



St John the Baptist C of E (Aided) Primary School

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Newsletter No. 20 – Friday, 24 February 2023

Dear Families,

We have had a good start to our Spring term and our children have quickly settled back into their routines.

Thank you to all of our parents who attended Parents' Evening this week. Parents who managed to meet their child's teacher face-to-face would have received an update on their child's progress and attainment. If you were unable to attend, then your child's progress report will be sent out to you in due course.

Our Year 1 children visited Windlesham House School this week to take part in their Literacy Week. The children had a great time listening to stories read by Year 8 children and getting to know their Year 1 children.



Have a good weekend.

Mrs Sharrock

RED NOSE DAY

This year, Red Nose Day will be held on Friday, 17 March, so all children are invited to dress in **red clothes** and wear their **red noses** (non-uniform day). The School Council will be standing by the front door to collect donations at the start of the day. Thank you for your support.

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNORS

The Governing Body recently submitted itself for an 'External Review of Governance' (ERG), as part of our on-going school development programme. This is something that we have to do from time-to-time (although we haven't done a review since before the Covid shutdown); the best time to do these reviews is sometime before OFSTED are due to do their regular inspection, as this shows publicly to anyone interested that we are carrying out our statutory duties - and it undoubtedly makes it bit easier for OFSTED or the LEA to keep a check on what we are doing.

The LEA can conduct the review or the Diocese and we chose the latter as they have recently appointed a governance support officer whose duties include doing ERGs.

The report produced by the Diocese is available for anyone who may wish to read it, although a less burdensome task might be to read just the Action Plan (table) document that contains all of the report's recommendations and an action list that details targets and timescales. If you would like to have a copy of either of these documents please e-mail the school office: office@stjbps.co.uk

In summary of what is contained in these two documents: I am pleased to say that the review found no major problems and was generally complimentary, but it did make some suggestions about administration of the GB and recommended a change of emphasis for the GB from operational oversight to strategic development of the school's ongoing plans and intents. The latter recommendation reflects a national trend towards making GBs operate in a more strategic manner.

Our GB has always taken a keen interest in operational matters within school. Recently this has been because of the need to induct our new HT and second a Deputy HT into their posts, because of the vacancies caused by staff retirements. We will continue to provide strategic oversight to support day-to-day operations; there is still more staff recruitment to finalise and we have an ongoing (statutory) duty to oversee the progress made with the targets and objectives of our School Development Plan. However, we have set up a sub-committee to draw up a new 5-year strategic plan, which will encompass:

- The objectives of the first and subsequent years (likely) school development plans - this is a statutory requirement on the GB, *whilst taking into consideration:*
- The long-term intents for the school as expressed by the school's leadership team
- Our staff's own aspirations to aid with this process
- Budgetary issues - *a big concern because of the UK government's long-term plans for school funding*
- The capacity and capabilities of our site to accommodate all of the above.

The ERG report did also criticise the GB for not communicating more regularly with parents and I hope that this update and future communications from us will meet that objective and provide all stakeholders with news of our plans and activities. Thank you.

Best wishes.

John Roche - *on behalf of the whole governing body.*



WORLD THINKING DAY

On Wednesday, children and staff who are members of the Girl Guiding and Scouting organisations wore their uniforms to school. We hope you agree that they look very smart and we are extremely proud of them too.



EASTER BONNET PARADE – FRIDAY, 31 MARCH 2023



The Easter Bonnet Parade has been a long-standing tradition at our school. For those of you who are new to the school, children are encouraged to make an Easter Bonnet at home. All children will receive a chocolate egg, with special eggs going to the most creative bonnet in each class, which the PTA have kindly offered to donate.

There are plenty of ideas on the internet, along with the following suggestions to help you:

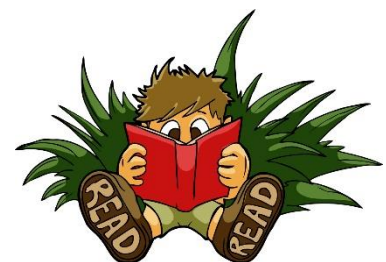
- ❖ A circular band cut out of paper or card, decorated with the Easter theme.
- ❖ Sunhat or baseball cap decorated with chicks, flowers, eggs, etc.
- ❖ Papier mache balloon to make an egg.
- ❖ Cereal boxes made into Easter flower gardens.



