



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY**

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Headteacher Mr G. Watson



Dear Parents,

Wow, what an amazing few weeks! It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming the children into their new school and we are extremely looking forward to the class being in full time to begin our full curriculum.

Firstly, I wanted to emphasize how well the children have settled into the classroom, starting school can be a very difficult time and I am so proud of how the class have taken it in their stride and settled into St John's life. We have loved getting to know all the children and their unique personalities and are excited to continue to watch them grow and shine. Along with finding their way around a new classroom and making friends, the children have been getting up to loads of exciting activities such as painting, building towers, making a 'disco floor', drawing and getting involved with our small world areas.

### School-Home Partnership

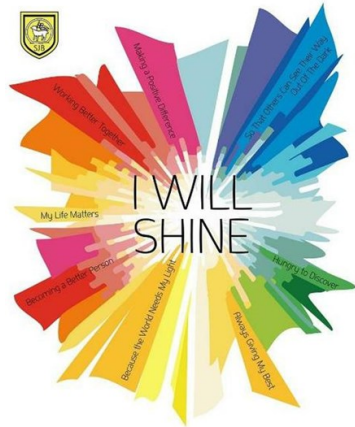
At St John's we know how important it is for parents to be involved in their child's learning and school life. We encourage a strong partnership between school and home. One way we develop this relationship is by inviting parents into school for 'Come and Share' and 'Time to Shine' sessions. The 'Come and Share' is an opportunity for you to learn alongside your child and the 'Time to Shine' is a session which the children can showcase their learning. Whilst we wish this could be face to face, following current COVID guidelines, it is likely the first sessions will be virtual. Details of the first sessions below.

Come and Share – **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**: Welcome catch up (sharing how the children have settled in) following this we will be uploading the first part of their special learning journals for you to see.

Time to Shine - **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October**: Harvest worship: the children will have the opportunity to perform in their very first St John's assembly. We can't wait!

### Trips and Clubs

Within our curriculum at St John's we also have exciting plans for enrichment activities. In Reception we are hoping to visit the Belgrade Theatre to see 'Santa's Magical Mystery Guest'. More information and letters to follow regarding this. We also have several exciting clubs which many parents have already shown an interest in. Before the children join these, we want to ensure that they are all fully settled into Reception and full-time learning. Dates for when these clubs will start will be sent home in further communications. We are aiming for these start dates to be over the next few weeks.



### Home-Learning

As we have sent home the children's reading packs today we thought some information around our home learning plan for Reception.

- \* Important information and letters will be sent home in your children's reading packs, please be sure to check them everyday.
- \* Try to read the story with your child everyday. All children have started on a picture book, try to encourage to tell story about the pictures to develop their communication and literacy skills
- \* Play the word game everyday if possible, ask the children to match and say the words out loud. This helps them with quick recognition of some common words.
- \* Please sign or comment in the children's reading diary whenever you read or play the word games.
- \* Please send the reading packs in with your child everyday, they will be kept in school overnight on a Thursday for the books to be changed. Please note the books will only be changed if the reading diary has been signed.
- \* In school we will be learning a new sound each day, look out for worksheets that are sent home to help your child practice the formation of the letter at home as and when is appropriate for your child. Please don't put extra pressure on yourselves to complete these, we leave judgement up to you and do not ask for these to be bought back in. We will also be sending information each week of the new sounds learnt in our phonics sessions to support you and your child.
- \* You should have received your seesaw logins, keep an eye on seesaw as we will be uploading some exciting pictures, videos or learning of the children in school. Please don't feel any pressure to upload anything from home (although we always love seeing your posts!). Please let me know if you have any issues regarding accessing your seesaw accounts.

