



ST JOHN'S
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Newsletter

Issue 15—October 2024



Respect Kindness Confidence Tolerance Self-Discipline

Key Dates

15th—17th October

Scholastic Book Fair

Monday 14th October

Year 3 PSHE Positive Boundaries Workshop

Tuesday 15th October

Year 5 Benin workshop experience day

Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th October

Parents evenings

Friday 18th October

Y5 Class Assembly—9.15am

END OF TERM

Monday 28th October

Term 2 starts

Wednesday 6th November

Year 1 Road Safety Workshop

Thursday 7th November

Reception 2025 Open Afternoon and Evening

Thursday 7th November

School Council trip—Bomber Command (Remembrance Service)

11th—15th November

Anti-Bullying Week

Friday 15th November

Children in Need

Dear St John's families,

It has been a busy couple of weeks at St John's with lots squeezed in and some fantastic learning taking place. We are excited to welcome you into school next week for our first parents evenings of the year. Please do also visit our book fair which will be in the hall during the parents evenings. We are hoping for some fantastic sales which will mean we can purchase some lovely new books to support our curriculum. It's the perfect excuse for some early Christmas shopping!

Our sports teams have been back in action with football matches for the girls and boys teams as well as a netball tournament this week. You can find out more about how they got on inside this newsletter.

This week, we also supported World Mental Health Day and the children did a brilliant job of wearing yellow making St John's a very bright place to be! Our assemblies focused on the importance of sharing and talking about our feelings as a way of looking after our mental health.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you for all of your generous donations towards our Harvest Assembly today. Lincoln Community Larder have also passed on their thanks. Our school community has done an amazing job in ensuring that those who most need it can receive food to feed their families and I know how much this will be appreciated.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Mrs Emma Jefferson

Headteacher

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Email: stjohnsenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk

Website:

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



Championing children; making a difference

Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



RJR	98.7%
RAS	98%
1T	92.3%
1HC	97.2%
2ST	93.9%
2F	91.5%
30S	96.3%
3B	97.7%
4T	98.8%
4D	93.5%
5N	93.9%
5BT	98.1%
6B	96.3%
6M	92.8%

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 Updates

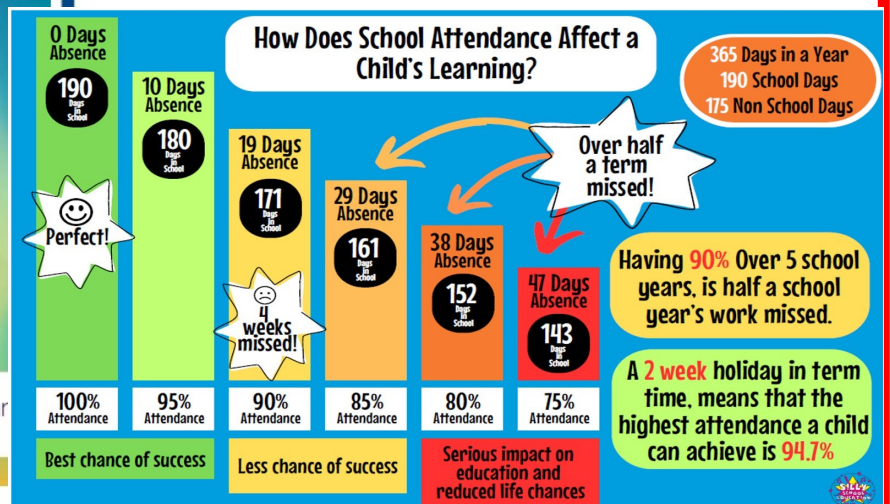
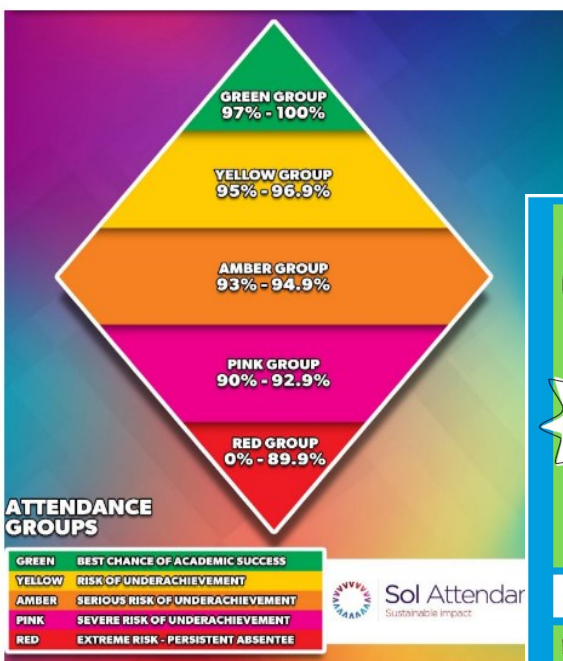
Last week, 1HC took the lead in our attendance class challenge but it is still very close with many weeks left to go before the winners are announced before the Christmas Holidays!



