

### Y1 Heights & Weights

Thursday 23rd March - further information will follow shortly

### French Day—Friday 24th March

Wear Red, White and Blue!

### Easter Holiday Dates

*Last Day of Term* : Friday 31st March

*Easter Holiday* : Monday 3rd April -  
Friday 14th April

*School Re-Opens* : Monday 17th April

Thursday 4th May Polling Day—  
school closed to pupils. School work will be provided.

## Prayer

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father who art in Heaven  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
and the glory, for ever and ever.

*Amen*



**Dedication - Courage - Joy**

## Monday 20th March 2023

On Monday, Academy is coming in to take ALL class photo's. and year 6 leavers. Please make sure your child comes in full school uniform.

If your child has PE they need to bring trainers to change into.



### Money raised throughout the year

McMillan coffee morning	£358.62
Turkey Earthquake	£202.20
Number Day NSPCC	£116.60
Children in Need	£313.75
Christingle	£223.55
Comic Relief	£208.54

A massive thank you to you all for helping to support the worthwhile causes.

## Red Nose Day





## Team Points

Our new team points system is working very well. Every Friday the team points are collected from each class and put in the relevant colour tubes.



## **The season draws to a close**

As the 4<sup>th</sup> race and final race brought a close to the cross country season for 2022-23, the cross country team were in high spirits as they looked to end the season on a high. The team made their way to Oakhill Primary School for the toughest and most challenging run, and were met by a combination of cold and soggy weather, but there was no way that they were going to let this stop them. The girls started the afternoon's excitement off, followed by the boys. All children have done exceptionally well this year, with our younger children gaining valuable experience, for their participation in future races and others setting and beating personal bests along the way.

I would personally like to congratulate every member of the team, who has represented St John's in any of the races. You should all be extremely proud of yourselves. – Well done.

Mr Buckley & Miss Pickerill

## **A personal achievement**

Although I am extremely proud of every member of the cross-country team, I would like to give credit and a special mention to one of our Year 6 pupils. This young man only started running cross-country in Year 5, but his commitment and determination has allowed him to go from strength to strength. In Year 5, Kevon was asked to join the cross-country team, as he just enjoyed running. In his first year of running, he qualified to represent the Stoke-on-Trent team as part of the City cross-country team, where he won gold as part of the overall Boys winners. He then went on to compete at Northwood for the City athletics team where he finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, only to the Year 6 and overall winner, also in the Stoke-on-Trent team.

This year we were optimistic for Kevon in the cross-country, and boy has he not let us down. He has continued with his development and now runs for the cross country and athletics team, based at Northwood Stadium. Kevon has had an impressive season this year finishing 1<sup>st</sup> place in all four of this season's races, seeing him crowned as the overall boy's winner for the 2022-23 season. Not only has he made this impressive achievement, but he now has the opportunity to go on to represent St John's as part of the Town's sport team (Stoke-on-Trent), where hopefully he can add another gold to his short, yet impressive haul.

Huge congratulations Kevon, you have not only made Miss Pickerill and myself proud, but the whole of St John's and everyone associated with the school. – Well done! A

fantastic sporting achievement.

Mr. Buckley

## St. John's CE (A) Primary School Term Dates 2023-2024



**Inset Days x 5**

Autumn Term 2023	
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
School open to pupils	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September
School closes end of day	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Half term</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November
School opens to pupils	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November
School closes end of day	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January

Spring Term 2024	
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January
School open to pupils	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
School closes end of day	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Half term</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
School opens to staff and pupils	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
School closes end of day	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Easter Holiday</b>	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday - 31 <sup>st</sup> March)

Summer Term 2024	
School open to staff and pupils	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Possible school closure to pupils for polling station. Work to be provided remotely for pupils (TBC)	<i>Possible date Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (To be Confirmed)</i>
<b>May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
School closes end of day	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Half term</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May
School open to staff (inset day)	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
School open to staff and pupils	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June
School closes end of day for pupils	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Staff inset (converted to twilights)	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
<b>Summer Holiday</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> August





## STOKE FOOTBALL COACHING CLUB

Newcastle Academy

Gallowstree Lane, ST5 2QS

Friday Evenings (21/04/23 – 21/07/23)

(For all abilities, girls and boys aged 4 - 12).

Dear Parents,

Due to the great success of our football coaching club we are delighted to offer new dates. The course will start on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April** and will run for 12 weeks.

Taking part in our sessions can be the perfect stepping stone towards the development of your child's self-esteem whilst developing technique, fitness and strength.

