

# St John's Walworth Primary School

## Half Termly Newsletter – Autumn (2) 2019

*Dear St John's,*

We have had another very busy and productive half term. Please read on to see some of our news from the second half term of this academic year as well as some dates of future events for your diaries.

### **Christmas Fayre**

Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who offered their time and made contributions to the school's Christmas fayre, and to the parents and carers who attended the event and purchased food, paid for their children to meet Santa and purchased various Christmas items. **The event enabled us to raise £215**, which will be spent on learning resources for the children.

### **Nativity Performance**

Thank you to all parents, carers and members of the community who were able to attend our Nativity on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We were delighted with your response and with the children's confident and joyful performances. We would like to offer special thanks to Vishni Velada-Billson, Gemma Hannah, Ore Solesi, Shelly Bergh and James Moriarty who worked so hard to create the performance with the children.

Our Nativity was also attended by Jerome Monahan who has written an article about the school's nativity performance and its participants, which will be published in the following places:

*Southwark News*, *South London Press*, *News Shopper*, *Bridge - the Southwark Anglican Newsletter* and a local news website called *Southwark Community News*.



### **Music at St John's**

Creating opportunities for children to develop their musical abilities has been one of my priorities since joining the school in September 2018. Thanks to the talent and commitment of various music teachers we now have a range of musical programmes available to all children.

**Individual and paired music lessons** will begin for 25 children from January 13<sup>th</sup> 2020. The tutor, Mr Theo Adler will be teaching children to play the piano on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and guitar on Friday afternoons.

All children from Year 2 to Year 6 have now participated in auditions to become a member of our **African drumming and percussion orchestra**. The names of the children who have been selected will be released in January 2020. This opportunity has been entirely due to Jason Peat, father of Jahdiel (Yr6) and Jayniah (Yr3) who has taken time away from his busy work schedule to volunteer every Friday afternoon. Thank you Jason!



Our **choir** is thriving and they performed brilliantly at our nativity and for retired ladies and gentlemen at the St John's Community Centre on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Weekly **music lessons with our specialist music teacher** James Moriarty have taken place throughout the term and will continue with Laura Inskip who will be returning from maternity leave in January.



### **Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company**

From January, for the second year running, we will be welcoming professional dancers from the highly regarded Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company. The dancers will be working with Year 3 and Year 5 children who will have the opportunity to devise a dance piece. The classes will take place each Wednesday afternoon throughout January, February and March. On the **18<sup>th</sup> March 2019** the children will perform to parents/carers. On behalf of the children we are very grateful for this (charitably funded) opportunity.

### **New Children Joining St John's**

We are delighted to have welcomed fourteen new children to St John's since September, with several more due to join us in January and February. Many of our new arrivals have joined us following recommendations. If you know someone who is not happy with their child's current school please invite them to visit us as we still have some places available.



### **Reception Class for September 2020**

We are pleased to report that requests for places in our Reception class (September 2020) have increased. Please remind anyone you know who is looking for a Reception place to submit their application by the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Supplementary forms are available from the school office.

### **St John's Website and Facebook Page Updated**

We are constantly updating our website with new policies and information about the school. We have also updated our Facebook page (***St John's Walworth CofE Primary School***). Please visit us online to see the changes, including updated policies and please comment to support us in promoting our school.



### **Parent Questionnaire**

Our parent questionnaire can also be found on the school's website. We would really appreciate your feedback if you can spare a few moments over the Christmas break. Most of the questions only require the click of a button and the whole process should take less than 10 minutes. Thank you!

### **Parent Workshops**

As previously advertised we are running parent workshops for Yr3 and Yr4 parents on Tuesdays 14<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February. The workshops are designed to improve the support that parents are able to offer their children with reading, writing and maths. **There are 15 places available, but presently only 6 spaces have been taken.** If your child is in Yr3 or Yr4 *please* call the office and book a place. Your support in making this initiative successful is a vital part of our ongoing improvement.

### **Reading Development**

This term we have been promoting reading across the school: with a new library and all new books; shared reading being taught across the school and new texts to support each subject. We are making every effort to encourage children to develop a love of books and reading. We now have approximately 70% of children reading regularly and taking quizzes as they complete each book to see how much they have understood. Our aim is that 100% of children are reading regularly by the end of next term, which we know will allow them to progress and achieve academic success. **Please support us in this endeavour and check that your child is reading every day.**



### **Merry Christmas**

All of the staff at St John's wish you all a very merry Christmas. We hope that you enjoy the time away from school and work with your family. We look forward to seeing you all return on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

*Matthew Velada-Billson*

**Head Teacher**