



ST JOHN'S
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Newsletter

Issue 14—September 2024



Respect Kindness Confidence Tolerance Self-Discipline

Key Dates

Wednesday 2nd October

Y6 residential information session 3.45pm

Monday 7th October

Individual school photos

Wednesday 9th October

Y3 Local River Study trip

Thursday 10th October

World Mental Health Day—wear yellow day!

Friday 11th October

Harvest assembly—food donations welcomed

14th—18th 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

Dear St John's families,

I really can't believe that we are already over halfway through our term. They say time flies when you're having fun and that certainly is the case at St John's.

The children continue to be so well settled into their new classes and our value of the term is being lived out everywhere. So many children have stopped me in the corridors to say that their class kindness buckets are already full which has made me very proud indeed.

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our meet the teacher events in the first couple of weeks of term. It's great to share what the children will be doing in their year groups and a little more about expectations and routines in the classes.

Thank you to all the families who visited our fairtrade stall last week. We sold out (bar a few packs of raisins!) and raised an amazing £226 all going to the fairtrade foundation. It was so popular, we may run another one later in the year.

Later on this term, we will have our parents evenings. This will give you time with your child's class teacher to discuss how they have settled into their new year group as well as some key strengths and initial targets for development. These are always a great opportunity to share your child's successes and answer any queries you may have as well. During this time, we will also be running a scholastic book fair in the school hall. This is perfectly timed for some early Christmas shopping and school receive commission based on book sales which we can put towards lovely new books for our school!

Thank you for all your continued support.

Mrs Emma Jefferson

Headteacher

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Email: stjohnsenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk

Website:

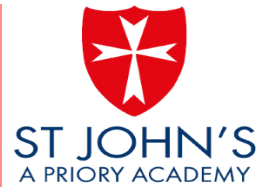
<http://www.stjohnsprimaryacademy.co.uk/>



Championing children; making a difference

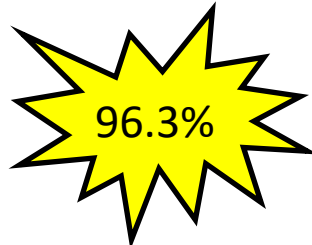
Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

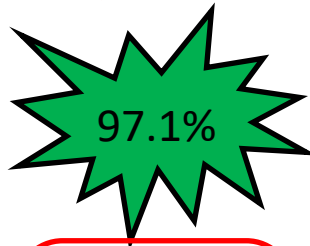


RJR	99.3%
RAS	98.3%
1T	94.7%
1HC	97.7%
2ST	95.3%
2F	98.4%
30S	98.2%
3B	94.8%
4T	93.9%
4D	94.8%
5N	94.9%
5BT	98.9%
6B	95.4%
6M	95.7%

Attendance for the week:



Attendance for the year to date:



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

Attendance Updates

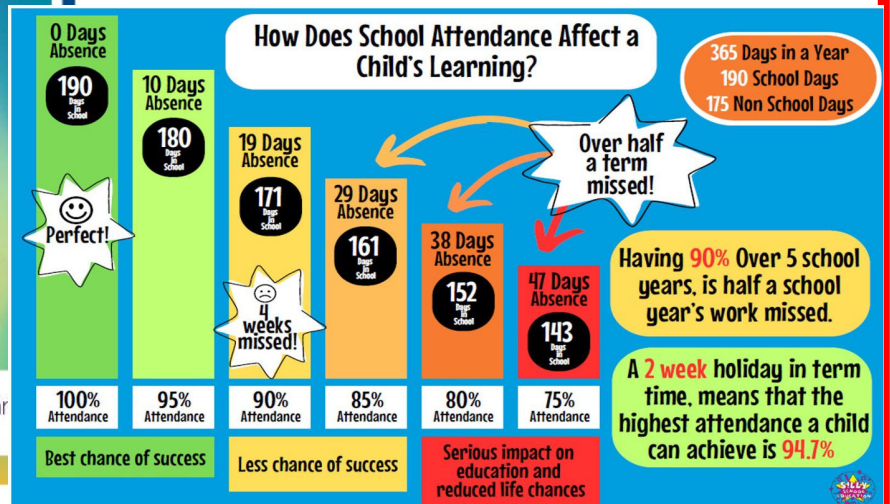
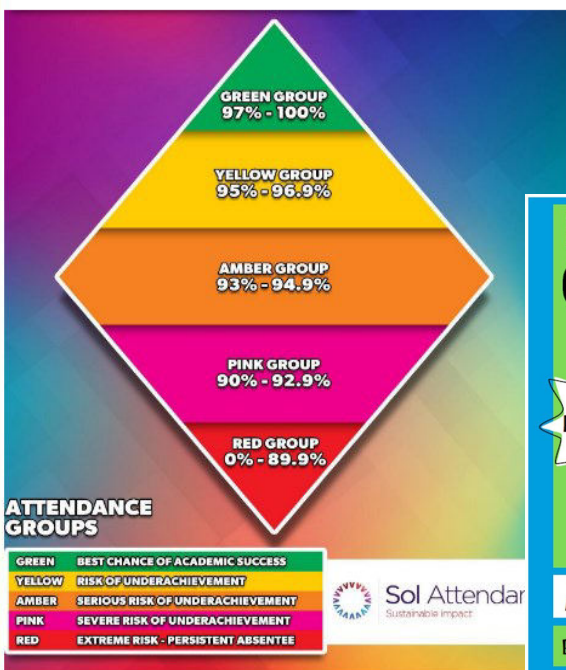
It's close at the top at the moment with our class attendance challenge with RJR, 2F, 30S and 5BT taking an early lead this term but there are still plenty of weeks left. Attendance for the school is currently at 97.1% which puts us in the green! This is a great start to the year.