Summary of the new course:

- All children are catered for, regardless of their ability.
- The soccer course features fun skills practice, match play, team building games, penalty shoot out competitions and small tournaments.
- All children are guaranteed to receive at least one ***trophy and certificate!***
- ***Special Prizes include goalkeeper gloves and a premier league match ball***
- The course is tightly structured with players fully supervised at all times (parents are welcome to stay and watch if they wish).
- The children will be coached by **semi-professional** footballers and **F.A Level 2 Coaches**, all of which are **fully DBS Enhanced checked**.

Group 1: School Years Reception & Year 1	5:00pm till 6:00pm
Group 2: School Years 2 & 3	6:00pm till 7:00pm
Group 3: School Years, 4,5 & 6	7:00pm till 8:00pm

The cost of the club is £6.00 per session which needs to be paid every four weeks online or at our course to secure your child's space for those sessions. (£24).

If you would like to book your child a place on the weekly course please contact us on  
**07530 868 512**



Facebook Page: @teachingsportscoaching

Email: [info@teach-sports.co.uk](mailto:info@teach-sports.co.uk)

Website: [www.Teach-Sports.co.uk](http://www.Teach-Sports.co.uk)



## Parent/Carers Tuesday Morning Club

We have started a Tuesday morning club.

*Any parent/carers are warmly invited to come along.*

It starts at 8.45am and finishes at 10am.

It is a time of chatting, laughing, drinking tea or coffee, eating biscuits, colouring - or even having a place to share a worry or two, if it helps. It's for you to have a bit of 'me time' with others who can help if needs be.





## Mums/Dads & Tots Group

On Wednesday we hold a Parents & Tots group in the Hub. Pre-school children play with the toys and parents can sit and have a talk with other parents, or play with the children. Feel free to come along each Wednesday 8.45am—10am. It is **£1 a session**, and a drink and toast is included.



## Mums/Dads and Tots Group

Come and join us every Wednesday  
8.45am to 10am

Group for preschool children

£1 per session



Time for  
adults to talk

Tea & toast



Time for children to  
play and make  
friends





### My Child & Me Course

St. John's will be holding the My Child & Me course in our library, starting Thursday 27th April at 9.15am for 10 weeks. If you are interested in taking part please speak to Mrs Ramsden

## Family Support Groupwork Programme

The Supporting Families Service offers a number of evidenced-based programmes and 'needs led' groups that operate on a termly basis in each of the four localities that make up the city of Stoke-on-Trent, North, Central, South East and South West.

The Supporting Families team recognise that support delivered in a group setting may benefit many families whose needs can be met without the need for a co-ordinated support plan.

These programmes are therefore available to all parents where a little extra support may be needed in the most important job of bringing up children.

All of our courses are led by skilled professionals who are trained and licensed to deliver the Solihull Approach to Supporting Parents, Family Links and Teen Family Links. Parents will gain increased knowledge and skills while also having fun and getting to know other parents with similar interests and building social networks to strengthen their family resilience.

A total of 7 programmes are delivered in each locality. Each course supports parents at different stages of their children's life. Parents can access more than one course at any time.



### **My Child and Me (age 5-11yrs)**

The programme is a 10-week programme aimed at improving the emotional health of both adults and children and strengthens family relationships. It is a cognitive-relational programme, providing parents with new skills in listening and communicating with their children and developing an understanding of behaviour in the context of relationships.

10 week duration

Session 1: Welcome week/Building Blocks: The Four Constructs

Session 2: The Question of Discipline/Time to Calm Down

Session 3: Family Rules/Rewards and Penalties

Session 4: Personal Power/Self-esteem/Choices and Consequences

Session 5: Feelings...and What We Do With Them/Communicating Clearly: Using I Statements.

Session 6: Kinds of Touch/Nurturing Ourselves.

Session 7: Ages and Stages in Children's Development/Helping Children Grow Up.

Session 8: Keeping Children Safe

Session 9: Behaviour to Ignore/Problem solving and Negotiating

Session 10: Continuing the Family Journey/Celebration

The 10-week Nurturing Programme parenting group empowers parents to build positive relationships, encourage co-operative behaviour, and develop resilience, empathy and self-esteem, in themselves and their children. Over 80% of parents report significant improvements in their child's behaviour and improved mental health in themselves and their children.



## LYME RACING CLUB—ST. JOHN'S

Hello,

My name is Sue and I am membership secretary of a local cycling club.

