

St John's VA C of E Primary School

Finding the light in ourselves and each other (John 8:12)

06/09/24

Autumn 1: Issue 1



Welcome message from the Headteacher

First week back

Dear all,

I just wanted to start off with a huge thank you to everyone for being so welcoming in my first week at St John's C of E Primary School. Not only has it been warming but it has been great to talk to parents, staff and pupils about their summer holidays. I am really looking forward to the year to see the development of our school and the local community.

Throughout the summer, I have been busy working with the local community to begin to create connections with the local secondary school, swimming facilities, the parish, the local MP and many more. I have been working closely with music providers both for one-to-one sessions and group rock bands – very exciting.

With any new start to the year there will be a few tweaks to how the school is running in order to develop the smoothness of the school. I am working closely with the SLT to ensure any improvements are to benefit the children at our school considering all stakeholders. I am listening to the feedback from the surveys from parents and staff and considering the improvements carefully to give our pupils the best education and environment possible.

We will keep you updated with improvements to the school on the fortnightly newsletter. This will include the calendar for the up and coming weeks as well as links to helpful sites and information.

I look forward to developing the school further working together as a family.

Best wishes

Mr Worton-Geer

Pupil quote of the week: Adley and Gracie (Y6) – "It's been interesting, and it is very new. It is challenging (not in a bad way) but making my brain grow a bit more."

Improvements to the school

Start of year

Lunchtimes:

Lunchtimes for all will be between 12 and 1pm – a slight change from 12:05 to 1:05. For Year 1 to Year 4, pupils will return to class with their MDA at 12:50pm to have some calm time to prepare pupils ready for their afternoon sessions.

Break times:

Break times will now be between 10:15 and 10:30 every day.

Assemblies/ collective workshops:

- Monday – 10 -10:15 – celebration assembly
- Tuesday – 8:50 – 9:20 – Collective worship with the church
- Wednesday – 10 -10:15 – Teacher assembly
- Thursday – 10 – 10:15 – Teacher assembly
- Friday – 1:10- 1:30 – Christian value collective worship

Additionally, on Friday's at 10:00am until 10:15am there will be class collective worship run by the children on reflections of their week.

Academic Highlights

Here is some useful information that is happening in the school.

PE days:

On your classes PE day, children must come to school in PE uniform (Year 6 may wear their hoodies)

KS2: KS2 will have PE on a Monday and Wednesday (Year's 3-6)

KS1 and EYFS: PE on Tuesday and Thursday (Reception – Year 2)

Swimming: We are looking at intensive swimming sessions for two weeks for pupils in KS2 who need support meeting the KS2 swimming expectation – please fill out the survey that has been sent via Arbor.

SDP targets for the year:

Here are our three school development targets for the year.

1. To continue to develop RE and Christian life at the school and the local community.
2. To implement, develop and improve the English curriculum and outcomes.
3. To continue to develop work-life balance having wellbeing at the forefront.

Homework –

Homework is an important part of the school day which helps children reflect on the learning that they have done at school. We believe in purposeful homework. Therefore, there are two essential daily pieces of homework to complete as well as optional homework.

Essential:

- 1) Please read every day for around 10-20 minutes.
- 2) Please practice your times tables (KS2) and number facts to 200 (KS1). We will launch TTRockstars and Numbots in the next few weeks.

Optional homework:

Please look at your classroom page on the school website. There will be a range of activities that you could complete weekly and hand in the last week of the half term. This work could give your house group some additional house points. The optional homework will be available on Friday 13th.

Music lessons:

Rock steady:

On Monday, we will be having an early assembly from a music lesson organisation called Rock Steady. Some classes will take part in workshops to inspire children to take music up. Further information will follow on how to sign your children up to Rock Steady music lessons soon – this will be children playing in bands.

HCM Music Academy:

We are also looking for individual one to one sessions and small groups for different instruments including: drumming, guitar and piano. Please see our last page on the newsletter for further information.

