



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

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### Newsletter No. 19 – Friday, 10th February 2023

Dear Families,

We have come to the end of the first half of our Spring term. The weeks have flown by and the children have done a huge amount of learning.

The Maths Subject Leader, Mrs Griffiths and I have had a chance to observe lessons and look at maths books to see the progress in learning. Children have been focusing on place value and using different methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide.

The School Council led the assembly on Monday and launched a campaign on recycling and saving energy. They did a great job of getting the message across and getting us all to think about making a difference.

If you would like to explore this topic further, we have been using resources from [www.wasterbuster.co.uk](http://www.wasterbuster.co.uk)

Finally, after 17 years at St John's, Mrs Pollard has made the decision to retire at Easter so she can spend more time with her family and friends.

Mrs Pollard has been a valuable asset to our school supporting many of our families and children. She has worked with dedication, understanding, empathy and love to ensure the children that she has worked get the best chances to achieve the best outcomes.

Although I have only known Mrs Pollard for a short time, it has been a pleasure to work with her. On behalf of all the staff, parents, children and governors, I wish Mrs Pollard the very best and no one is more deserving of having a long, happy and relaxing retirement. Enjoy this new chapter of your life. You have most definitely earned it!

Best wishes.  
Mrs Sharrock

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH FROM MRS STONER



### [Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling](#)

Those who know me will not be surprised that I am championing Harry Potter as one of my books of the month. I fell under the spell of the wonderful wizarding books as the second volume, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, was released. After that, I was enchanted. Each time the next edition was published, I would read each book again. If you have not seen the films, read the books; if you have seen the films, read the books – yes, they are even better than the movies.

### [We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen](#)

I was torn, when it came to choosing a picture/ younger reader book – *The House at Pooh Corner* by A.A, Milne, *Paddington Bear* by Michael Bond, *The Old Bear* books. I realised there was a definite theme and so, I thought I would set the child off on 'a Bear Hunt' – *We're going on a Bear Hunt* being a huge favourite of mine, as well as my children, and grandchildren. On the Book of the Month display, there are quiz sheets for the children to compete, ideally with a KS2 pupil working with a KS2 child to find the fictional bears that are hidden around the school. Happy hunting - "You're not scared".

## WORKSHOPS

Thank you to our parents who have attended recent educational workshops and given valuable feedback to us.

## CHOIR CLUB - REMINDER



Choir Practice with Mrs Stoner will be recommencing, after school, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February. We will be preparing for a service at St John the Baptist Church on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am, when our choir will be opening the service with songs and hymns. In addition, we will be working on music for the school's Easter Service on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We look forward to as many children from KS2 and Year 2 as possible joining the choir, as we know that there are many children at St John's, who have lovely voices.

## MATHS CHALLENGE

Last Friday, our team of three Year 5 boys, (Blake, Noah and Ewan) had a very successful day at the 'World Mathematics Championships' at St Oscar's. They truly did us proud.

There were three challenges. Firstly, a logic/problem solving 'duel' involving matchsticks. Next, was an innovation challenge where they had to make a bridge between two tables using very basic and limited materials (spaghetti, paper etc). Their bridge was then tested. The one that could hold the maximum number of weights would win. Finally, there was the 'lightening' challenge where they had to answer a maths question correctly with a runner safely delivering it into the judges' hands before the next question was given. Some of the questions were staggeringly hard - Mrs Sheikh was really impressed with their resilience to keep going!

They came 1st out of 27 teams for the innovation challenge. They named their invention 'Baptist Bridge'! Before theirs was tested, the winning bridge had managed to hold 16 weights... Baptist Bridge, however managed an incredible 29! The boys received a medal and a prize at the end and absolutely loved their day.



## SCIENCE VISIT

On Monday, the Observatory at Herstmonceux brought their big dome to show the children. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took turns going into the dome and going on a journey in space. They had great fun discovering stars and planets and learnt many new facts. They then followed this up in class afterwards. Thank you to all the parents for supporting the visit, the children thoroughly enjoyed it and it really enhanced their learning.



## VERY PROUD OF OUR SPORTS TEAMS

We are extremely proud to share with you an email that we received yesterday afternoon, from a parent, following netball and football matches. We would love you to share these amazing comments with the children.

*“I just wanted to send a quick email to praise your school sports teams after this afternoon's sporting fixtures.*

*I came to watch the football as my son was playing for Georgian Gardens and I wanted to pass on to you what great ambassadors for your school the children were.*

*The football team performed admirably in a very hard-fought match, and I was really impressed with their comradery and support of each other as well as their determination and resilience. I did not see as much of the netball match, however after the conclusion of their own fixture, they rushed to the side-lines of the football to cheer on their classmates. This was a heart-warming display and outlined the friendships that have been built at your school.*

*A special thanks also to the referee who refereed the game knowledgeably and with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship.*

*The children were a credit to the school and I hope this email reaches you in time to praise them before the end of the half term.”*



## WORLD THINKING DAY

On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, children who are members of the Girl Guiding and Scouting organisation can wear their uniforms to school to celebrate ‘World Thinking Day’. This includes children who are in Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Thinking Day is an annual event, celebrated worldwide.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> February was chosen as the date for Thinking Day because it was the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting Movement, and Olave Baden-Powell, who was the first World Chief Guide.

## **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.**

## **PTA NEWS**

The Revels countdown is on! Remember to add the date to your diaries - Saturday 13th May. We hope that the children will have already come home with a Revels art competition letter and entry form. We hope they are up for getting creative over half term and designing the potential front cover for the Revels programme - We cannot wait to see the pictures!

A little reminder that outside the PTA cupboard, (which is at the back of the car park, under the metal stairs) there are two large bins, which are labelled - one can take BagstoSchool donations and the other takes old school uniform, so please feel free to use these at any time.

Please email any queries/suggestions/questions to [findonpta@gmail.com](mailto:findonpta@gmail.com)

Happy half term to you all and enjoy the break.

Many thanks,

The PTA

### **Recent Correspondence**

- **PTA Revels Competition**
- **Parent Consultation slips returned to parents, with times**
- **YR Reading Workshop letter**
- **Y1 & Y2 Reading Workshop letter**
- **Letter to whole school – Celebrating World Book Day**

**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.

w/c 13 Feb	Half-term holiday
Mon 20 Feb	Back to school
Mon 20 Feb	Y2 and KS2 Choir Club (3.20 – 4.15 pm)
Tues 21 Feb	Parents Evening (3.30 – 6.30 pm)
Wed 22 Feb	Year 1 visiting Windlesham House School – Please return consent slips Parents Evening (excl. Rowan Class) (3.30 – 5.00 pm)
	<b>World Thinking Day</b>
Thurs 23 Feb	Rowan Class Parents Evening (3.30 – 5.00pm)
<b>Tues 28 Feb</b>	<b>PTA Meeting (6pm Black Horse Skittle Alley)</b>
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)
<b>Tues 7 Mar</b>	<b>Reception Reading Workshop (2.30pm)</b>
<b>Wed 8 Mar</b>	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 Reading Workshop (2.30pm)</b>
Thurs 9 Mar	KS2 Author Visit
Fri 17 Mar	Red Nose Day – details to follow
Thurs 30 Mar	Easter Service – venue to be confirmed
Fri 31 Mar	Easter Bonnet Parade – details to follow
w/c 3 Apr	Easter Holiday
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
Mon 26 June	Year 6 Leavers’ Service at Chichester Cathedral (1.15 pm)
Fri 30 June	Class Photos