



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

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Newsletter No. 1 – Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Families

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. The children have come back to school looking really smart, eager to see their classmates and teachers and ready to take on the learning for this new term.

We started the week with our Launch Assembly. Our Value this term is Respect. We discussed what this actually means and focused on kindness. The children and adults completed a small activity thinking about how they were going to show kindness this half term.

Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything.

We have attached a uniform reminder sheet to ensure that all our children have the appropriate uniform and PE kit. The uniform policy is under view and once finalised will be shared with our families.

We have had 22 Reception children in school on a part time basis this week and they have settled in really well. They will be going full time next week. Our older children cannot wait to get to know them properly.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

As we have children in school with severe nut allergies, please could we remind all parents that if children are bringing a packed lunch (or a mid-morning snack) to school, it is important that there are no products in the lunch box that contain nuts, including items such as chicken satay, cereal bars, and peanut based chocolate spreads.

Your support with this is very much appreciated.

PARENT FORUM

We are finalising our response to the parent survey and will send this out shortly. One of the aspects of school life that parents felt could be better is communication. In response to this, we would like to set up a Parent Committee who would be the representatives for our parent body. We would meet once a half term to discuss what would be useful to communicate the following term, teaching and learning, policies and other items that would benefit from parent input. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact the office.

Best wishes
Jane Sharrock

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are free for all state school pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 of primary school. These are known as 'universal infant free school meals'.

However, if your family are living on a low income and claiming certain benefits, your child may be able to get a free lunch regardless of their school year (known as 'benefit-related free school meals'). If your child qualifies for benefit-related free school meals, you should apply for this as they will not **only qualify for a free hot meal, but other subsidies including a free school sweatshirt, polo shirt and free milk.** For more information and to see if you are eligible, please follow this link: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/free-school-meals/>

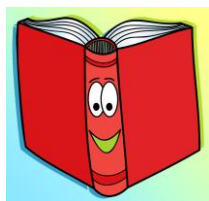
If you are not sure if this applies to you, then please come and talk to Mrs Baird or Mrs Johnson in the school office, who will respond in confidence.

'FINAL CALL FOR O2'

We have 5 more spaces available for any child within Y4-6 who would like to go to the Young Voices O2 Concert in January. Letters are available from the office. Any parents who have not yet completed their order forms need to do so quickly please as we cannot determine costings for the coach until we have this information.



READING AMBASSADORS



If you have a child who has a passion for reading and would like to take an active part in promoting reading in school, then the role of the Reading Ambassador may well be of interest to them. Any child from Y2-6, who would like to be a Reading Ambassador, should see Mrs Wellby for an application form.

REMINDER - BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Before and After School club has started. If you would like to use this provision, please book and pay for each session in advance. Contact the school office – office@stjbps.co.uk if you would like more information. Paper copies of the booking form are available from the office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL



It is time to appoint a new School Council!

The council is made up of two representatives from each year group between Year 1 and Year 6, who help with projects around the school. They have previously worked on projects such as fundraising, writing the school prayer and improving the environment.

If your child would like to apply for the School Council, please ask them to collect a form from Ms Lyle and return it by Monday, 16th September.

YEAR 6 – WSCC BIKEABILITY TRAINING

All Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in a Bikeability training course at our school during week commencing 21st October. The course will be run by West Sussex County Council Cycle training staff. We will shortly be sending out information to Year 6 parents

CONTACTING US - SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS

If you wish to contact the school office or a member of the teaching staff, please use the office email address, which is regularly monitored – office@stjbps.co.uk.

INSET DAYS 2024/2025

We have planned INSET days (staff training days) for this academic year. The school will be closed for children on the following days:

4 November 2025
6 January 2025

22 April 2025
2 June 2025

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

For our new families, we have a tradition where we like to invite the children to wear non-school uniform on their birthday. If their birthday falls at the weekend, or during a holiday they can wear non-school uniform on the Friday before.



HEALTHY BREAKTIME SNACKS



Just a reminder for families who have children in Rowan, Holly and Oak classes, if your child would like a snack during our morning break, then they can bring in fruit or vegetables.

All children in Ash and Willow class receive free fruit or veg daily from the Schools Fruit and Vegetable Scheme but may bring in fruit or veg of their own choice should they wish.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Hi Everyone!

We hope you all had a fantastic summer and are quickly settling back into routine again. A special welcome to our new Reception children and their families, we hope they had a great first week and you enjoyed your 'Survival Kits'!

We have had a much needed break from all things PTA over the summer, so please bear with us as we get back into the swing of things but, as always, there is lots happening over the coming months so do watch this space.

Some of you may have heard about an exciting new fundraising opportunity for our school via Asda rewards. So, if you do any shopping at Asda, please add our school to your rewards app and we will be able to raise funds through all of your purchases between now and November when the scheme comes to an end. Please see the attached poster for more information.

We are hoping to continue our second hand uniform sales throughout the year, so please continue to donate any good quality uniform that your little one has outgrown. Please use our donation bin outside the PTA cupboard in the school car park.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all at our next PTA meeting on Wednesday 18th September at 6pm. Please note that this meeting will take place in the school hall and it will be a great opportunity for some new faces to come and see what we are all about.

Have a great weekend.

Sian, Emma and Wen x

RECENT CORRESPONDENCE:

- Premier Education Recreational Gymnastics Club for Year 1 & Y2 (spaces available)
- Premier Education Netball Club for Year 3 to Year 6 (spaces available)
- Chelsea Football Club (KS2)
- WSCC Year 6 Secondary Transfer information
- Y6 – information from St Andrew's
- Arundel Castle trip letter – Year 1 and Year 2
- Cooking contribution request – Oak Class and Year 2
- Letter about O2 rehearsal days
- Music Clubs with Mrs Wellby

DATES FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

Over the weeks, we will add **new dates/events in red**, so please make sure that you regularly check this list and update your diaries.

Mon 9 September	O2 rehearsal club – (3.20pm – 4.15pm)
Tues 10 September	Y1-Y6 Boys' Vocal Club starts (3.20pm – 4.15pm)
Wed 11 September	KS2 Premier Education Netball Club (3.20pm- 4.20pm)
Thurs 12 September	Y1-Y2 Premier Education Gymnastics Club (3.15pm- 4.15pm)
Friday 13 September	Chelsea FC After-school Club starts Y3 to Y6
Wed 18 September	PTA meeting in the school hall (6pm)
Tues 1 October	Y1-Y2 trip to Arundel Castle
Friday 4 October	Astracolour photos
Mon 7 October	KS2 trip to Wakehurst Place (letter to follow)
Wed 16 October	Harves Festival Service led by Holly Class (9am)