Staffing: As mentioned in a letter on Wednesday, we have had a few changes of Teaching Assistants in the school. We would like to say thank you for the hard work from Miss Monaghan and wish her the very best of luck. We also would like to welcome Ms Elliott and Mrs Deen to the St John's Family who will be starting later this half term.

Volunteer news: volunteer in the school? Would you like to become a volunteer? We are looking for volunteers for reading as well as some landscaping and gardening. If you are interested, please see either Mr Worton-Geer (landscaping and gardening) or Miss Brady (reading). We will need to complete the annual safeguarding update before you support the school. Safeguarding training will happen on Thursday 3rd October at 9am – 10am or 2pm – 3pm. Please sign up for the training at the office.

Extra curricular activities

Information on how to sign up will follow shortly

Events for the year lead by teachers:

These events are blocked in 10 week blocks per term.
The start date for events for Autumn is

Miss Brady and Mrs Norris will be delivering Netball all year round on a Tuesday.

Mr Harnden will be doing Choir after school on Thursday.

Mrs de la Croix and Mrs Athill will be doing lunch time clubs throughout the week to support a range of pupils.

External Agencies:

Tetra After School Club, Monday – Thursday 3:25pm – 6:00pm and Friday is 2:10pm – 5:00pm

French Club – Monday 3:30pm – 4:15pm & Thursday 3:30pm – 4:15pm. Tuesday 12:30pm – 1:00pm

Wellbeing Club – Monday 3:30pm – 3:45pm



Digital Safety Awareness workshops for parents and carers - virtual workshop

The virtual workshop aims to equip parents and carers with essential tools and knowledge, enabling them to better recognise the possible risks associated with keeping children and young people safe online. Additionally, the workshop highlights the many positive aspects and full potential of the digital world.

Participants will explore topics such as harmful content online, ensuring privacy and security, addressing cyberbullying, understanding gaming and live-streaming, online grooming, managing self-image and identity, staying informed about popular apps and social media, and promoting overall well-being.

Website:

Online Safety Training for Parents & Carers | Kidscape

-  Wednesday 25th September 2024 | 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm
-  Wednesday 23rd October 2024 | 12.00 pm - 1.30 pm

How to apply

Parents and carers can contact programmes@kidscape.org.uk to secure their place/s.

If you would like to find out more, please email programmes@kidscape.org.uk

Photo consents: Please could you review your photo consent permissions on Arbor for this new academic year. To do this you need to log into your child's Arbor account, click on View Student Profile (left hand side) then scroll down to the bottom of the page, you will then see Permissions.

School policy updates -

Policies that are being updated in the next few week are:

- Child protection Policy - Attendance policy
- Admission policy
- Health & Safety

Parish News

Governor News

Friday 13th September 2024 – Eucharist service - 8:30am at St John's Church – Years 1-6

On Friday 13th September 2024 we will be having our first Eucharistic mass of this academic year. Parents/ guardians and family members are more than welcome to come too to join this important community celebration. Drop off will be at St John's Church at 8:30am, ready to be lined up with class teachers for 8:40am. The children will be walking back to school with their class teachers and TA's.

For this service, it will be Year 1 to Year 6 taking part. Reception and Nursery children will not be attending on this occasion. They will need to be dropped at school at their normal time. In order for your children to receive communion, we ask that you fill out the survey below per pupil.
<https://forms.gle/LGm3C4FpiA2yBMii8>



PARISH OF DIGSWELL FORWARD PLANNER 2024 as at 31/07/24

Fridays: **Coffee Pot** at St John's Café. 9am-12Noon
Saturdays: **The Hub Café**. Christ the King Hub, 9:30am-12:30pm
Service of Healing & Quiet Reflection: Every First Sunday at St John's Church at 6.30pm*
All Age Worship: Every 3rd Sunday at St John's
Tea Toast and Toddlers: Every 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Christ the King Hub at 9:30am

September

Sunday 1 Parish Summer Picnic for Younger Members (CTK 3pm-5pm)
Sunday 8 Anniversary of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Monday 9 Parish Bible Study via Zoom
Thursday 12 Parish Study Day at St John's (11:15am-3pm)
Friday 13 Beginning of School Year Eucharist at St John's (8.50am)
Andrew Lewin MP lunch at St John's with local headteachers & governors

