



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

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Headteacher: Mrs J Sharrock

No. 9 - Friday, 11th November 2022

Dear Families

We have had another busy week with children working hard and doing lots of learning.

On Wednesday, we had an invasion of Vikings and Anglo Saxons. The children had a brilliant day and you could feel a real buzz around KS2. Well done to the teachers for organising a great event!

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week – the theme this year is ‘Reach Out’ and it will be based around us all being unique and the fact that we should celebrate this. **The week will kick off with ‘Odd Socks Day’ on Monday 14th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Feel free to send your children into school on Monday wearing odd socks.**

The Attendance Policy has now been finalised, approved by Governors and uploaded to the school website. Updates will be continually given regarding key points. I would like to make you aware of 2 important sections.

- **Reporting to parents/carers**

The school will regularly inform parents about their child’s attendance and absence levels at the end of every term. If attendance becomes a concern, the school will inform parents half termly.

- **Approval for term time absence**

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher’s discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for.

We define ‘exceptional circumstances’ as **rare, significant, unavoidable** and **short**.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

We are sad to announce that Mrs Penfold will be leaving us, later on this month, to pastures new, to concentrate on developing her bag making business.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Jane Sharrock

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CHILDREN IN NEED – BE SPOTACULAR!

We will be supporting BBC Children In Need next Friday, 18th November and would invite children come to school dressed in spotty clothes and to bring in a cash donation.



ROWAN, HOLLY AND OAK 'WOW' DAY



Wow, what a day! The Key Stage 2 Viking day was amazing. The Rainbow Theatre included every child in a dramatisation of Viking life, which was both entertaining and informative. Following this, the children completed a variety of activities including making clothes peg dragons, drawing Viking cartoons, making 'delicious' Viking bread and testing their knowledge in a Viking quiz.

The Chair of the Governors, John Roche and a previous (Danish) parent, Kim Bang Sorenson also talked to each class about the impact of Norse vocabulary on the English Language. This was an incredibly valuable experience for all the children.

Thank you from the KS2 Team

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS - MESSAGE FROM JOHN ROCHE,

This week we had the Wow day on Vikings and I was privileged to be involved in sessions with all three classes in KS2, as well as with the quiz. On behalf of all the Governors, we would like to say well done to all who participated in this wonderful school day: to the staff who worked so hard to prepare this special event; to all the pupils who were so inter-active, attentive and well behaved throughout our in-class sessions; and to all the parents who did such a wonderful job of dressing their children for the occasion.

The latter point goes to show how lucky we are to have parents so engaged with what the school are doing. Thank you to you all.

MAGISTRATES COURT PLAY – REPORT BY OSCAR AND FREDDIE



On Wednesday 3rd November, a volunteer Magistrate came to our school and taught us about magistrates, the law, and the Crown Court. Year 6 did a play where John Smith was accused of stealing a radio from Bill Moovit and his co-worker Tom Heevhoe. We all had our own roles, for example, we had two court ushers, a defence solicitor and magistrates. The magistrates, at the end of the trial, went out of the room and decided if he was guilty or not. Before the play, the volunteer had shown us a model of a magistrate's court and told us about the ages when we would be responsible for various situations. It really surprised us that you are illegally irresponsible at only 10 years old! The visitor also gave us cards and we had to decide whether the crime would be handled by the Magistrates' Court or the Crown Court. It was a great way of learning and we it was really enjoyable.

EARLY YEARS, KS1 AND KS2 COOKING SESSIONS

To support with whole school cooking this year, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 per child to enable us to purchase the necessary ingredients for the cooking sessions.

Please send in cash to the school office, to allow us to purchase the ingredients at the supermarket. Your continued support would be very much appreciated.



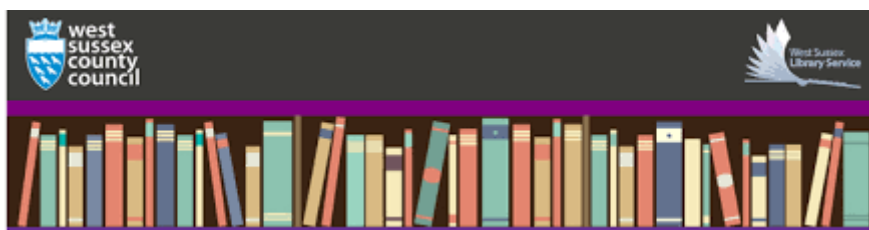
COST OF LIVING SUPPORT AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Libraries have always been warm and welcoming places that everyone can visit free of charge and with no questions asked. This winter West Sussex Libraries are making an extra effort to support our communities.

