

St John's Walworth Primary School

Summer Newsletter 2019

Dear St John's,

We are now at the end of a very busy year during which many positive changes have occurred. As our team has developed, we have been able to systematically address each issue that was identified as requiring improvement by Ofsted in September 2018. Our continuous improvement has been recognised and celebrated in half termly meetings with Southwark Local Education Authority and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, and the details and plans for further development have been endorsed during regular meetings with the newly formed Governing Body. Seeing every child thrive is at the centre of all that we do, and it is this aspiration which guides every choice that is made.

I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement that you have offered me throughout my first year. My appointment as substantive Head Teacher has provided me with a mandate to lead the school for the foreseeable future. I am passionate and driven to guide St John's towards success and unequivocally committed to the welfare and advancement of every child that we are privileged to teach. I know that the highest levels of success that any school can achieve depends upon an effective partnership between teachers and parents/school and home, and over the coming year I hope to reinforce and develop that essential partnership. Our Governing Body and newly forming parent groups are eager to participate in the development of the school and I will endeavour to support every initiative that helps us to provide experiences for children that enables them to be successful.

Members of Staff Leaving

At the end of this term we will say farewell to Ms Adesina, Ms Umoren, Mr Isaac and Ms Oben. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and thank them for their contributions to the children and community at St John's.

New Members of Staff

Following an extensive search for talented teachers and Higher-Level Teaching Assistants to join our

school in September, we are delighted to welcome three teachers: Mr Tarell McIntosh, Ms Esmerelda Gema and Ms Laura Robbins, and two HLTAs: Ms Natalie Chant and Ms Norma Hamilton.

Each of them impressed us with their skills in the classroom and with their passion for primary education. All of them were inspired by our vision for the school and by the prospect of working in a school that is embracing positive change and open to innovation. Their appointments signify a new era in the school's journey, and I am confident that they will all thrive here at St John's.

Teachers' Placements for Next Year

Reception and Year One – Ms Picazo
Year Two – Ms Thomas
Year Three – Ms Gema
Year Four – Ms Robbins
Year Five – Mr McIntosh
Year Six – Ms Ward-Anderson

Term Dates 2019-20

Autumn term

- Monday 2 September 2019 - Friday 18 October 2019
- Half Term Monday 21 October 2019 - Friday 25 October 2019
- Monday 28 October 2019 - Thursday 19 December 2019

Spring term

- Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020
- Half Term Monday 17 February 2020 - Friday 21 February 2020
- Monday 24 February 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020

Summer term

- Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 22 May 2020 (May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on Friday 8 May)
- Half Term Monday 25 May 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020
- Monday 1 June 2020 – Tuesday 21 July 2020

INSET DAYS

- Monday 2nd September 2019
- Tuesday 3rd September 2019
- Monday 6th January 2020
- Monday 20th April 2020
- Tuesday 21st July 2020

Children will return to school after the summer holiday on Wednesday 4th September 2019 at 8.55am.

Sports Day

To all of you who were able to attend our sports day in Burgess Park on Monday 15th July, thank you for your support. The children were very excited and had a wonderful time, as did the parents who gave their all in the parents' race. On Tuesday during our weekly celebration assembly all children received medals for their participation and the winning teams from the day received gold medals. Teachers chose children who had demonstrated our core values on the day: respect, responsibility and care. We were very proud of all the children and next year we will listen to the requests for the return of the sack race and the egg and spoon race. Thank you also to Mr Charles, our Progressive Sports Coach who organised and led the event.

Places in Breakfast Club

We have some places left in our morning Breakfast Club from 4th September 2019. If you require childcare from 7.45am Monday to Friday, please speak to member of our office team to arrange. We have recently reduced the daily fee per child to £2.50, which we hope makes the provision more financially accessible to all families.

School Uniform Orders

If you would like to order your child's school uniform for next year, please visit our website and select the 'Parent Information' drop-down menu, select 'uniform' and click on 'mapac'. To receive your orders in time for the new academic year we highly recommend that orders are placed within the next two weeks.

Family Homework

Your child will have been given their family homework sheet this afternoon to bring home. We are introducing this as a half termly holiday introduction to your child's upcoming class topic. These topics will be across two year groups (Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6). We hope this will offer some ideas of ways to support your child in preparation for their return to school after the holidays. The sheet details what the new topic will be, and then suggest

ways in which you could support your child's learning. All ideas as designed to be completed together as a family. You can do as little or as much as you choose, but obviously preparing children for the next term will give them a head start when they return. If you feel like you have different ideas that could support their learning that would be great too!

We would love to see how the children have approached the work. If they would like to bring in anything they have completed to share (which could take any form at all – models, photographs, a Powerpoint of their summer learning, a reading diary....) we will make sure we celebrate their efforts.

The family homework will also be available in the parents' area of the school website from next week.

Thank you for your support.

Friday, 19th July - Mass at 2pm

We warmly welcome all parents/carers and family members to mass at St John's Church. Please aim to arrive no later than 1.45pm as the service will begin promptly at 2pm. Father Ola will lead the mass and there will be an opportunity for our Year Six children to perform a song from their recent leaver's performance, we will also be presenting awards to some of the year six children. All children will attend the mass which will finish at approximately 2.45pm. Once completed the children will be taken back to their classrooms to collect their belongings and can then be collected from the rear playground. Please make sure that your child's teacher know that you have collected them so we can be sure that every child has been collected safely.

Finally, we hope that you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing the children return on **Wednesday 4th September** to begin the new school year.

Matthew Velada-Billson

(Head Teacher)