



3 November 2017

No 8

### ***WEEKLY NEWSLETTER***

Dear Parents

What a great week back! We have finally taken delivery of the remaining furniture for the library, re-stocked shelves and are ready to go. We will be celebrating the official opening of the library next Thursday, 9 November, during the day, but we would love all parents to be involved after school where we will be holding a Scholastic book sale in the library, and the PTA will be serving milk and cookies!

Also, with regard to next Thursday's official library opening, can I please draw your attention to the note from the PTA, under our "news items for this week" section at the foot of this newsletter regarding a new fundraising initiative, and a great way to set positive examples to our children.

Through very generous donations from yourselves, and last year's Badger Class, not only have we been able to buy furniture but also we have purchased a large number of new sets of books for Guided Reading Groups. We have a great system going of a fantastic range of different texts with a wide variety of differentiated questions and challenging higher order questions. Children's reading at St John's is excellent, with 90% of our children achieving Exp/Greater Depth in reading in 2016/17. However, as a school, we believe there is enormous value in discussion, questioning, hearing and using a rich, wide vocabulary and the undoubted benefit in extending and expanding wonderful imaginations! I could keep going but, building on all these skills and listening to each other in groups, is just a perfect way to learn. A massive *thank you* to all those of you who have made this possible.

Whilst I see how important it is that families spend quality time with each other in relaxed, "un-time scheduled" situations, I would please urge you to do all you can to ensure that holidays are only taken during school holidays. Children and teachers do find it a challenge getting up to speed again when children return to school and, of course, valuable whole class learning experiences have been missed.

Can I please draw your attention to a talk being given by Dr Aric Sigman, on 13 November, at 6pm at Waverley Abbey School. The talk will be about screen dependency and, apparently, Dr Sigman is a really interesting speaker! All parents are welcome!

.../...

Can I also remind everyone that now the weather is getting colder, children should have a coat in school every day please - thank you.

I do wish you all a happy, crisp weekend.

Ginnie

Dates Box:

Thurs, 9 Nov	11.00am 2.15pm	Official Library Opening Day Rabbit Class "Storytime" + "Stay & Share" - all Yr R parents welcome
w/c Mon, 13 Nov		"Children in Need" week - further details to follow
Wed, 15 Nov	2.15pm	Fox Class Assembly + "Stay & Share"
Thurs, 16 Nov	from 8.30am 2.15pm	Photographer in school - further details to follow Badger Class Assembly + "stay & Share"
Fri, 24 Nov	early pm	PTA film night - further details to follow
Wed, 6 Dec	4.00pm- 6.00pm	PTA Christmas Fair

News items for this week:

PTA Christmas Fair - a request please for any not too-loved, clean, soft toys to be donated for the Yr 1 stall - there'll be a box in the children's entrance for your donations - thank you!

Dear Parents

**St John's Parent Book Swap Club - "Grown-Ups Read Too!"**

To celebrate the launch of the new library, St John's PTA would like to introduce our parent book-swap club: "Grown-Ups Read Too!"

The aim of the club is for us mums and dads to exchange our favourite books, encouraging shared knowledge of the best reads, whilst saving our pennies AND raising money for the school! There is also the benefit of reviewing the books in the playground (chat material) and writing reviews for the grown-ups' notice board in the library. We are sure the children will enjoy sharing their new library with us and it sets a great example for our kids to see their parents reading and discussing books, just like them!

To join the club, simply bring your favourite book(s) from home that you think other parents will enjoy. Pop your name, the date and your rating out of 10 on the inside front cover. Donate a pound to the money box, pop your book in the box and you are a member!

You are then welcome to borrow any other books from the box for just £1 a time. Once finished, add your name, the date and rating out of 10 below the last name and return. Then repeat!

When inspired, please do submit your book reviews for the notice board to [sianlgray@yahoo.com](mailto:sianlgray@yahoo.com).

We hope you will find this club useful and never need to search out the ideal reading material again! The box and money pot will be found in the library from Thursday, 9 November.

Best wishes  
The PTA Team