Safeguarding Updates

Our Early Years children play on the front playground during lunchtime. We have noticed that some families have been coming up to say hello to their children at the fence and, whilst this is lovely, it can then make the children upset when you have to say goodbye and leave. Please could we ask that you don't approach the children at the fence during lunchtime so that we don't confuse or unsettle them. They really have been doing so well and they're so happy and we want to keep that going!

Attendance Ladder



Learning in Class



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Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful time visiting the River Witham on Wednesday to complete some Geography fieldwork. They thought carefully about the uses of the river and the features they could see. They took some time to make some careful observations and ended their visit with a stick race to observe the flow of the river. All of the adults were very impressed with the children's behaviour and the children also showed our St John's value of respect when there were some unanticipated wildlife visitors. They were fascinated by the swans! This trip really supported the children's learning about rivers and these experiences really help the children's learning to be more meaningful.



Year 6

As part of their art learning journey this term, Year 6 have been practising their drawing skills. They have used careful observations and grids to help enlarge landmarks into large-scale models, inspired by the artist Lubaina Himid. Once they had drawn their landmarks, they used collage (paper had images from the original drawings of 'Oliver Twist' by George Cruickshank) and extra cross hatching techniques to add light, shade and texture to their pieces. The trickiest element was getting their structures to stand but with a bit of trial and error, they made it work. Don't they all look fantastic!



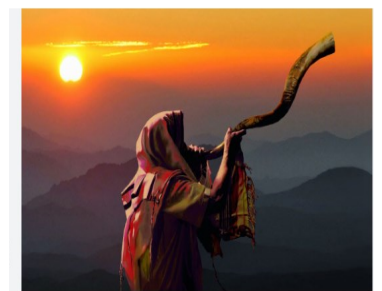
Hedgehog Club

Our fabulous Hedgehog Club have used some playdough to create some mythical creatures outside on the trees. The children collected a variety of natural materials to decorate their playdough and create a 'face'. They made up their own stories connected to their characters. Thank you to all of the children for their amazing creativity, concentration and imagination. It was a super session. We also made sure that we cleared away all of the playdough at the end of the session because playdough is not good for our wildlife.



Rosh Hashanah

We were really happy to invite Mr Griffiths into school to speak to the children about the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashanah. As a member of the Jewish community, Mr Griffiths was able to share the importance of this festival to Jews and showed some wonderful items to the children including his shofar which is a type of horn. During Rosh Hashanah, this horn is blown many times! The children asked some great questions and it was wonderful to learn more about this festival and its importance to Jews. Children in Year 1 as part of their PSHE learning have been tasting food enjoyed in different festivals and cultures and tried some apple dipped in honey which is commonly eaten during Rosh Hashanah! They thought it was very sweet and delicious!



Lincolnshire Day

Last week was Lincolnshire day! We are very proud to be a school in Lincolnshire and we make sure this is reflected through our curriculum at St John's. Here are just a few examples of how our local context and history is covered in our curriculum. In Year 1, the children learn all about Bracebridge Heath and what makes it a nice place to come to school in. In Year 2, the children learn about farming in Lincolnshire and compare this with farming in Nigeria. They also learn about what school was like in the past and learn about George Boole, born in Lincoln! In Year 3, the children learn about Lincoln as a Roman city and the legacy left behind. In Year 6, the children learn about Lincolnshire's role in the world wars, including how Bracebridge Heath was the base for key aircraft repair depots.



World Mental Health Day



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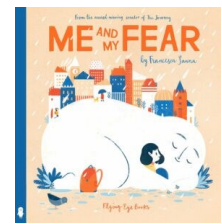
World Mental Health Day

We had a fabulous day on Thursday wearing yellow to acknowledge world mental health day with the aim of making our world a little bit brighter. In our assemblies, we explored that mental health is about the different feelings we may experience and how we manage those. We talked about how it can help to share our feelings and our worries with a trusted adult and who those adults may be. We also looked at the 5 ways of wellbeing which I've included below. These are strategies that can be used to support with having positive mental health. More information can also be found [here](#).

