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Dates for the diary

25th October – INSET day
28th October – Half term week
31st October – Deadline for Secondary School Applications
4th November – First day of term 2
11th-14th November – Book Fair
15th November – Children in Need
18th November – PTA Movie Night
5th December – Open morning for new parents
10th and 11th December – KS1 Nativity
12th December – iRock Concert
18th December – Christmas Lunch
20th December – Last day of Term 2 and Christmas Jumper Day

Newsletter – Thursday 24th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finally at the end of our first term, and it has been a long one. 8 weeks is as long as a term gets and the children (and staff!) are certainly in need of the chance to rest and recuperate after working so hard. We have seen the children grow into their new classes and especially Reception, who have settled brilliantly. Having taught in there myself last week, I am astounded at the incredible progress they have made already and the amazing work our Reception team have been doing to facilitate this. I, however, will be sticking to teaching Year 6 for now – long division is much easier to teach than phonics!

Safeguarding

As part of our ongoing safeguarding review, we have made the decision that after half term, the gate leading to the Church car park will be locked approximately between 9.15am (9.45am on a Wednesday) and 3.00pm. It will still be open for access before and after school.

Road Safety

The usual parking reminders aside, it does appear that there are some people mounting the curbs near the school to either avoid traffic or drop their children off. I hopefully don't need to remind you all that, as is the norm near a school, there are lots of small children walking down these roads. If you are driving to/from school, please do so with this in mind to ensure the continued safety of our children. We would also like to remind those parents with children who walk home that regular conversations around road safety need to be had, as we do often have reports of near-misses where children are running across roads without looking.

School Information

If you have moved house (in the last 6 months), or you (or any emergency contacts) have changed mobile number, email address etc please let the office know.

School Photos

Further to the individual school photos taken on 18th October 2024, if you haven't already done so, please register your child/ren following the information on the card that they brought home on Friday last week. This will enable the photographers to keep you informed when the photos are ready to view/purchase.

After-School Clubs

When the children return to school after half-term, if they attend an after-school club they will no longer be allowed to walk home as the nights will be drawing in, unless permission has been given to walk up to the post-box.

Chartwells

Chartwells who provide our school meals will be coming to school on Monday 4th November and Wednesday 20th November. They will be at the entrance of school to give out leaflets, tasters and provide photo opportunities with our superhero characters after school. They will also use this opportunity to give out some stickers as well and it will provide parents an opportunity to ask any questions that they may have with regards to school meals.

Bags2School

We have a Bags2School collection on the 21st November, so if you have a 'clear out' over half-term please hold onto any good quality adult and children's clothing, paired shoes, hats, belts, handbags, soft toys, bedding, curtains and towels. We will send out the bags as soon as we receive them.

Poppy Appeal

Some of our Year 6 pupils will be selling Poppies and other merchandise outside the school entrance from 5th November. Please show your support for the Royal British Legion.

Sporting Success

There have been football tournaments for both boys and girls in KS2 this term, with all children participating performing exceptionally well, with the highlight being the Year 3/4 girls' team finishing 3rd and proudly parading their medals around school for several days afterwards!

We also had over 30 children represent the school in a Cross-Country event at Beacon last week, with several of them now going on to compete in the Level 2 event after half term.

Reading

We are pleased to announce this term's winners of the KS2 Accelerated Reader competition. Each week, it is always a pleasure to look at the number of words read and the number of quizzes passed by each child in all the KS2 classes. Every child, and every class, has the opportunity to be the week's leaders so every word and every quiz really does count. Here are the overall winners from this term:

Most quizzes passed	Sam – Class 5 - 42
Most books read as a class	Class 3 - 174
Highest individual word count	Oliver – Class 6 - 526,369
Class word count total	Class 5 – 1,855,181

Please see attached the Autumn/Winter Menu from Chartwells, flyers from Cool Milk (KS1) and the Ashdown Forest and a Parent Guide on building emotional resilience from the National College.

Reminder that tomorrow, Friday 25th October, is an INSET day and children return to school on **Monday 4th November**. Enjoy your half term break!

Thank you as always,
Michael Hodges

School Vision: We encourage everyone at St John's to 'Live life to the full' – John 10:10

School Values: Wonder, Excellence, Love and Forgiveness