Saturday 14 Patronal Weekend Afternoon Teas at St John's (1:30pm-4pm)
Sunday 15 10:00am Patronal Service followed by Lunch
Preacher: Fr Sam Cappleman
Monday 16 Parochial Church Council Meeting via Zoom (7.30)
Friday 20 10:30am Parish Book Club at Coffee Pot

October

Wednesday 2 Homerswood Harvest Festival Service
Friday 4 St John's School Harvest Festival Service & Harwood Hill Harvest Festival Service
Saturday 5 Blessing of the Animals Service at St John's (12 Noon)
Sunday 6 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES
Monday 7 Parish Bible Study via Zoom
Saturday 12 Diocesan Synod Meets
Wednesday 16 Digswell Unity Group
Friday 18 Parish Book Club at Coffee Pot
Sunday 20 Stewardship Sunday

New Foundation Governor appointed

Over the summer the PCC was pleased to appoint Ben Ejechi as a governor at St. John's. Ben brings 20+ years of project management experience and a personal commitment to promoting the Christian faith in all aspects of life. On being appointed, Ben said "I am committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity, ensuring every student feels valued and respected. My experiences enable me to advocate for initiatives that celebrate diverse backgrounds. I will apply my professional principles of collaboration, communication, and goal achievement to my role, working closely with staff, parents, and the community. My aim is to help shape a school where children excel academically and grow morally, preparing them to lead lives of responsibility, integrity, and service."

We look forward to welcoming Ben to the school in the near future.

Dear parents/carers

We currently have 2 vacancies amongst our governing body for parent governors. In the summer term we sought nominations and received three and therefore having to conduct an election.

The governing body sets the strategic direction of the school and monitors both educational and financial performance and the candidates have provided the statements below about their suitability for the role. Please could you select two candidates that you wish to be elected for parent governor roles. Each parent with caring responsibilities has votes. Please can you complete your vote by 20th September 2024.

We need to collect your data to ensure only eligible parents can vote but this will not be recorded with your actual votes.

Nick Johnson

Chair of Governors, St. John's CofE School, Digswell

Please click on the poll to vote here:

<https://forms.gle/jqhic9JB1RT8vEYL9>

Our theme this half term is: Love.

Dear God,

We thank you for the love that you spread to the world. We ask you to give love to everyone in their hearts, to love everyone and to have peace.

Amen

Prayer written by Precious (Year 6)

Calendar - Autumn Term 1st Half

September

Thursday 12th September – Year 4 & 5 trip to Woodhall Estate
Friday 13th September – Patronal Eucharist at St John's Church
Monday 16th September – Year 3 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Tuesday 17th September – Collective Worship – Love
Tuesday 17th September – Year 2 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Wednesday 18th September – Year 1 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Thursday 19th September – Year 4 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Monday 23rd September – Year 5 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Tuesday 24th September – Collective Worship
Tuesday 24th September – Year 6 Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Wednesday 25th September – Year R Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Thursday 26th September – Year N Teacher meet – 2:45pm
Monday 30th September – 4th October – Year 5 & 6 Bikeability

October

Tuesday 1st October – 2nd October – Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 4th October – Harvest Festival at St John's Church
Tuesday 8th October – Collective Worship
Wednesday 9th October – Spanish Day
Tuesday 15th October – School Photographs – Individual
Tuesday 15th October – Collective Worship
Wednesday 16th October – Book look day – 2:45pm-3:30pm
Thursday 17th October – Reception & Reading parent workshop
Tuesday 22nd October – Collective Worship
Tuesday 22nd October – Parent Consultations Evening
Wednesday 23rd October – Parent Consultations Evening
Friday 25th October – Last day of term

Travel to school:

The school are going to be working on travelling to school this year and considering alternatives to reduce our carbon footprint.

Walking wherever possible

Not only is this a healthy way to get some exercise, but it supports the local community with congestion. In addition, it is much better for the environment.