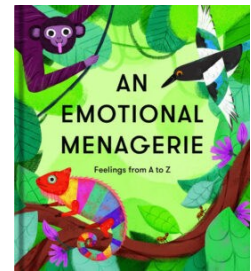
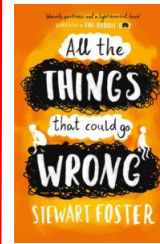


Books to support children's mental health

Early Years / KS1



KS2



5 ways to wellbeing



Looking after your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Research by the New Economics Foundation has found there are five ways to look after your mental wellbeing:



connect

Connecting with the people around us is a great way to remind ourselves that we're important and valued by others.

- Arrange to meet people regularly
- Reach out to someone
- Take time to get to know your neighbours



be active

By making sure we are regularly moving our bodies, we can look after our mental and physical health at the same time.

- Go for a walk during your lunch break
- Try activities that bring our focus to the mind-body connection, like yoga or tai chi



take notice

Taking notice of our thoughts, emotions and surroundings is a great way to stay present and pay attention to our needs.

- Take up a mindful hobby e.g. knitting
- Write down three things you feel grateful for



keep learning

Learning new things is a good way to meet new people and boost our self confidence, which in turn improves our mental health and wellbeing.

- Try out a new recipe
- Join a class or learn a new language
- Learn something new about the people around you



give

Research has found a link between doing good things and an increase in wellbeing.

- Try and do one kind thing every day
- Become a Health in Mind Hero by giving your time through volunteering/ fundraising

www.health-in-mind.org.uk



"I just want the noise in my head to stop"

Are you worried about a young person in your life? Don't wait for the problem to get worse! Contact our Parents Helpline for free & confidential advice.

Call the helpline today on 0808 802 5544

or visit www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline to speak to us online.

We're supporting Hello Yellow on 10 October to show young people they're not alone with their mental health.

HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

In Other News

Exciting illustration opportunity for our children!

One of our very talented parents has written a children's book which they are hoping to have published very soon. I was lucky enough to hear the story earlier in the week and I think it could have the potential to help many children who experience some sensitive home situations. The book needs some illustrations and this is where the children of St John's can help! The author of the book would love for our children to draw illustrations which could then end up in the finished book! There are 10 illustrations needed. Pupils can choose to draw just one of the illustrations or do as many as they like and we would welcome pictures from all year groups! The illustration needs to be drawn to fit a portrait A4 piece of paper and the illustrations needed are:

- 1) Tins of beans and fruit
- 2) A mop and bucket
- 3) Oscar the cat
- 4) A barking dog and a roaring lion
- 5) A packet of crisps
- 6) Money (both notes and coins)
- 7) Flames, knights and dragons
- 8) Holding hands
- 9) A kite and a bike
- 10) A mirror reflecting a rainbow.



Illustrations can be brought into school and handed into the school office by Friday 1st November. Please make sure the child's name and class is written on the back!

Sporting Success

Our boys and girls football teams have started their season in great form, putting in some fantastic performances and showing all of our values. It's always a pleasure to watch them play and we look forward to watching their progress over this term.

St John's Girls		Washingborough	St John's Boys		Branston	St John's Girls		Hartsholme
13		1	3		1	4		0
St John's Boys		Branston	St John's Boys		Heighington			
0		1	3		2			

In the Community



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Email from the past!

This week, our school received this very lovely email from a past pupil. It just made me think of all the opportunities we want to provide for all of our children because we never know what the impact of these might be and the difference it might make to them in their later life. We always say that primary school sows the seeds for who our children will become and emails like this make me realise just how very true that is!

At the age of 82 I thought I would write to you to let you know how much your school dictated the future of my life.


In 1949 my father, an RAF Officer, was posted to Waddington from Berlin where he served with the British Mission to the Soviet Sector. However, after being sent to your school, at my first music lesson I was asked to sing. As a result, my parents were advised to send me for an audition to Lincoln Cathedral. The choirmaster there told my parents to send me for an audition to Westminster Abbey. I was accepted there and in 1953 sang at the late Queen's coronation which has been the single high point in my life. Now, I have retired and live happily in Cornwall but will forever be grateful to your music teacher at the time. Wishing you all well.

**DON'T
FORGET**

We will be having a book fair in the hall during parents evenings. Payment will only be via card and you'll just need a mobile phone which is able to scan a QR code to then pay online.

There will be a range of books and school will receive commission based on the total number of sales which we will use to purchase some lovely new books to support our curriculum.

The Heath: Village Hall and Library

 **Harry Potter Book Day: Care of Magical Creatures**

Thursday 17th October 24 - 6pm to 7pm

This event is limited to 25 children. Please sign up for the event in the library. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Fair

