

# 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 13: Friday 28th April 2023

From the Headteacher.....

Dear parents/carers,

First can I wish you all a very happy Easter as it continues through to Pentecost, and also further wishes to our families who celebrated Eid last week.

To prepare for the King's Coronation, on Friday 5th May we will be learning about King Charles III's love for the environment and the work that he does around this. *We are therefore asking our children to come to school on that day wearing older clothes to take part in gardening and environmental activities.*

Just a reminder to check the dates where the school will be closed to pupils for Bank holidays and home working for pupils on the Polling/voting day on Thursday.

Have a wonderful bank holiday weekend and enjoy the Coronation of our King when it is here.

*Mrs SM Bowyer*

Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

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

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

**May bank holiday—1st May school closed**

**Thursday 4th May** Polling Day—  
school closed to pupils. School work will be provided.  
Friday 5th May - Children to wear older clothes to take part in a little gardening and support the environmental work of King Charles III.

**King's Coronation— 8th May school closed**

**Half term - 29th May—2nd June**

**School opens Monday 5th June**

**Class Led Worship.** Class parents/ carers invited to attend:

Tuesday 2nd May -2.30pm

Miss Nickless and Year 3.

Monday 5th June - 10.30am

Miss Wardle and year 3/4.

## Prayer

Dear God, We pray for King Charles III and the Queen Consort as they are crowned on their

coronation day. May it be a special day for them, the Royal Family, people in the United Kingdom and across the world. Please give King Charles III and the Queen Consort wisdom and patience as they reign. Bless our country as we welcome these new leaders. In your name,  
Amen.



**Dedication - Courage - Joy**

## Prayer for Sudan

Lord, we know that people are hurting deeply in Sudan and our thoughts are with them. You know the hearts of all involved, and we pray that you will heal their hurts - bringing about peace and reconciliation. Loving Father, we pray for the people of Sudan who have already seen so much devastation in their country. We pray for any of our St. John's family that have family over in Sudan. Give them peace and we ask that they know that their loved ones are safe. Amen

## Beth Johnson Foundation

This week has been intergenerational week. To celebrate this a group of year 4 children went to the foundation to work with some of the elderly clients that attend Beth Johnson. We had a lovely time, the children asked questions about what the clients remember the most about when they were young. The children then took all the information and did a news report. Please see the comments below from the staff.

One gentleman commented on the children's writing and spellings.



I had the great pleasure of running the intergenerational event at Beth Johnson today. Meeting so many interesting people was in itself a lovely experience, but was made even better by the high standards of behaviour and participatory engagement by your students. I cannot commend them enough and, in an age where folk love to criticise educators, I thought you'd prefer to hear some praise. Their behaviour reflects very positively upon the school and its staff. I said thank you at the time, but if you could pass on my words to their parents, I'd be most grateful.

Take care and God bless,  
Alan Barrett - storyteller

The workshop went really well this morning, and your children were delightful, charming and so polite!

Sue Read - Beth Johnson Foundation



## Bikeability

On Tuesday and Wednesday, a group of our Year 5 and Year 4 children got on their bikes and headed out to take on the challenge of Bikeability Levels 1 and 2.

22 children from Year 4 completed the Level 1 qualification, where they learnt how to maintain, handle and control their bike when riding it. They then had to demonstrate these skills by completing a series of challenges and courses set out by the instructor.

There were also 18 children from Year 5, who set out on the main roads in our local community where they faced many challenges such as other road users, pedestrians and many other different obstructions, such as road works.

Both Kelly and Andrew, the instructors from Bikeability, couldn't give enough positive comments about the children's dedication and courage to complete the different challenges that they set for each of the groups.

I would just like to wish all of the children, who took part, a huge congratulations with their achievements and well done for everyone on passing the qualification that they took part in.

Mr Buckley



### Summer Holiday Activities/Places to go

During the parent/carers club on Tuesday, we began to talk about places to go with activities for children.

During the next few weeks if you have any suggestions, please let Mrs Ramsden know and a list will be put in the newsletter ready for the summer holiday, that will give you ideas and places to go

Activity centres

Play centres



zoos

Farms



Parks





## LYME RACING CLUB—ST. JOHN'S and LYME VALLEY PARK

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>

Last week, after a hard working roller session, the children took part in an Easter Egg Hunt around the grounds of St. John's CE(A) Primary School. We will soon be moving over to Lyme Valley Park in a couple of weeks for outdoor cycling. We hope to see your there!



# Information

Can we please ask parents & carers to drive carefully, and slowly when coming into the school grounds. We have had a number of complaints about cars speeding. We would not like any accidents involving other cars or children. Thank you



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.

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.



# **King's Coronation Special**

**Selection of  
Sandwiches and Rolls**

**Mini Sausage Roll  
or Mini Cheese Whirl**

**Pizza Slice**

**Crisps**

**Carrot & Cucumber Sticks**

**Coronation Fairy Cake and  
Mini Shortbread Biscuit**

**Choice of Drink**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**



# 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.



## 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. 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



## 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

## 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>





## 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