Safeguarding Updates

Please can we gently remind parents and families to leave the KS2 playground in a timely manner once children have been collected from school. We know that the play equipment is very tempting and lots of fun but we have after school clubs on the playground / field most nights and we therefore need to get the gate locked as quickly as possible to keep the children safe. Thank you so much for your support with this.

Attendance Ladder



Learning in Class



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Year 1

In Year 1 the children (and staff!) have been very excited to start the Little Wandle phonics scheme. They are enjoying reading all of our lovely new books. The children take part in 3 reading group sessions a week where they focus on a different skill each time: fluency, prosody and comprehension. They will then be bringing the books home to share with you the results of all their hard work in class!

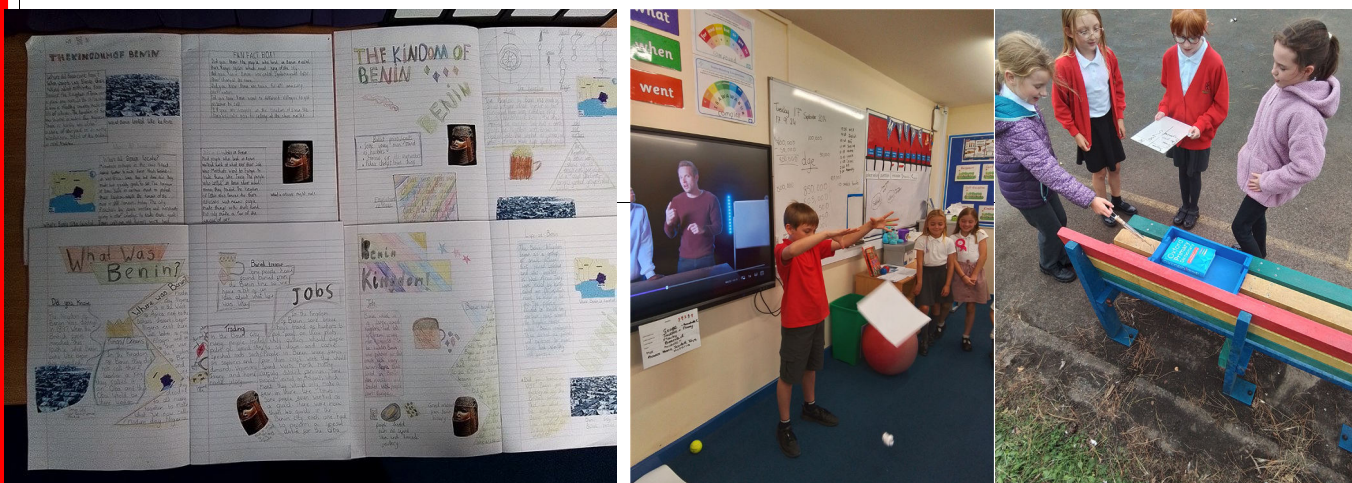
In Art, the children in Year 1 have been exploring all the different marks we can make and trying out lots of different drawing tools. They look very proud of their work and rightly so! Great job Year 1!

The children also had a very exciting afternoon this week, going on a local walk as part of their Geography learning looking for human and physical features in our local area. They found houses, shops and a church as well as trees, hedges and other physical features. Fantastic fieldwork Year 1!



Year 5

Year 5 have been writing non-chronological reports about their History topic of the Kingdom of Benin. I'm so impressed with the quality of work they are producing in their books! In Science lessons, the children have been experimenting with different forces and have started by observing the effects of gravity and air resistance. The children also used Newton meters to compare the friction produced by different surfaces found on and around the playground. Great investigating Year 5!





