

# The Early Bird

Issue 3: Friday 6th October 2023



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

## From the Headteacher.....

Dear parents/carers,

Can we say huge thank you to Mrs Ramsden for leading us all in the cake sale for the Macmillan

Cancer Support charity. The donations of cakes were overwhelming. Also it was lovely to have parents and young siblings in school to share the cakes and

chatting together. The sale at the end of the day had a queue that was 4 deep! Some very talented

families with so many delicious cakes ...Thank you!

Please see the sample of our children's handwriting. Our children are now using handwriting books in most lessons to support this. We also have included some parent information. We are looking forward to progress our children across the school will make in this.

You will know by now we are having a firework event at school. This will be a great community event to take us into the winter months. If you know of any people who may want to hold a stall, please let the office know. Any donations for our tombola stall will also be greatly welcomed. We are all looking forward to a fun evening.

Finally, we would like to inform you that it will be Mr Riley's funeral on Monday. If you could all keep his family in your thoughts as we say our goodbye to him. He is dearly missed by the school community but we are incredibly grateful that he was part of our school.

Take time with family and friends this weekend.

Mrs SM Bowyer Headteacher

## Dates for your Diary

• Monday 16th October and Tuesday 17th October - Parents' Evening

• October 2nd to 27th October we will be collecting food items for our local foodbank.

Monday 16th October 10.30am - Year 5/6 Harvest worship lead by year 5/6 and Miss Miskiel. Year 5/6 parents you are welcome to join us.

**Thursday 26th October Fireworks**

• Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd

November - Half Term (School closed)

• Monday 6th November - INSET Day (School closed to pupils)

### Trip Payments on Parent Pay

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

We appreciate that sometimes trips and other items have

payment deadlines before

parents' pay days

SO

if you need a little more time, please come and ask at the office, and we'll do our best to help so your child doesn't miss out.

## Year 3 Poem

### Generosity is ...

Encouraging other to be themselves

Never being mean

Entertaining others

Respecting others

Obedying rules and others

Smiling at others

Including others

Teamwork

You first, me last.

**Dedication - Courage - Joy**



## Exciting School Event...

As you are now aware we are holding a fireworks night

*Don't forget to buy your fireworks tickets for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 5-7.30pm*

*Office is cash only or Parent Pay. You are very welcome to buy tickets for family and friends that do not attend St. John's.*

Confirmed stalls so far....

Hot dogs, burgers & chips

Bo & Bean – bubble tea & waffles

Bubbles Candy N Carts – popcorn & candy floss

Fairground rides

Ice-cream man

Bouncy castle

Tombola

Face painting

Glow tattoo's

Refreshments

Glow sticks and bangles available on the night

**If you have prizes for the tombola can you please send them in ASAP.**

It's going to be a GREAT NIGHT!

If you know of any people who may want to hold a stall, please let the office know.

Many Thanks





## Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you for all the donations of cakes for the coffee morning on Friday. As you saw after school we still had plenty left, but it was great that we could sell them all for the charity.

Thank you to those who came to the coffee morning. It was lovely to spend time with you, and we hope you enjoyed it.

We raised £295.01.



**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



## Information about Handwriting

### Letter-join Pupil log-in

Dear Parents,

St John's uses the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website at home on iPads, tablets and computers at home. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.

You will find more guidance on how to use Letter-Join to support your child at home on our school website, along with our handwriting policy.



#### PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk) and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

Username: **dw8161**

Password: **home**

#### PC Browsers:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome
- Safari

Do not use Internet Explorer.

#### IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk) and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

Username:

Swipe code  
(starting at top left):



#### Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome.

