Together in love we learn with
Respect, Hope, Friendship and Forgiveness.

Newsletter Autumn Term

Friday 4th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and enjoyed some valuable time together with family and friends. This week we have welcomed all the children in Years 1 - 6 back into school and we look forward to our new starters in Reception starting next week. A warm welcome to Miss Lunat, our new teacher in Year 3 and also Mrs Khan, an ETA who will be supporting children in class and has worked at St John's in the past. Welcome to our St John's family! The staffing for the following year is as follows:

Red Class - Reception - Mrs Rowbotham
Orange Class - Year 1 - Mrs Brunton
Yellow Class - Year 2 – Mr Toon and Miss Houlihan
Green Class - Year 3 – Miss Lunat
Blue Class - Year 4 - Mrs Wilks and Mrs Wood
Violet Class - Year 5 - Mr Clarkson
Bronze Class - Year 5/6 – Mrs Edwards
Silver Class - Year 6 - Mr McKinna and Mrs Banham.

Miss Ryaz is currently still on maternity leave until October so statutory Planning, Preparation and Assessment time for teachers will be covered by a temporary member of staff Miss K Hussain or Mrs Banham for Year 6 until Miss Ryaz's return.

It has been a very busy week as usual and we look forward to our first full week next week. As always, if you could spare 10 minutes a week to read through the newsletter sent every Friday via ClassDojo that would be really helpful as it is our main way of communicating urgent messages and information about upcoming events with you. If anyone wants to contact me urgently, as in previous years please contact me via the school office. Due to capacity the Headteacher ClassDojo account is checked less frequently and there may be a delay in the response. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Kind regards,
Mr Blackburn.

Free School Meal Reminder:

The price for school dinners this year is £3. For all those children who are in Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6, this charge applies. Unless you are already in receipt of statutory free school meals. Please ensure you apply so you don't miss out. Apply now using this link - https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/free-school-meals.aspx

If your child is in reception, Y1 and Y2 please also apply!

You may receive free school milk as well as free school meals for children in KS2. This is why we encourage **ALL** families to apply not just those in KS2. It is always worth reapplying if you have been declined in the past as circumstances may have changed. You do not need to reapply if you already qualify. As per the ClassDojo message yesterday, there are new criteria in place which means many more families may qualify.

PE kits:

All children in school to come dressed in their PE kits on their PE days. However, please can we make you aware that these are not non-uniform days. Children should be dressed in white top, dark coloured shorts, leggings or track suit bottoms, suitable footwear and a school cardigan/jumper/hoody/fleece. Please note jumpers and cardigans do not have to have the school badge. Earrings should be covered from home or your child should be able to remove these independently.

Heritage Weekend:

St John's church are holding their annual Heritage Open Day again this year, celebrating our local history. The church will be open from 11 – 3pm on Saturday 19th September. Everyone is welcome to drop in and have a look around. The choir will be singing on the 19th September at 12pm.

Attendance:

Please can we remind you about the importance of good attendance. In line with DfE guidance, please can we remind you that children should only be off school if their illness is severe or they have had sickness or diarrhoea. Medical appointments, unless urgent, should be made outside of the school day. We will require evidence of appointments in order to authorise it. Holidays during term time will be unauthorised. If your child is off school for 3 days consecutively then we will carry out an unannounced home visit, in line with the policy. The full policy can be found on our website. We will be contacting families whose children were persistent absentees from next week and working closely with you to improve their attendance.



Benedict's Law and Allergy Safety:

This September, new guidance known as Benedict's Law comes into effect to improve allergy safety in schools. The law is named after Benedict Blythe, a young child who tragically died following a severe allergic reaction at school. It aims to ensure that all schools have clear procedures in place to keep children with allergies safe.

As part of the new requirements, schools will maintain an allergy safety policy, provide staff training on recognising and responding to allergic reactions, ensure access to emergency medication where appropriate, and work closely with families to support children with allergies.

At St John's, the safety and wellbeing of all pupils remains our highest priority, and we will continue to work closely with parents and carers to ensure children with allergies are fully supported in school. Unfortunately, it does mean that no food products should be brought into school to celebrate birthdays. Please do not send any food items as will not be able to hand this out to the children in your child's class.

Parking Reminder – Keeping Our Children Safe

We would like to remind all parents and carers that parking on the school zig-zag markings and double yellow lines outside school is strictly prohibited.

These restrictions are in place to ensure the safety of all children, families and members of our community, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times when visibility is reduced. Parking in these areas can create significant hazards and increase the risk of accidents.

We appreciate that parking can sometimes be challenging, but we ask everyone to park considerately and legally, even if it means walking a short distance to school.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep all members of our school community safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Mobile Phones:

A reminder that any pupil bringing a mobile phone to school must hand it in to the school office on arrival and collect it at the end of the school day. Only pupils in Year 5 and 6 who walk home alone should need mobile phones in school.

Please also note that smart watches with messaging, calling or internet facilities **must not be worn** or used during the school day.

No child should have access to a mobile phone or messaging-enabled smart watch whilst in school. Thank you for your support in helping us safeguard all pupils.

St John's Stars

	Orange Class
	Yellow Class
	Green Class
	Blue Class
	Violet Class
	Bronze Class
	Silver Class



Weekly Attendance

	99%
	97%
	98%
	94%
	96%
	94%
	99%