We will be inviting parents into school to watch the Easter Bonnet Parade at 9 am.

CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to the parents who have offered to come in and read a book in their child's class next Friday, 3 March at 2.30 pm. We are pleased that you will be taking part in our exciting day.



CHARTWELLS NEW MEAL ORDERING SYSTEM

FSM, UIFSM and paid meals must be selected 10 days in advance - parents have until 11.50 pm on Thursdays to place meals via ParentPay. We are here to help if you have any queries.

If you have ordered a Chartwells meal for your child on a particular day, please do not send in a packed lunch on that day, as the meal will go to waste.



NEWS FROM THE PTA

Thank you to all the little artists for the wonderful creations received, so far, for the Revels Art Competition. If your child would still like to enter, we can still accept pictures on Monday. The winner will be chosen at the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, 28th February at 6pm at The Black Horse skittle alley- come along if you can, everyone is welcome!

The countdown to the Sponsored Bounce is on - Tuesday 14th March is the big day. You should have received the letter and form today. We are hoping that each child can try to raise £20.23 for 2023! **We need the sponsor form back and any monies raised by Monday 13th March. As the form acts as an approval for participating, it is important to return the form, even if you are unable to raise any sponsorship.**

Thank you for helping us fundraise for the new laptop trolley and please pass on our thanks to any kind friends and family who are happy to sponsor this fun event for the children.

The 'I Love You Day Sale' is happening on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th March after school - more information to follow shortly!

Any questions please email findonpta@gmail.com

Many thanks
The PTA Team

PARISH OF FINDON, CLAPHAM AND PATCHING

Please find attached notice of church services in our parish, including information about Messy Church.

Recent Correspondence

- ❖ Email to whole school – Celebrating World Book Day on Friday, 3 March
- ❖ Email to KS2 – Author Visit, Thursday 9 March
- ❖ PTA Sponsored Bounce and Pedal forms

Spare copies are available from the School Office.

DATES FOR 2023

We have added **extra dates in red** to the list below, so please make sure that you regularly check the dates and update your diaries.



Tues 28 Feb	PTA Meeting (6pm Black Horse Skittle Alley)
Thurs 2 Mar	Rowan, Holly & Oak Zoolab visit – please send in £7 contribution
Fri 3 Mar	Celebrating World Book Day
Sun 5 Mar	Choir singing at church (10 am)
Tues 7 Mar	Reception Reading Workshop (2.30pm)
	Messy Church, Findon Village Hall (3.30 – 5.30pm)
Wed 8 Mar	Y1 & Y2 Reading Workshop (2.30pm)
Thurs 9 Mar	KS2 Author Visit
Tues 14 Mar	PTA Sponsored Bounce and Pedal
Thurs 16 Mar	PTA 'I Love You Day' sale (after school) – letter to follow
Fri 17 Mar	Red Nose Day
	PTA 'I Love You Day' sale (after school)
Thurs 30 Mar	Easter Service
Fri 31 Mar	Easter Bonnet Parade
w/c 3 Apr	Easter Holiday
Sun 16 April	PTA 'Grand National Run' – info to follow
Mon 17 Apr	INSET Day
Tues 18 Apr	Back to school
Tues 25 Apr	Bag2School Collection at 9 am
Mon 1 May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 8 May	Bank Holiday – Coronation of King Charles III
May	Year 2 Assessments will be carried out during May
Tues 9 – Fri 12 May	Year 6 National Curriculum Assessments
Fri 12 May	Non-Uniform Day – In aid of Summer Revels
Sat 13 May	Summer Revels
w/c 29 May	Half- term holiday
Mon 5 June	INSET Day
Tues 6 June	Back to school
w/c 12 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
	Y4 Multiplication Tables Check
Fri 16 June	Rowan, Holly & Oak visiting Butser Ancient Farm – details to follow
Mon 26 June	Year 6 Leavers' Service at Chichester Cathedral (1.15 pm)
Fri 30 June	Class Photos