

# St. John's C of E Primary School, Shildon

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## Newsletter: Autumn 2022

### Welcome

It is great to see the children back in school after the break and we are looking forward to a half-term full of activities.

### Attendance and Punctuality



Attendance in school is vital to ensure pupils are not falling behind. We understand that Autumn Term can be challenging with many winter germs, however if you have any questions at all about whether your child should be in school, please contact the office for advice.

Our attendance in school for Autumn 1 was 93.5%, this is below Government expectations. We have already seen an improvement in Autumn 2 (95.9%), which is great news, however, this is still something that we will need to continue working on. We have sent parents texts to inform you of your child's attendance if it is causing concern and we are hoping to see these numbers rise over the coming weeks. Congratulations to Y6 who currently have the best overall attendance for the last two months!

A reminder that we open at 8:40am, to allow a prompt start to the day! Making sure your child is in school on time is so important as learning begins immediately.

### Curriculum News

There have been so many enrichment activities going on throughout each year group. To name a few:

- Our pupils have taken part in World Mental Health Day – this was an excellent opportunity for pupils to discuss with staff issues around Mental Health and address the importance of the fact that we need to keep talking.
- Anti-Bullying week, we launched this with all pupils wearing their odd socks to celebrate our uniqueness and an assembly where we discussed



the importance of 'Reaching Out.' Each class also took part in workshops addressing a variety of issues around bullying.

- Our Y1 and Y2 pupils were lucky enough to work with a gymnastics coach last half term. The children learnt some amazing skills and enjoyed after school sessions too.
- We have a number of both before and after school clubs running at the moment. Some children have been specifically invited to further support their learning in a number of areas, some are to develop fitness and some are to look after the environment.
- During the month of October, we celebrated Black History Month. Black History Month has been marked in the UK for more than 30 years. It is held to highlight and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the black community in the



UK and worldwide. Throughout history, black people have made huge contributions to society in the fields of art, music, science, literature and many more areas.

We discussed why it is important to be inclusive – treating others as we would want to be treated ourselves. We really enjoyed reading about the lives of many important people like Rosa Parks and Muhammed Ali.

- On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 9 of our KS2 pupils visited the war memorial to lay a wreath to remember the fallen from all conflicts. They met an army veteran called Kevin who was happy to answer all of their questions about army life, Remembrance Day etc. Along with other members of the community, they took part in an impeccable 2 minutes silence.



*'Achieving Our Potential as God's Children'*



## Parent Information

**Parent Meetings:** Thank you to all of the parents who attended our parents' meetings – your support is invaluable. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child or their progress, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Reading at Home:** Thank you to all parents who attended meetings on how to support their children with reading at home. We are planning more of these sessions over time. However, if you are struggling with how to listen to your child read then please have a look at our website where we have examples of how we do this in school.



**Reading Packets:** We believe reading is so important! Each child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 has a Reading Packet for their reading book. All parents and carers receive a text reminder for their child to bring their reading packet the next day. Children in KS2 are able to bring home their Accelerated Reading book, on the understanding it is returned to school to use each day.

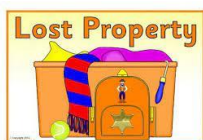
**Reclaimed Food Stall:** This continues to take place every Friday at the front of school. Thank you for your support and well done to everyone involved in making this happen!

### Christmas Service at St. John's Church:

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9:30am, we will be having a whole school Christmas Carol Service at St. John's Church. We will be singing carols and traditional songs as well as listening to readings reminding us of the Nativity story. In school, all children will be making their own Christingles and we will be lighting them in the service at church. We would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!



**Lost Property / Names in Clothes:** We have a number of lost property items. Please speak to Mrs Postle in the Office for more information. Also, to help with



this issue, please make sure you write your child's name on each item of clothing your child brings to school: particularly coats, jumpers, shirts and trousers etc.

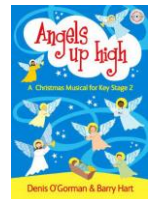
**Facebook:** This term we have introduced the use of Facebook as we felt this would be a more accessible way to get information to parents quickly and share activities happening in school.



Despite a couple of teething issues, we are delighted with how this is working and at the fact that so many of you are already following what is going on in school. Thank you.

**Christmas Swap Shop:** As we all know, children are expensive and grow quickly. With this in mind we will be holding another Christmas Swap Shop at 3:00pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. If you have any unwanted children's Christmas clothing, please could you send it into school the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> November. It will be sorted into sizes and put on our stall, where parents will be able to come along and take what they need for their child for a small donation. This has always been extremely successful and we would like to encourage as many of you to participate as possible.

**KS2 Nativity – Angels up High:** At 2:00pm and 6:00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December are our KS2 Christmas performances. Parents will be notified when tickets are available. Tickets will be limited to 2 per child to enable as many parents as possible to attend.



**Updating Contact Details:** It is important to keep your details up to date, just in case school needs to contact

you in an emergency. Please keep your information on Parentmail updated as much as you can with new mobile numbers and addresses etc.

ParentMail



## Important Dates

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Swap Shop  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS Nativity 10am & 2pm  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Nativity 2pm & 6pm  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December – KS1 Nativity 2pm  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service 9:30am  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner Day  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS Christmas Party  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of Autumn Term

There is an INSET day on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

**All pupils will return to school on  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Breakfast Club will be running as normal  
on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.  
However, before school intervention groups will not  
start until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