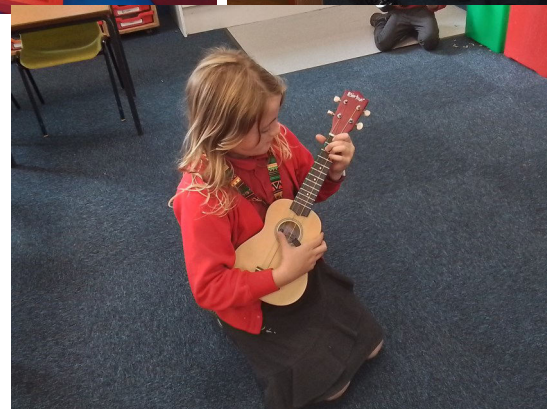
Little Wandle Information Session

We had a parents information session for our new Reception families this week to introduce them to how phonics is taught using our new scheme and how support can be given at home. If you missed the session, then the information will be put on tapestry. We assess pupils regularly on what sounds they are learning and how many they are remembering. We will share these assessments with you too so that you know where some extra practice may be helpful!



Clubs

We have had some brilliant after school clubs start this term. I walked into gardening club this week to find the children absolutely thrilled at how messy they were getting making some brilliant bird feeders. Ukulele club has also been a huge hit. I got to see the children practicing some of what they had learnt this week and I was blown away by how much progress they have made in just over 3 weeks. I've been promised a little performance if I go back next week which I can't wait for. Choir with Mrs Ballard are already practicing Christmas songs as they are very in demand, being booked up for performances across the festive period!



Admissions to Reception in September 2026

All schools are required to consult on their admissions arrangements every seven years, even if no changes are being proposed. Under that seven-year rule, we are about to consult on our arrangements for admission to our Reception Class in September 2026. No changes are being proposed and our oversubscription criteria remain exactly the same. For all the details, please go to our website at: [St John's Primary Academy - Admissions](#).



Little Wandle Books



As you know, this year we have changed phonics scheme and invested in Little Wandle. The scheme comes with some beautiful reading books for the children to read in school and at home. Please can we ask that these books are looked after at home. We have already had some books brought back damaged which then means another child is unable to use it. As per the information sent out last academic year, if a book does get lost or damaged, in line with other library services, we will be asking for a fee of £5 to replace the book and keep our scheme full. Please can you also make sure books are returned on the correct day. Another group will need the book that is being read and so it makes it difficult if books are not returned on time. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you Teaching Assistants!

Today is National Teaching Assistants' Day so I would like to say, on behalf of our whole school community, a huge thank you to our incredible teaching assistants for all their efforts. School simply could not run without them. They really do go the extra mile. The children presented our TAs with some cards today as well as some cakes in the staffroom as a well deserved treat for all that they do. I'd also like to include our other fabulous support staff including our admin team, site manager and lunchtime staff for all their incredible work as well. St John's really is one incredible team!



Harvest Festival



Our harvest assembly will be in school on Friday 11th October. We would welcome any donations of long-life food including tins, packets, etc. The food we collect for the harvest assembly will be donated to Lincoln Community Larder to support those who are hungry and in need. Reverend Jacqueline will be coming in to lead our harvest assembly and the children are busy practicing songs during singing assemblies as well. Please can any food donations be brought in **on the morning of Friday 11th October.**

Please note that because this is a whole school assembly, we don't have any spare room for families but I'll include photos in the next newsletter.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Columbas Church have invited us to take part in their Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 7th December. This involves different organisations decorating a tree. We'd like to invite the children to make a Christmas tree decoration at home which reflects life at St John's. It could be one based on our values—confidence, respect, kindness, self-discipline and tolerance or it could be anything else linked to school life at St John's. The decorations need to be able to hang from a tree so can't be too large or heavy! The deadline for bringing these in will be **Tuesday 26th November.** Let's help decorate a very St John's festive tree!



In the Community



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PAACT Parent Session

Thank you so much to all the families who attended our PAACT parent workshop. I hope it was a forum to discuss experiences and learn more about support available. PAACT run in person and virtual support sessions over Zoom on the first Monday of the month from 7pm—9pm. All dates can be found [here](#).

Bracebridge Heath Library

WHATS ON

- WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 11AM STORYTIME
- SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER CELEBRATION OF SUMMER READING CHALLENGE - INVITATION ONLY
- 21ST AND 22ND SEPTEMBER WATCH OUT FOR OUR SCARECROW!
- THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 6 -7.30PM BOOK CHATTER - COME AND CHAT ABOUT BOOKS WITH A CUPPA AND CAKE!
- SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 10AM CHESS TOURNAMENT - COME AND CHALLENGE OUR CHESS MAN OF MYSTERY!
- THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 6-7PM HARRY POTTER NIGHT -FUN, MAGIC AND WIZARDY! LOOK OUT FOR WHEN THE FREE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
- SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER CHESS MORNING 10 TO 12 NOON- ALL WELCOME

Staying Safe Online

We understand that many of our pupils may play games like Fortnite. There is a useful guide for parents and carers that can be found [here](#) with how to ensure children remain safe whilst playing fortnite. Children are taught e-safety in school but we'd like to provide regular information for families as well.



Snapchat has also recently introduced new features to protect children from harm.

From our experiences in school, snapchat can be one of the most troublesome apps that children use so again, information about staying safe whilst using this is important. Please click [here](#) for more details.

