



**ST JOHN'S**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

# Newsletter

Issue 18—November 2024



Respect    Kindness    Confidence    Tolerance    Self-Discipline

## Key Dates

Tuesday 3rd December

Year 1—Christingle making

Thursday 5th December—1.30pm

EYFS Sept 2025 Open Afternoon

Friday 6th December

FoS Christmas Disco

Tuesday 10th December

Early Years Nativity—2.30pm

Tuesday 10th December

Year 4 Volcanoes and Earthquakes workshop

Wednesday 11th December

Y1/2 Nativity—1.45pm

Thursday 12th December

Y1/2 Nativity—10am

Friday 13th December—9.15am

Y6 Class assembly—parents welcome

Monday 16th December

Rudy's Run!

Tuesday 17th December

Year 2 Moon Landing Workshop

Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th December

KS2 Concerts 1.45pm

Friday 20th December

End of Term 2

**BACK TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025**

Dear St John's Families,

We are in the full swing of festivities now at St John's. The decorations are up and the nativities and concerts are being rehearsed in the hall and are sounding absolutely wonderful. We can't wait to welcome you into school to see all the hard work from the children pay off when they perform in front of an audience.

A couple of weeks ago, we had a fun day raising money for Children in Need. We had a launch assembly in the morning where our fabulous staff team took on some records in front of the school. We now know that Mr Thornton is able to make a cup pyramid the quickest and also organise a set of books in alphabetical order the fastest. However, Coach Danny proved to be our champion with the fastest time to organise a pack of m&ms into their colour groups. It was great fun and then the children all had a go at taking on various challenges in their classrooms. Thank you for your kind donations—we raised £245 to donate to Children in Need!

We have also had fun in the snow, learnt about UK parliament week and completed some more exciting learning in class, all of which you can read about in this newsletter!

We look forward to the last few weeks of term being full of joy, excitement, singing and possibly a lot of glitter!!

*Mrs Emma Jefferson*

*Headteacher*

Contact us: - 01522 530954

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Website:

<http://www.stjohnsprimaryacademy.co.uk/>



**Championing children; making a difference**

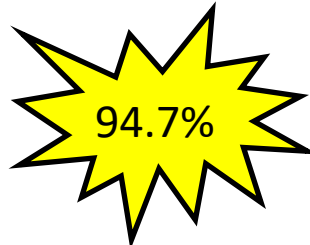
# Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



RJR	97.3%
RAS	94.9%
1T	92.5%
1HC	96.9%
2ST	90.6%
2F	96.2%
30S	96.3%
3B	96.3%
4T	94.3%
4D	94.4%
5N	93.8%
5BT	94%
6B	96.1%
6M	92%

