# Purple Pages



Weekly Newsletter: 14th March 2025

Our School Christian Vision: 'Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring.' Rooted in Matthew 7 24 - 25: 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.'



## CHRISTIAN VALUE OF THE TERM: HOPE



## Message from the Headteacher

What a week we've had at St John's!

On Monday we waved goodbye to some of our Year Five children who have spent the week exploring Prague with children from other schools in the Trust. They've had an amazing week working closely with a Primary School, doing a city tour to learn more about the history of Prague, as well as visiting the zoo. We look forward to them returning to school next week to tell us all about it.

We were honoured to host Bishop Michael on Tuesday as he did his tour of the community. Whilst he was with us he met with our Ethos group to find out more about what they do in school as well as joining us for our Collective Worship. A huge thank you to the Ethos group, who told us more about the history of our school, and the choir for their wonderful singing.

Yesterday, we hosted our annual STEM Fayre which was a huge success! We had over 95 entries, a huge variety of projects which showed the passion our children have for STEM activities. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the children in creating their projects.

We have also continued our book week activities this week with our book fair being delivered and the children enjoying their bedtime stories last night.

I know this is an extremely busy term for parents so thank you again for all your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs West-Gaul

# **Dates For Your Diary**

<u>March</u>

20th Year 6 SATS Meeting 3.15pm

<u>April</u>

1st & 2nd Parents Evenings 2nd Easter Services:

9am: Seedlings, Birch, Elm, Holly, Oak, Rowan, Willow.

1.45pm: Acorns, Ash,

Chestnut, Hazel, Maple, Pine,

Sycamore.

4th PTA Non-Uniform Day

End of Term 4

#### **Local History Expert Sought**

After May half term, Year Six will be studying the local history/geography of our area. It would be great if a local expert would be happy to come in (for free) to talk to the children about the local history.

If anyone is willing to volunteer to talk with Year Six, please contact the School Office.

Thank yo	ou.		

#### **Break-time Snacks**

Please be reminded that we encourage children to eat a healthy snack at break time, for example fruit, breadsticks, cheese, vegetables, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# **Awards and Achievements**

Well done to all our pupils who have achieved an award.

	Star of the Week	Star Readers
Acorns	Presley Sophia	Sofia Ronnie
Ash	Zac	Aden
Birch	Paisley	Lily
Chestnut	Poppy-Rose	Harvey
Elm	Lexi	Mila
Hazel	Rosie	Aoife
Holly	Jake	Evie
Maple	Kobe	Tommy H
Oak	Darcey	Jessica
Pine	Charlie	Lyra
Rowan	Eva	Harper
Sycamore	Dylan Dougie	Phoebe
Willow	Priscilla	Jacob





# PE Stars of the Week

Year 6 Sycamore - Mason F

Year 6 Willow - 'Class star of the day'

Year 5 Rowan - Finley

Year 5 Pine - N/A

Year 4 Oak - Charlie

Year 4 Maple - Flynn

Year 3 Holly - Freddie

Year 3 Hazel - George

Year 2 Chestnut - Harry

Year 2 Elm - Daisy and Ted

Year 1 Ash - Eleanor and Jensen

Year 1 Birch - Niamh and Oscar.

Well done!

#### **Tesco Collection**

Don't forget if you are doing your weekly shop at Tesco's over the next few weeks, we are taking part in the Stronger Starts project.

With the money raised we are hoping to purchase some music technology equipment to enhance our curriculum offer - so pop as many blue tokens in the tube as possible!



Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have downloaded the Arbor Parent Portal - over 3/4 of you have, so that is brilliant!

For those who have not yet, it is really important that you do so by the end of this week, because:

- From Monday 17 March, any urgent messages about your child (head bumps, late return from a trip, school closure due to extreme weather etc) will be sent via the app as a message that will show as a notification on your mobile device
- Bookings for Parents Evenings (1st & 2nd April) will be bookable on the Portal next week, so you will need to have the app downloaded to get your preferred appointment time
- You can see immediately if there are any changes needed to the information we hold about your child - and let us know instantly the changes required
- This will be the main method of reporting absences
- We will not be using ParentMail at all from Monday 17 March
- This will eventually (expected next school year) be where you will book school meals and pay for items such as trips (replacing ParentPay).

