

From the smallest of seeds fed with faith and



love our St John's family will flourish and grow.

ST JOHN'S CEI SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER TERM 2



As we come to the end of Term 2, it has been a truly special and joy-filled time at St. John's Infants. The school has been alive with excitement as our children took part in memorable experiences including our Christingle celebrations, Nativity performances, Christmas service, Winter Disco and the awe-inspiring Wonderdome. These moments have not only enriched learning but have also strengthened our sense of community and togetherness.

Alongside these celebrations, we are proud of the continued improvements across our curriculum, with a strong focus on high-quality teaching and learning. In particular, our commitment to phonics is having a clear impact, with reading outcomes continuing to improve and children growing in confidence and enthusiasm as readers. Above all, there has been a wonderful sense of joy, curiosity and excitement across the school this term – a reflection of the hard work of our staff and the incredible attitudes of our children. We look forward to carrying this momentum into the new year. **Mr Hulme**

NATIVITIES

Year 2 treated us to a wonderful Nativity performance, confidently retelling the Christmas story with warmth, expression and joy, supported superbly by children from Reception and Year 1.

The singing, acting and narration reflected the children's hard work and growing confidence, while the way the younger pupils joined in so enthusiastically highlighted the strong sense of community and shared celebration across our school.

CHRISTINGLE AND CHURCH

Our Christingle celebration and Christmas service at church were truly meaningful highlights of the term, giving the children valuable opportunities to reflect on the Christian message of hope, light and love. The children took part with thoughtfulness and joy, confidently leading prayers, singing carols and listening respectfully, creating a calm and special atmosphere. It was wonderful to see families and staff come together to celebrate, and the children represented the school with pride, demonstrating our strong links with the church and the values that sit at the heart of our school community.

ATTENDANCE and UNIFORM

Regular attendance is vital to children's learning, progress and wellbeing, and being in school every day really does make a difference. This term, attendance for Butterflies was 89%, Squirrels 89.1% and Owls 91.1%, which is below the current national average of 95.3%. Every missed day means lost learning, routines and opportunities to build friendships, so it is essential that children attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. From next term, we will be holding weekly attendance meetings with families where attendance is causing concern, so that we can work together to improve outcomes for our children. We would also like to remind families of the importance of correct school uniform.

Wearing the correct uniform helps children feel a sense of belonging, pride and readiness to learn, and ensures consistency across the school. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high expectations for attendance and uniform.



PE - Wednesday's

After Christmas, all three classes will be having PE on Wednesday afternoon with Mr McGurk from All Saints - which is really exciting! Children are to bring their PE kits in school to change into each session. Please note children should not be wearing any jewellery to school and long hair should be tied back.

DIARY DATES

- 22nd Jan - Fire Safety Workshops
- 11th Feb - Parent Forum (2pm)
- 13th Feb - Chinese New Year Dancing
- 20th March - Squirrels to Kent Life
- 26th March - Owls to Fort Amhurst

PARENT FORUM

We recently held a Parent Forum, which provided a valuable opportunity for open discussion and sharing ideas. Key points included:

- Communication with parents has improved, with suggestions for more regular updates and clearer signposting to existing information
- Discussion around play-based learning in the Early Years, including messy play and how this supports children's development
- Clarification of behaviour expectations, how incidents are managed in school, and where to find the Behaviour Policy
- Practical matters such as attendance, uniform, PE kit, collection routines and parking
- Positive feedback on recent improvements in behaviour and support for children with additional needs
- Strong interest in setting up a PTA to help support the school community and future projects
- Discussion around celebrating the diverse cultures represented in our school

Thank you to all parents who attended and contributed so thoughtfully.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for volunteers to assist with classroom activities and special events. If you're interested in helping out, please collect a volunteer form from the main school office. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!