#### Choose a Classroom



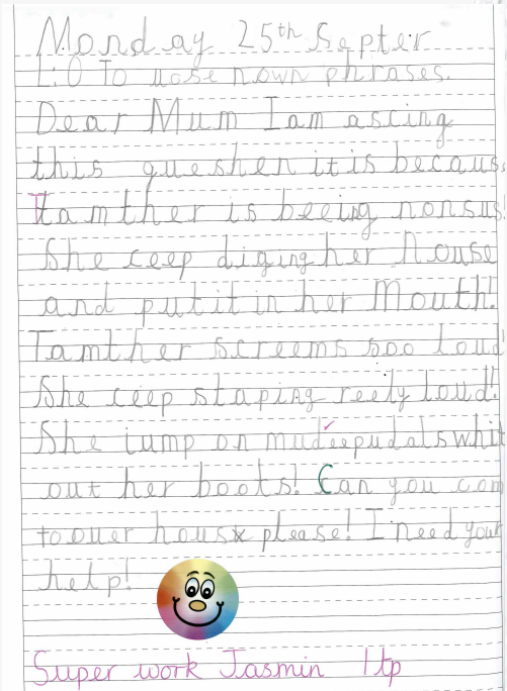
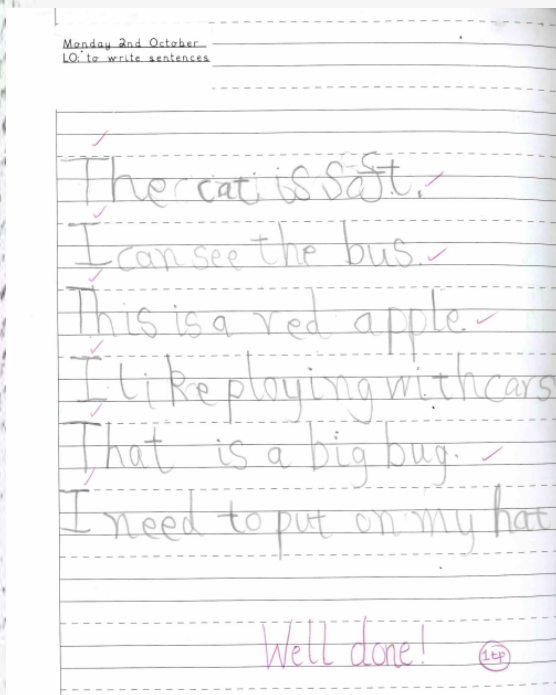
Once logged-in, choose your child's classroom and you can use Letter-join's resources and fun activities to reinforce the handwriting we teach at school. You can trace over the letters and words and play the games on your tablet.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please do not share these log-in details.

**More information will be sent via ParentPay account after this newsletter is sent out.**



## Some examples of our handwriting throughout the curriculum



Super work

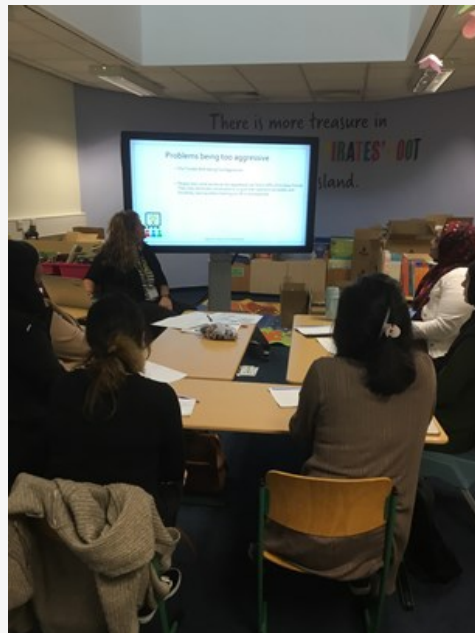
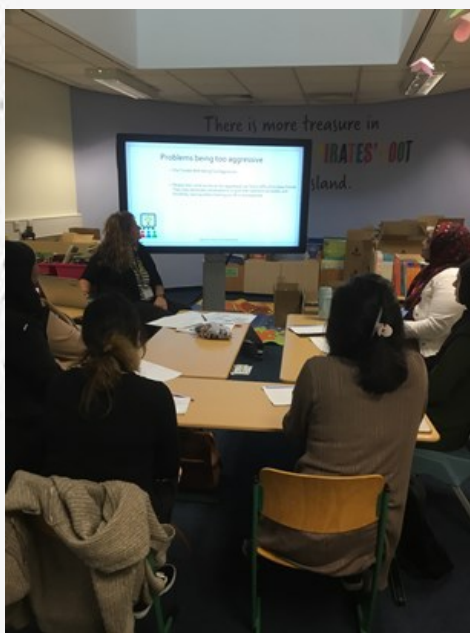
Well done!





## Just Me Course

We have been holding a 'Just Me' course in school. They have just finished session 2 out of 4. This weekly programme of support is designed to build confidence, reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing. Just for parents and carers, the course focuses on confidence building, wellness and self-care strategies, positive thinking, communication and healthy relationships within family networks. The parents are enjoying it so much they have requested another course when this has finished. Letters will be sent out with details.