**Attendance for the week:**



**Attendance for the year to date:**



**Our aim is to try and be in the green for our overall attendance across the year!**

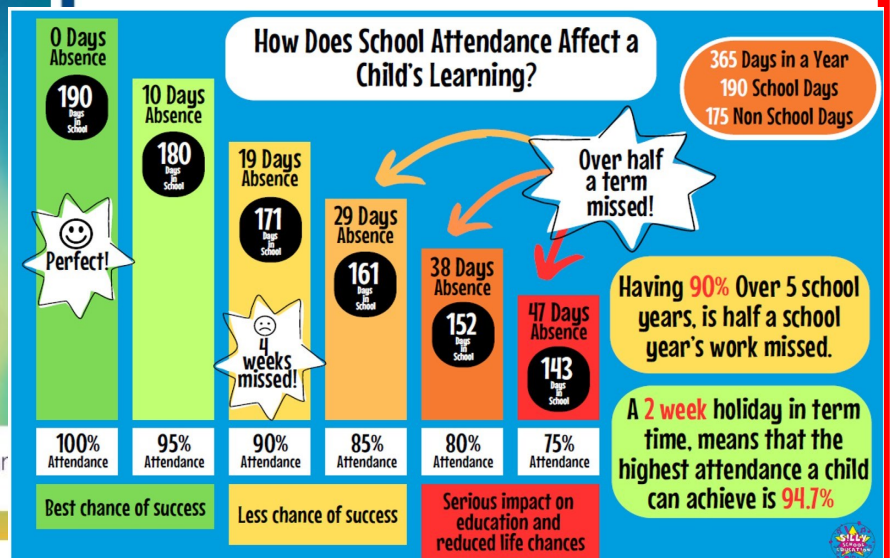
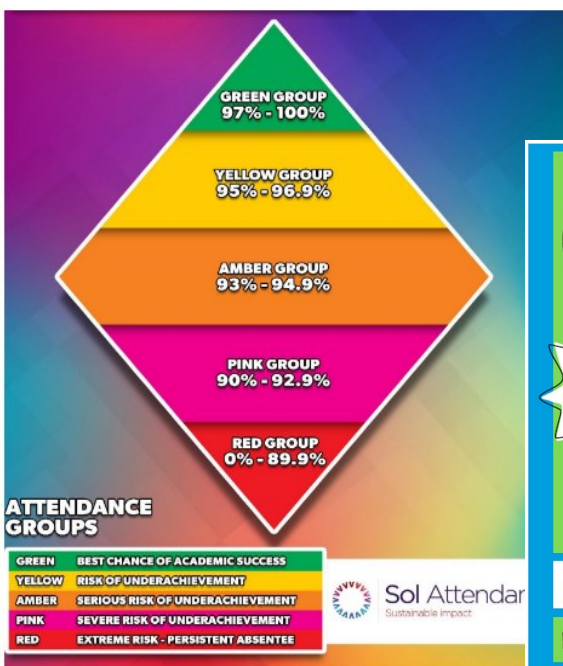
## Attendance

We are entering the season of coughs, sneezes and other winter illnesses. We understand that children fall ill and need to stay at home. If you think your child is a little under the weather but able to be in school then we can give them some TLC and make sure they take things nice and steady. If your child is in need of antibiotics then we are also able to administer these in school if you fill a form out at the office. Let's hope we get through this Winter season without many bugs reaching us!

## Safeguarding

The staff letting Y5/6 pupils out at the end of the long path have raised concerns about the parking of some parents on the road near the long path. It has led to children walking out between cars and not being able to see clearly whether any cars are coming. Please can we ask any parents who collect from long path to come across the road so that the children are not walking across the road to you. Could we also ask our whole school community to park considerately and in a way that doesn't make it dangerous for our pupils trying to leave school via the long path. Thank you for your support with ensuring all of our children leave school in the safest manner possible.

## Attendance Ladder



# Learning in Class

## Year 3

As part of their history topic learning about the Stone Age, Year 3 made Stone Age inspired jewellery. They worked as a class to make some salt dough which they then used to make beads. They thought about what Stone Age beads would have looked like. Year 3 are very excited to link their English writing to this as they write instructions so that others can have as much fun as they did and make their own jewellery!



## Year 6

This term, Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed their learning in history about World War 2. They have been learning about evacuation, rationing, propaganda and what conditions were like for Jewish people in Europe. It has been a really interesting topic and the children have asked intriguing questions and given very thoughtful answers. They have also been learning how to sing the White Cliffs of Dover with a counter-melody which they are hoping to perform in their year 6 assembly to parents on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. They were very ambitious and learned the melody, counter-melody and chords on boom whackers and bell plates in their music lesson which was lots of fun too.



## Year 4

Mrs Trimby's class had a fabulous time visiting Pizza Express as part of their Food Technology curriculum. They learnt all about adapting a recipe, selecting toppings and all made their own pizza to take home! Mr Dunn's class will be visiting in January to do the same!





# In other news



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## Children in Need

We had a great time raising money for Children in Need by taking on record attempts in our classes. The children all took part brilliantly and had lots of fun along the way. It was great to see them in their colourful and spotty clothes too. Thank you to our families for sending donations in and helping us raise a lot for a fantastic cause!



## UK Parliament Week

Last week was UK parliament week so in our assemblies, we looked at the role of Parliament and the Government. We looked at how they make special rules called laws which keep us safe and protect people from being treated unfairly. We looked at where the Houses of Parliament were in London and the role of MPs. The children learnt that we live in a democracy which means we have a choice and can vote for who we want to lead our country but there are some places in the world where people do not have a say in who leads their countries. More information about UK parliament week can be found [here](#).

