

9 February 2018

No 21

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents

Half-term has finally arrived and I'm sure that we are all looking forward to a break. It has been a lovely week, with the children in Fox and Badger classes sharing their learning in their assemblies. Both classes were brilliant and it was great to see confident children who enjoyed performing to an audience.

### **Reading**

As you know, reading has been a focus for us, especially over the last couple of weeks. Although it is important to celebrate when children progress through the various stages of reading and move on to more complex texts, the most successful readers understand and are able to interpret the texts being read at age-specific stages. The best support parents can give is to ensure that their children are engaging with and understanding the text and not just demonstrating an ability to voice the words they see on the page.

After half term, we will be sending home some information on the type of questions that you can ask your children when you have listened to them read. These questions will help you check that their comprehension skills are being developed. At the end of Yr 2, children's outcomes in reading are mainly judged on their comprehension skills so it would be so helpful for us to work together throughout the school for this to become a natural and familiar routine.

### **Help with reading**

We are very keen for our children to read with as many individuals as possible. If you are able to help hear readers and make a difference to the children's reading experiences, please volunteer. One option might mean coming to school half an hour earlier than normal at the end of the day and listening to children read. If you can't manage the end of the school day, other opportunities might be possible. Please can you let me know by completing the slip at the end of the newsletter if you are able to help. Your help would be so much appreciated and it would make a real difference to our children's enjoyment of reading.

### **Worship Day at St John the Evangelist Church in Churt**

Two members of our Worship Committee, Jonty and Mabel, represented our school on Monday during an event led by the Diocese. The children had an opportunity to work with peers from other local church schools and think about how we plan and conduct our Collective Worship in school. Jonty and Mabel were very reflective in their responses and I was very proud of their contributions.

### **Values Day**

This week, Rabbits, Foxes and Badgers had the opportunity to reflect on the Christian values of Love and Compassion that we have focussed on this half-term. Some children focused on paying compliments to each other and shared with friends what they loved about them and considered their special qualities. Some children also considered what kindness means and how they show this every day. The responses from the children were considerate and reflective.

### **Sports Questionnaire**

Please see the attached questionnaire that we ask that you complete and return to school after half-term.

### **Mrs Deborah Jones**

Today we say goodbye to one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Deborah Jones, who has worked at our school for fourteen years. We wish her well for the future and thank her for all she has contributed to our children's learning at St John's.

.../...

This half-term has flown by and I would like to say a special thank you for making me feel so welcome in our very special and lovely community. I hope you will all have a lovely half-term holiday with your children and families and we all look forward to welcoming you back on Monday, 19 February.

Best wishes  
Gillian Morris

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#### Dates Box:

w/c Mon, 12 Feb to Fri, 16 Feb	Half-term	
Mon, 19 Feb	8.30am	First day of 2nd ½ of Spring Term
w/c Mon, 26 Feb	Book Week	
Fri, 2 Mar	Mufti day – children to come to school dressed as a book character	
Mon, 5 Mar	3.30pm	Parents' Evening
Thurs, 8 Mar	4.30pm	Parents' Evening
Fri, 9 Mar	2.30pm	Mother's Day Assembly in the hall – all welcome
Mon, 19 Mar	TBC	Farnham Festival – further details to follow
Wed, 21 Mar	2.30pm	Rabbit Class Assembly + "Stay & Share" in the hall
Fri, 23 Mar	Comic Relief Day – further details to follow	
Sun, 25 Mar	PTA event – Bunny Fun Run – further details to follow	
Thurs, 29 Mar	9.00am	Easter Service – further details to follow
	2.00pm	School closes for the Easter break
Mon, 16 Apr	8.30am	First day of the Summer Term

#### News items for this week:

**Online booking/payment facility:** as you know, Mrs Marshall and Miss Blagden completed the last part of their training this week in preparation for everyone having the facility to book and pay for school trips, uniform, Hedgehog Club places, etc, online. We are hoping that the system will go live shortly after half-term and will keep you updated with progress on this.

**"Craze of the Week":** we are looking at introducing some new lunchtime activities for the children and, if you should be having a bit of a "spring clean" over half-term, we would be very grateful for any donations of the following. Many thanks everyone.

- Dressing up accessories (masks, hats, etc, but no weapons or "full outfits" please – just the accessories!)
- Games such as *Top Trumps* or *Snakes & Ladders*
- Small world figures, eg, superheroes
- Puppets

**Vacancies:** please take a look at the *About Us* page on our website for further information about our current vacancies.

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**Please return to the school office by Friday, 23 February**

Name: .....

Child's class: .....

	Yes / No?	Day/s available?
Reading in the afternoons at, say, approx 2.30pm		
Reading at some other time		

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Dear Parents

### Sports Questionnaire

Some of you have expressed an interest in seeing our school provide more extra-curricular sports activities at the end of the school day. It would be appreciated if you could complete the following questionnaire so that we can further explore opportunities due to interest.

Please can you return the form to the school office after half-term on Monday, 19 February.

Many thanks.  
Gillian Morris

	Response
1 Do you feel the PE and school sport opportunities offered at St Johns C of E Infant School are good or adequate or poor?  Please can you explain your response?	
2 Does your child/ren enjoy PE at school?  What do they enjoy? What do they dislike?	
3 Does your child participate in any of our extra-curricular sports clubs?	
4 If there were opportunities to put other sports clubs in place, what would you like offered?	
5 Additional comments:	

Your child's class: .....