Cycling or scooting

We have plenty of spaces to lock a bicycle or scooter inside the school gates.

Car sharing

Does anybody else live near you? Could you take it in turns to drive in to collect your children to ease the congestion outside the school at key times during the day?

Parking responsibly

As with the majority of primary schools in the country, we do not have a 'parent' car park. If you do need to drive to drop off or collect your child please park considerately and ensure you are not obstructing drives, garages or access to roads. Please be respectful of our neighbours and remember that parking on ziz-zag lines at any time of the day is prohibited.

Our children's safety is our main priority and this includes their journey to and from school. We appreciate your support in this matter.

- Gate to site opening: This year we are going to be opening the gates at the following times:
- For Monday to Thursday

AM - the main and side gate will open at 08:25am

PM - the main and side gate will open at 3:15pm

- For Friday

AM - the main and side gate will open at 08:25am

PM – the main and side gate will open at 2:00pm

Please note, if a class are on the main playground, please wait until they have finished their lesson and returned to class before entering the school grounds.

School website - [St. John's CofE VA Primary School - Home \(digswell.herts.sch.uk\)](http://St.John'sCofE.VA.Primary.School-Home(digswell.herts.sch.uk))

Uniform provider - [St John's CofE Primary and Nursery School, Digswell \(smartyschoolwear.co.uk\)](http://St.John'sCofE.Primary.and.Nursery.School.Digswell(smartyschoolwear.co.uk))

To do list

Complete the vote for governors - <https://forms.gle/jqhic9JB1RT8vEYL9>

Complete the Communion form - <https://forms.gle/LGm3C4FpA2yBMii8>

Complete the swimming form sent via Arbor.

Helpful resources:

INSTRUMENT LESSONS AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL!

HCM
MUSIC ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to let you know that HCM are now offering **Piano, Guitar and Drum tuition** at St John's School which are available to students from Year 1 to Year 6.

Lessons take place during the school day and are taught on a one to one basis at a cost of £14.75 per 20 minutes or £22.00 per 30 minutes.

All lessons are paid for in advance on a termly basis, however we are happy to offer a paid trial before committing to the term.

Learning an instrument is incredibly good fun and can also help with concentration, dexterity and creativity. Each lesson is tailored to the individual and we can offer tuition through exam syllabi such as RSL, ABRSM & Trinity London. Students will be provided with a practice book to allow parents to keep track of progress and once a year in the Summer Term the tutor will issue a report on your child's progress throughout the academic year.

If you are interested in your son/daughter starting instrument lessons with us, please register your interest by sending an email to learn@h-c-m.co.uk with the following details, or phone us on 01920 460646.

- Student Name
- D.O.B
- School Year
- School Name
- Parent/Carers Name
- Contact Number
- Postal Address
- Instrument

If you have any queries regarding lessons, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01920 460646.

Yours sincerely,
The HCM Team



31 Baldock Street,
Ware, Hertfordshire,
SG12 9DH



01920 460646



learn@h-c-m.co.uk



www.hcmmusicacademy.co.uk

Incredible Years Parent/Carer Group



TO BOOK A PLACE: Please [CLICK HERE](#) or alternatively please visit nessieined.com



DSPL | Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes
DSPL 5 Welwyn and Hatfield

OVERVIEW:

The Incredible Years Programme is for parents and carers of children aged 4 to 7 years, whose children display challenging and/or distressing behaviour. This may include conduct disorders, oppositional defiance disorder or where ADHD might be suspected or diagnosed.

This evidence based programme is for 8 to 10 parents/carers and includes group discussions, group activities, use of video clips and 'have a go' tasks to try at home.

Dates:

Wednesdays:

18th September 2024
25th September 2024
2nd October 2024
9th October 2024
16th October 2024
23rd October 2024
6th November 2024
13th November 2024
20th November 2024
27th November 2024
4th December 2024
11th December 2024

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Venue: Swallow dell Primary School
Blackthorn Road, Welwyn Garden City
AL7 3JP

Cost: Free (funded by DSPL5)

Helping children and young people thrive

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