UK  
PARLIAMENT  
WEEK  
18-24 NOV 2024

## Snow fun!

We couldn't let the recent snow disappear without getting outside to have a play! The children had great fun making snow angels, building snowmen and throwing snowballs. I'm sure they will be hoping for some more to arrive!



# In other news

## Movember

You may have noticed some of our male staff members growing their moustaches! They have been raising money for men's mental health charities during Movember and have raised over £200 which is an amazing achievement!



## Rudy's Run

You will have seen our letter saying that on Monday 16th December, we will be taking part in Rudy's Run to raise money for St Barnabas and the incredible work they do. We set our school target as £500 and I'm blown away to say that we are already well over this and now standing at over £1000! I know just how much good these donations will do to the support St Barnabas offer to families during their most difficult times. The link will remain active until the end of the day on Monday 16th. If you haven't donated yet and would like to then please click [here](#). We will be having a special visit from Rudy the Reindeer himself next week to drop off our antlers. On Monday 16th December, the children should come to school in their PE bottoms and trainers. They can also wear Christmas jumpers or a colourful jumper to make this a really festive event! I can't wait!



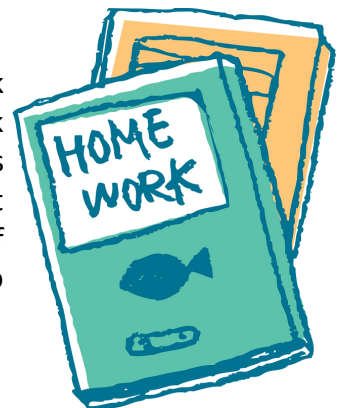
## Christmas Fayre

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our families who came to support our Christmas Fayre. It was fantastic to welcome families into school, taking part in activities, playing games and listening to our wonderful choir sing. Events like these help everyone get into the festive spirit and I personally want to say a huge thank you to FoS for organising this and all of their hard work in making it the success it was. So much time is spent preparing games, asking for prizes etc. and it has been a real team effort. All of the money raised goes back to providing for the children at St John's whether it's contributing to trips, buying resources or playground equipment or enhancing the curriculum like the amazing History timeline we now have so thank you to all of our families for supporting this.



## Homework

Earlier this week, a letter was sent out asking for your views around homework before we make decisions about our approach and policy for homework moving forwards. The link will stay active for you to contribute your thoughts until the end of term. In January, I will report to you on the findings and what our approach to homework will be moving forward, taking into account all of the different views I know there may be around this topic! If you wish to contribute your views, please access the form [here](#).





# In the Community



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## CHESS MORNING

30th November 24  
10am-12 noon

Come to play chess, learn, or  
develop your skills. Everyone  
welcome.

The Heath: Village Hall and Library



### Bracebridge Heath Community Event



## CHRISTMAS IN BRACEBRIDGE HEATH

Join us for a heart warming community celebration at a  
Christingle Service, switching on of the Christmas lights followed  
by festive refreshments.

3.30pm Christingle Service

4.15pm Switching on of the Christmas Lights  
followed by refreshments until 5.30pm.

On Sunday 1st December  
At **The Heath** - our Village Hall.

Come along for

- a meaningful Christingle Service
- the switching on of the new Parish Christmas Lights
- delicious refreshments
- a chance to chat to your fellow residents of Bracebridge Heath
- joyful Christmas music

If you would like to support this event we are gratefully receiving  
Christmas themed baked donations (marked with ingredients). Please  
contact the parish clerk at [clerk@bracebridgeheath-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bracebridgeheath-pc.gov.uk)

You are welcome to come to  
any part of the event.



## What's on at the Library in November and December

- Wednesday 6th November 11am - Come and listen to a "On the Farm" themed story
- Saturday 30th November 10 till 12 - our regular chess for all morning - come and play, challenge or learn
- Wednesday 4th December 11am - Christmas themed storytime
- Thursday 5th December 6 - 7.30pm - Book Chatter - come to chat about books, play book bingo and enjoy festive refreshments.
- Saturday 14th December 10 till 12 - Christmas activities - colouring, games, stories, crafts and lots of fun!
- Week beg 16th December - drop in for mulled wine and mince pies!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 14 DEC  
10 TILL 12

LOTS TO DO - COLOURING,  
GAMES, CRAFTS, STORIES,...

At The Heath  
Library