

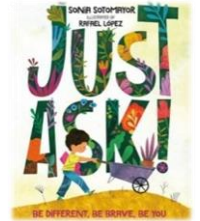


St John's Church of England Academy

I Will Shine

Issue 2:
Friday 16th
September
2022

What a wonderful first FULL week we have had at St John's! It has been a delight to see the children coming into school with smiles and enthusiasm. It was particularly wonderful to see our 30 new Reception children settling into school life and making friends already; you all looked so smart and grown up. All the children have settled in very well to their routines and are busy making getting to know their new teachers and teaching assistants and enjoying so many wonderful learning opportunities. Congratulations to the children that received an award this morning in our first Celebration Assembly. Monday's worship was reverent and respectful as we continued to reflect on the passing of Queen Elizabeth. The children learned the 5 fingers of prayer so please see whether they can remember which person or group to pray for on each of their fingers and thumb. We began a new way to worship this week with Mrs Stevenson's Wellbeing Wednesday video. Each week classes will watch Mrs Stevenson or Mrs Henderson on their classroom screens where they will pray together and enjoy a story designed to support an aspect of wellbeing and mental health. This week the story was called 'Just Ask' by Sonia Sotomayor and it was all about mental and physical health issues which affect people in our world. The children were very pleased to see Rev. Andy March this week and we are very grateful to him for taking the time to lead us in worship. The children love the way you bring stories from the Bible to life and help them to reflect on the Christian faith.



Stars of the Week – Congratulations!



Uniform

Over the summer holidays, guidance from the government was released to ensure that school uniform does not create a financial burden for families. With this in mind, we have changed some of the wording on our website and we have reduced the expectation of branded items. We have also removed any expectation of stereotypical gendered items of clothing, added support for children with sensory needs and added recognition of items worn for religious purposes. Please see our website for more details and do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Stevenson or Mrs Henderson if you have any questions about these changes.

Just a few reminders:

- 1) Please ensure that school PE kits are plain black shorts or joggers and a white t-shirt. We have some children wearing PE kits in different colours and with noticeable logos. Where a warm jumper is needed for outdoor PE, it should ideally have no logo.
- 2) Please ensure that long hair is tied back so that we can minimise the chance of head lice in school.
- 3) Please provide children with plain black footwear for school.
- 4) For health and safety, the only jewellery children can wear to school are stud earrings and watches so please support us by reminding children to remove other jewellery before school. Nail varnish should not be worn.

St John's Church of England Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs Laura Stevenson



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Labelling of school uniform and pre-loved clothing

Please can we remind all families to label school uniform. Our lost property is starting to pile up and it is taking staff a long time to reunite clothing with its owner. Please label all items of clothing with your child's name. Each half term, we will be providing people with the chance to browse pre-loved items of uniform and give them a new home free of charge, or for a voluntary donation. If you have uniform or coats which children have outgrown and still have lots of life left in them, please keep them safe and we will share a date each half term where clothing will be available to browse.

Harvest Celebration and school service

We would love to share this special service with our school community where Mrs Stevenson will be welcomed and commissioned as Headteacher at St John's. It will be held at St Christopher's Church on Sunday 2nd October at 10.00am. We need a group of Year 6 children to lead part of the service and we also need a group of singers to lead the congregation in song. Mrs Stevenson will have a sign-up list next week for those children who are interested. There is also a shared lunch after the service.



Parking

Please can I remind everyone that cars should not be driving into the school car park while children are walking through the gates. We have seen some near misses in the mornings and afternoons and children's safety must come first. Please do not drive through the vehicle gates between 8.45 - 9.00 and 3.30 - 3.40. If any families require disabled parking, please speak to us so we are aware. We have also been asked to remind people not to park on double yellow lines or block in residents' driveways.

New to Year Group Evening

Come along for an information evening and see some of the things we have in store over the next twelve months on Tuesday 20th September at 5.15pm. We will start with a presentation in the hall led by Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Henderson. After that, we will then give parents an opportunity to wander down to classrooms to meet the class teacher and ask any questions you may have. If you cannot attend, you will receive the information over email so please don't worry.



Save the date: Macmillan

On Friday 30th September, we will be running an event to raise money for Macmillan. We would love to be able to sell some homemade cakes from our school community so please put this date in your diary if you have a love of baking. More details to follow next week...

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Mini and Junior Duke Awards

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Junior Duke programme; we have a fantastic total of 141 children taking part this year! The booklets have now been ordered and as soon as the books have arrived, they will be handed out. This will be in approximately 5 weeks' time.



Safeguarding

Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Henderson are the safeguarding leads in school. If you have a concern about a child, please speak to us. We have a new safeguarding poster for children so that they know they can speak to any of the adults in school.

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Henderson

Weekly wellbeing tip

Dance a little bit in the morning before you leave the house because it changes the way you walk out into the world.



A prayer on the death of Her Majesty The Queen

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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