

St John's Primary School Newsletter

21st July 2023

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another very busy term and school year, I want to thank you for all of your support at our events over the year and for supporting your children with their learning at home.

I hope you have now received your child's school report and found them useful. Do look in the bottom of school bags if you haven't located one yet!

We managed to fit in all of our usual end of year events, despite the Ofsted inspection coming right in the middle of them all last week, and have had a lovely end to the year!

Children moved up to their classes and met their new teachers on our 'Move Up' Day. There was an excited buzz around school for the day. Sports Day took place despite the rain. As always, the children impressed me with their resilience and determination to complete all of the races. The sunshine even made an appearance for the Key Stage 2 races! Earth House were our winners this year so well done to them.

Year 5 and 6 treated us all to their performance of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' last week. So many children took on solo singing parts, learnt lots of lines and were really confident on stage. It was a joy to see! The audiences really enjoyed the performances and the children sang beautifully. Very well done to all of them.

Today we said goodbye to our talented Year 6 class. We are very proud of all they have achieved, and of the lovely young people they have become, and wish them well as they move on to their secondary schools. We also said goodbye to four staff members: Miss Harris, Mrs Harbord, Mrs Carr and Mrs Shaw—all of whom have been valued members of the St John's team and we will miss. Thank you to all of them for their hard work and support for the children at the school. We wish all our leavers lots of luck and best wishes for the future.

Sponsorship money for the Sponsored Obstacle Course has still been coming in but the current total raised is £1800—a fantastic amount! If your child is still collecting sponsorship, do help them to chase their sponsors to donate via the link—[St Johns School PTFA - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](https://www.cafonline.org) .

Planning ahead for next year, we are always keen to hear from parents or grandparents who may be able to help us offer more clubs. If you would be interested in helping or running a club, do get in touch. It would be great to get a gardening club up and running, as well as any sports, craft or other interests too.

We have a vacancy coming up on our Governing Body and plan to ask for nominations for a parent governor at the start of the school year. Do look out for our communications on this and if you are interested, we can put you in touch with an existing governor so that you can find out more.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our short (2 minute) survey last term. You can see the feedback from the survey in this newsletter. The survey stays live and can be filled in at any time. Do take the time to fill it in, tell us what is going well and offer any suggestions or feedback. — [Ombea \(stjohnswallingford.feedback\)](https://stjohnswallingford.feedback.com)

Finally, a big thank you to the St John's team for all of their hard work over the year, supporting our children. They always go above and beyond the call of duty and have well and truly earned their summer break!

I hope you all have a lovely, restful and happy summer holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back again on 5th September.

Kind Regards,

Nicky Hughes

Upcoming dates :

Friday 1st September—INSET Day

Monday 4th September—INSET Day

Tuesday 5th September—term starts

Parent Survey

Thank you to all of you who completed our parent survey over the last term. We had 51 responses.

Results: 89% of parents said they would recommend St John's

Responses to the question 'What is going well?' included comments about:

- Children being happy at school and settled
- Children had friends and enjoyed coming to school
- Good quality and imaginative teaching, 'excellent teachers'
- Teachers who are responsive and caring, respectful towards children
- The school's approach to developing the whole child and a nurturing approach/ building children's confidence
- A sense of the 'St John's family' or community feel
- Regular open afternoons and opportunities to come into school
- Phonics teaching
- Clubs offer
- Communication on Dojo

Responses to the question 'What could we improve?'

You said:	We will:
We could improve communication via Dojo to include photos of activities as well as vital information	Review our protocol for using Dojo and aim to provide more class updates and information.
School lunch portions are small for older children	Talk to the School Lunch Company regarding this and feed back the outcome to parents.
You would like to see more opportunities for Music teaching in school	Music is taught by teachers as part of the curriculum and further Music provision would require additional funding. This is a challenge for the school. We will investigate options for securing more funding or volunteers who could provide specialist Music provision.
You would like to see more clubs for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes	In the next academic year, we will endeavour to provide more clubs for younger children—from our staff but also by asking for parent volunteers.
Some parents would like to better understand our behaviour management policy, house points and ethos in action	Behaviour expectations are reinforced positively through the award of house points and other class systems. The St John's Promise underpins our expectations. All incidents are followed up on, with appropriate consequences for certain behaviour choices, and 'repair' carried out. We regularly discuss behaviour choices in Circle Times. Children learn about the Zones of Regulation, how to recognise their emotions and make positive choices even when they are experiencing difficult emotions. We have a value of the fortnight which is the focus of our assemblies each week. More information is included in our Behaviour Policy which is on the website and I will include more detail on this in an early newsletter next academic year.

Year 6 Science

Year 6 have been learning about the circulatory system, our blood and what it is made up of. They modelled 'blood' using food colouring, marshmallows, cheerios and plastic blocks. First they made plasma with water and yellow food colouring, next they made red blood cells with cheerios and red food colouring, white marshmallows were the white blood cells and the platelets were small plastic blocks! It was messy but fun.



ZOOLAB

Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a visit from Zoolab last week, linked with their topics of the Rainforest and Kenya. The children had the opportunity to see and handle creatures that are native to the two habitats, including a millipede, snake, cockroach, giant African snail —and were all very brave!





Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat!

Year 5 Residential

Year 5 had a very successful residential trip, camping in bell tents at Hillend. They took part in a survival activity, nature trail, made swings, did some orienteering—they were busy! Thank you to all of the staff who accompanied them on the trip.