Myself and the coaches at Lyme Racing Club are proud to have **teamed up with St John's CE (A) School and wish to extend an invitation** to any pupils with an interest in cycling to come along to our Friday evening Roller Racing sessions. Currently these are held in the school hall every Friday evening, 6.30pm start, Each session costs just £3 to non members. You will need to bring your child's own bicycle and a drink for them. All our coaches are British Cycling accredited and look forward to seeing some new faces wishing to try out our sessions. Come Springtime we will be transferring our sessions outside (across the road in Lyme Valley) where we will be able to teach cycling skills to the youngsters whilst having lots of fun on their bikes in a safe, traffic free environment.

Contact details are:-

[email sue.lymeracing@gmail.com](mailto:sue.lymeracing@gmail.com)

my no. 07986958858

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/LymeRacingClub/>

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/local-groups/lyme-racing-club>



# Information

## Everyone is responsible for safeguarding children

Most children enjoy safe and happy childhood experiences within their own family, but unfortunately for some this is not the case. During difficult family times everyone has a responsibility to protect children from future harm - good child-care begins even before a child is born!

### Stoke-on-Trent Children's Advice and Duty Service (CHAD):

*If you have concerns about a child* you can phone 01782 235100 (option 2) and speak to a social worker for advice Monday - Friday 8.30am - 6pm

Out of Office Hours - 01782 234234

For more information please go on Stoke-on-Trent website where you will find plenty of advice and information.





## Social Media Apps

We have had information from another school saying there is a Facebook game that encourages self-harm. Due to the age at which a child can have a Facebook account none of our children should be on Facebook, but we do know some of them *do* go on Facebook. Please monitor what your children are doing online!

**Here are some of the main Social Media apps with their age rating and main features:**

**Facebook**    **Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:** newsfeed to share text, photos & videos, instant messaging, marketplace, friends, likes and comments.

**Instagram**    **Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:** photo & video sharing, livestreaming, stories, DMs, hashtags

**Snapchat**    **Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:** photo & video messaging, snaps, location sharing

**Tiktok**    **Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:** making & sharing short videos, lip-syncing.

**Twitter**    **Age rating:** 13+

**Main features:** tweets (text with restricted character count), photo and video sharing, hashtags.

For more information

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media>





# Information

## Lunch Box Ideas

Healthy and happy

According to [NHS choices](#) a balanced lunchbox should contain:

- Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta
- Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans
- A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt
- Vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit

*At St. John's we ask that children do not bring in fizzy pop, sweets or energy drinks.*

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**Please note that the playground equipment should not be used by your children before the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.**

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Reminder—The one way system around school is still in use for reception to year 6, when bringing your children in the morning and picking them up after school.



## Drop off Zone

**Please do not park in the drop off zone AM and PM.**

**This is for dropping the children off each morning.**

## Letter from our Education Welfare Service



Hello,

VIP Education is an Independent Education Welfare Support Service that is now working with your school to support Attendance, Punctuality and Welfare needs.

Our Staff have a wealth of experience supporting pupils and families. Regular visits and communication will take place at your child's school to monitor every child's school attendance.

If you feel you require support, you can ask your school to contact us.

Regular absences from school can affect:

- Attainment levels - the quality of schoolwork, qualifications gained
- School routine - disrupting your child's learning and that of the other pupils
- The chances of children and young people being involved in anti-social behaviour
- A child or young person's general wellbeing and long-term life opportunities

Improving regular attendance at school is therefore a key priority, both locally and nationally.

We are aware that children can miss school due to unavoidable illness. Please ensure that you communicate the reasons for your child's absences on the first day of absence. If there are long-term attendance difficulties, then please discuss this with us so that we may support.

**Attendance is an important part of your Child's Education; they cannot learn if not in school.**

**Attendance = Attainment    Everyday Counts!**

You are legally responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day and on time.

Persistent lateness can add up to many days' absence.

Please also be aware that if your child is late to school, after the register has closed, then this will be classed as an absence and further action could be taken against you

6-8 **BEAVERS**

8 - 10½ **cubs**

10½ - 14 **SCOUTS**

14+ **Volunteer**

**Join us.**  
[stokescouts.org.uk/join](http://stokescouts.org.uk/join)

 StokeScouts  @StokeScouts

Summer Street, Stoke



6-8 **BEAVERS**

8 - 10½ **cubs**

10½ - 14 **SCOUTS**

14+ **Volunteer**

Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing. But we also get to hang out with our friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team and taking on new challenges.

**Join us.**  
[stokescouts.org.uk/join](http://stokescouts.org.uk/join)

 StokeScouts  @StokeScouts

Summer Street, Stoke