Families can drop into any one of the 36 public libraries in West Sussex to access **FREE**:

- books for all ages on a range of different topics
- study facilities, computers and wifi
- events and activities for adults and children (jigsaws, puzzles, games and more)
- general information and signposting to a range of partners for help and advice. For example health and wellbeing, or financial advice.

To find your local library or for more information, help and support, visit the [Cost of Living Website](#)



SING AND SIGN

Mrs Mac and I have great fun teaching the children British Sign Language through singing and stories. The children seemed to have really enjoyed themselves and it is lovely to hear that they are using their new skill/ language at home. I would like to thank Mrs Mac for giving up her time and helping us learn such a wonderful skill. With December, being a very busy month with many commitments going on, Sing and Sign will be coming to an end. Our last session will be Monday, 28th November.

Sing and sign will not continue in the Spring Term, but may be back in the Summer Term.

Miss Cove and Mrs Mac

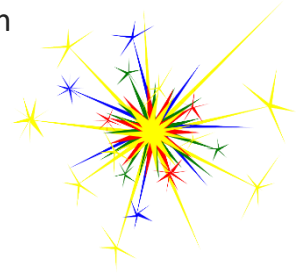
CONSTRUCTION CLUB

Construction club has been a huge success this half term, but will sadly be ending at the end of November. This is due to other commitments in the month of December, for example the disco and the nativity. The last session will be on Friday 25th November. Please note that Construction Club will not run in the Spring Term.

Mrs Lorne and Miss Cove

PTA NEWS

Fireworks tickets still available for the rearranged, brand new low noise, event on Sunday 20th November from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Please visit our online sum up shop, via the link in the PTA Facebook group, **OR** we can send a payment link to an email or mobile number **OR** visit the Village Shop, Dee Dees or Michael Jones in Findon Valley - we hope to see you there!

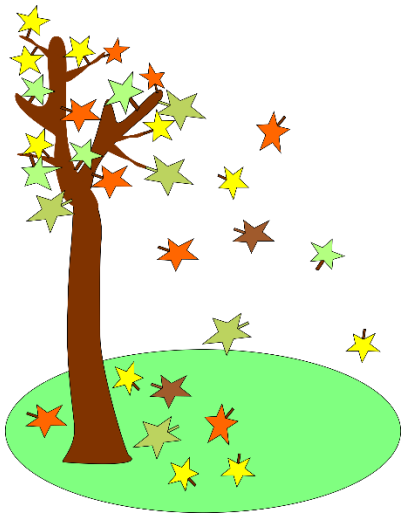


PTA Amazon Smile Account

With Black Friday and Christmas coming, please support our school each time you shop with Amazon. Use the link below and also share with friends and family too! We currently have 51 supporters and we are sure there are more of you out there who shop with Amazon. This is a easy way of fundraising for our school. Thank you.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1062912-0>

Any questions, email PTAfindon@gmail.com



Dates for Autumn Term 2022

(New dates in red)

Tues 8th Nov – Mon 14th Nov

Mon 14th Nov – Fri 18th Nov

Fri 18th Nov

Sun 20th Nov

Wed 23rd Nov

Thurs 24th Nov

Sun 4th Dec

Mon 5th Dec

Thurs 8th Dec

Fri 9th Dec

Tue 13th Dec

Wed 14th Dec

Thurs 15th Dec

Thurs 15th Dec

Fri 16th Dec

Sun 18th Dec

Book Fair

Anti-Bullying Week & Road Safety Week

BBC Children in Need - **SPOTACULAR**

PTA FIREWORKS at 4.30 pm

Bag2School Collection at 9 am

Year 6 Heights and Weights

Findon Village Light up the Square – Choir (5.30 pm)

PTA Event – Elfridges (details to follow)

Oak Class Guitar Concert- parents welcome (11 am)

Christmas Disco – info to follow

Ash / Willow Nativity to parents (2pm)

Ash / Willow Nativity to parents (6pm)

Christmas Service (Venue TBC)

Findon Village Walking Nativity – Choir (6.15 pm)

Christmas Party / Father Christmas visit

9 Lessons and Carols at St John the Baptist Church –

Choir (4 pm)