## St. John's Harvest

*We are now collecting items for the Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank. This will end on Friday 27th October . Please see the list below for items that are needed.*

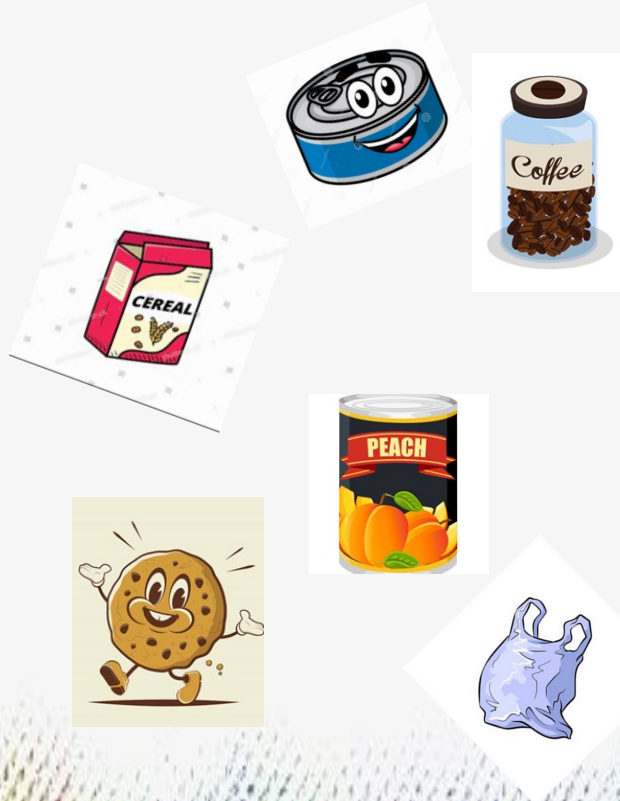
### Information from the foodbank

In 2022/23, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided 2,986,203 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 1,139,553 were distributed for children. As a network, we want to see more people helped out of crisis and fewer people needing foodbanks in the future. That's why The Trussell Trust and local foodbanks are working together to develop new ways to help people out of crisis through programmes like [More Than Food](#).

**OVER 24,000 PEOPLE IN STOKE-ON-TRENT HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOOD.**

**Items needed— they have plenty of baked beans**

- TINNED DESSERTS
- SWEET EXTRA EG CHOCOLATE, SWEETS
- TINNED SOUP
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TEA BAGS
- CEREAL
- TINNED SOUP
- TINNED TOMATO
- JAR PASTA SAUCE
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- RICE PUDDING
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED SPONGE PUDDING
- BISCUITS
- TEA BAGS
- UHT FRUIT JUICE
- UHT MILK
- SAVOURY TREATS
- SQUASH
- COFFEE
- PLASTIC BAGS





## Important attendance information

If your child has 90% or below attendance, they are classed as a persistence absent child. Before October half term your child will come home with their attendance. Please check it on this traffic line to see how much (if any) education has been missed. Every day counts.

# ATTENDANCE

## Why is it important?

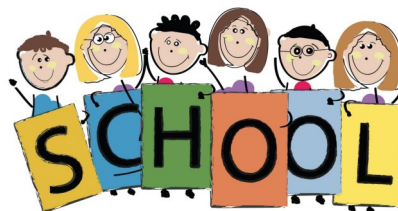
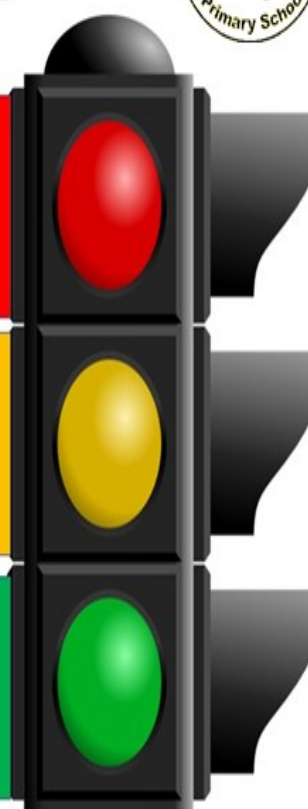


Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

89% or below  
Drastic effect on  
academic achievement

96% - 90%  
Cause for Concern

100% - 97%  
Excellent!

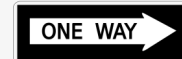




## Information for our new parent/carers

We use a one way system when you bring your child and when collecting them at the end of the day.

You walk around the building, following the path and once you have dropped off your child you continue to walk to the other gate. Staff are on both gates to guide you if needed. This is both morning and afternoon.



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.

All pupils riding to school on scooters and bikes, please dismount before entering the school gates and push bikes and scooters into our sheds. This includes balance bikes.

No thank you



Yes please



Can you please make sure your child is walking before school and at the end of the day. We have speedy pupils that run up and down the path and this can cause an accident, especially if we have pre-school children walking with their parents coming to collect their siblings. Please do not let your children go before you because we have had incidents when parents lose their child because they have run ahead.

We thank you for your co-operation in these matters