#### **Medical Conditions - Parent Portal/App**

If you need any help accessing the Arbor Portal, or if you have not received your 'Welcome to Arbor' email with your log-in details, please contact the office: office@stjohns.mnsp.org.uk

For those who have downloaded the app - we have noticed a blip in the system: if your child has more than one medical condition, only one will show on the app, even though we have more on your child's profile - please be assured that we are aware, though your changes may not show. This has been raised with our IT support, and will hopefully be resolved very soon!

#### Farewell to Chrystal, Welcome Jess!

We'd like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Chrystal Stevens, who is stepping down as Chair of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Chrystal has dedicated an incredible amount of time and energy to our school community, and her contributions have been invaluable. Her passion and commitment have made a real difference to the lives of our children and the overall school experience. We thank her wholeheartedly for her hard work and dedication.

While we are sad to see Chrystal go, we are delighted to announce that Jess Hart has been appointed as our new PTA Chair. Jess is eager to get started and is already planning for upcoming events. She is keen to hear from parents and welcomes any ideas or suggestions you may have.

Please join us in thanking Chrystal for her outstanding service and in welcoming Jess to her new role. We look forward to working with Jess and the entire PTA team to support our school and our children.

**Get Involved!** The PTA is always looking for new members and volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Jess Hart at stjohnsmsnpta@outlook.com.



The Book Fair will continue at St. John's until Monday 17th March.

# Reading in Next Steps Nursery



At Next Steps this week we have been looking at the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle.

Following our topic this term 'In the garden', the children have enjoyed talking about minibeasts that they are familiar with.

During the story, the caterpillar eats a lot of foods and gets very big! We've then talked about the cocoons that caterpillars build, modelling other names for them such as a chrysalis'.

At the end of the story, the children were excited to see the beautiful butterfly, using colour and shape language to describe what they'd seen.

# Citizenship and Character Award



This week, some of our children have been working towards their Citizenship and Character Award by making dream catchers (Wellbeing Me). This is really easy to do and only requires a pipe cleaner, some string or wool, some beads and some feathers. There are plenty of simple instructions available with a quick Google search!

Dream catchers have their origin in North American Indian culture. People hung their dream catchers above their beds to protect them from bad dreams. They are really fun to craft and make beautiful bedroom decorations, so why not have a go yourself!





# **STEM Fair**

## Our STEM Fair Winners!

# EYFS/KS1

1st	2nd	3rd
Alfie	Hugh and Fletcher	Leo

# KS2

1st	2nd	3rd
Lucy	Arianna and Aurelia	Harry















## Mr Smith's Running Challenge 2025

This year, I have decided to complete my first marathon in London and in the build up will be doing two half marathons in Bath and Reading. I am raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund which supports British soldiers, veterans and their families. I have a very ambitious goal to raise £2,000 so any donations would be enormously appreciated. I will be completing the following events:

- Bath Half Marathon 16th March (Bib Number: 2678)
- Reading Half Marathon 23rd March
- London Marathon 27th April

https://events.armybenevolentfund.org/s/22801/37738/e

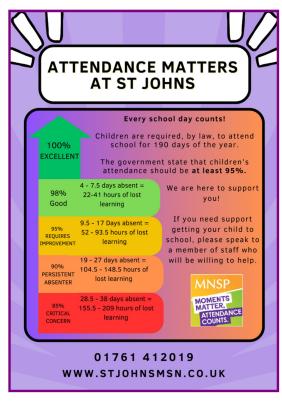
I look forward to seeing many of you at the Bath Half and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mr Smith









Inspired by the iconic Parisian Waiters' Race (first held in 1914), Bath is holding its own hilarious Waiters' Race around the Royal Crescent! Turn up at 10.45am on Monday 7 April for this spectacle of over 120 apron-wearing, waiters and waitresses, armed with trays of drinks (non-breakable!) and a bun each, as they run a team relay race around this historic site. The winner is the team who crosses the finish line first, so come along and cheer on the crazy waiting-teams as they raise money to support charity, Hospitality Action



