

From the smallest of seeds fed with faith and



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



# St John's Newsletter

## Term 5 Week 3

### Squirrel Class Fun...

This week in Squirrels Class, we've had a wonderfully busy and exciting time as we continue building our core skills across Maths, English, and Science. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of fractions by finding halves and quarters of shapes and groups of objects. The children have enjoyed lots of practical activities, helping them see how things can be shared equally in real and meaningful ways. In English, we have been exploring the much-loved story Where the Wild Things Are. We've been identifying key features of the text, discussing the characters and settings, and retelling the story in our own words. The children have shown fantastic imagination and growing confidence in their storytelling. In Science, we have been learning all about garden and wild plants. We've been spotting the differences between them, naming common examples, and talking about where they grow.



### Owl Class Assembly

On Wednesday at 9am, Owl class parents are invited to join us for their class assembly in the hall. It would be great to see as many parents as possible.



### Summer Fair

We will be having our summer fair on Friday 10th July. We are currently planning ahead to our school Summer Fair. If you know anyone that would be willing to donate towards raffle prizes for this, please contact the school office. More information to follow.



### PE Kits

A gentle reminder that all children should come to school in their PE kits on their PE days. PE kit must be a plain white top, black joggers and trainers. Please ensure your child does not wear labelled clothing and correct uniform.

Butterflies: Wednesday

Squirrels: Tuesday & Wednesday

Owls: Wednesday & Friday.

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## Star of the Week!

Butterflies: Aaliyah

Squirrels: Cosmo

Owls: Zuzannah

## Celebration Award

Butterflies: Cody-Lee

Squirrels: Tommy

Owls: Johnny-Lee



## Important Dates...

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May: Owl assembly 9am

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May- No Pen Day

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Last Day of Term

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June: **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY: NO SCHOOL**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Children to return to school

## Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check is a short assessment that takes place in Year 1 to help teachers understand how well children are developing their phonics and early reading skills. During the check, children are asked to read a mixture of real and made-up words using the phonics sounds they have learned in school. Parents can support their child by reading regularly at home, practising letter sounds and blending sounds together to read words, and encouraging confidence and enjoyment in reading. Simple activities such as sharing books, playing word games and revisiting phonics sounds little and often can make a big difference in helping children become fluent, enthusiastic readers

Please see the next page for links to a video and games you can play with your child at home.

## Attendance!

Butterflies: 93.8%

Squirrels: 91.84%

Owls: 89.1%

School Attendance: 91.2%

A huge improvement on last week. Well done all!

# Phonics Games

Here are some excellent online phonics games and websites that can help children prepare for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check while making learning fun:

**Topmarks Balloon Phonics** — A simple and engaging game for practising blending and segmenting CVC words. Great for building confidence with sounding out words.

**KS1 Phonics Screening Check App** — A free practice tool with real and alien words similar to those used in the phonics screening check. Children can even try a full 40-word mock check.

**Phonics Check Practice** — Offers short daily practice sessions, mock phonics checks and targeted practice for tricky sounds and split digraphs.

**Teach Your Monster to Read** — A highly recommended phonics game loved by teachers and parents. Children learn through interactive games and reading challenges. Reddit users described it as “super fun and interactive.”

**Read with Phonics** — Includes phonics games and practice phonics screening checks based on previous test papers.

**Tricky Words Trainer** — Free games to help children learn tricky/common exception words through listening, spelling and word-search activities.

**Phonic Zoom** — Features over 30 phonics and spelling games linked to phonemes and graphemes taught in school.

A little practice each day can really help. Short 5-10 minute sessions, focusing on sounding out and blending words, are often more effective than long practice sessions. Encourage children to “sound talk” unfamiliar words and reassure them that alien words are just silly made-up words designed to test their phonics skills.

## Alien Words | Phonics Screening Check Practise

Scan the QR code to find access to an informative YouTube video to show you how the phonics screening check will take place next month. If you have any questions, please see your child's class teacher.

Thank you



*Scan me!*

The password is StJohns to access the QR code.