



We are growing
our learning

St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

Newsletter

Volume 32, Issue 2

Newsletter Date:
Friday 22nd April 2016

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...

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Follow us on Twitter: @SJG_News School Uniform: www.smartyantsschoolwear.com

The first session of our Positive Parenting sessions for all parents in the school began last week. It's not too late to join and Ms Clarke would be delighted to welcome you next Wednesday from 9.00 to 10.00 at the Abbey Field site. If you have not signed up yet and do have some time, please do come along. Plenty of refreshments available and it is all about working together to help your children be the best they can be.

Forest Schools with Foundation Pupils

The outdoor Forest Schools curriculum gives our youngest pupils opportunities to explore the natural world, work on some problem solving activities and develop their core physical skills.



Key Features of Forest Schools

- The use of a natural outdoor environment.
- Allows every child to have a voice, especially those who find it difficult to communicate in a more conventional learning environment.
- Child-led approach to children's learning which is fun and unhurried.
- A high adult to child ratio allows children to undertake new experiences and challenges whilst taking appropriate risks.
- Long term programmes that allows repetition where children come into contact with nature using all their senses.
- Supports personalised learning.
- Builds children's confidence and self esteem as they are responsible for making their own decisions and are carefully supported to achieve.
- Trained adults and facilitators and observers rather than leaders and directors.

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.

Jane D. Hull

Kingswood

Year 5 Parents please remember that the next payment of £65 for the residential in September is due NOW.

Shakespeare Week

Next week we are commemorating the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. If you get a chance over the weekend watch this Horrible Histories link for Shakespeare

<http://goo.gl/ptqz96>



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Diary Dates

Wednesday 20th April. Session 2 of Positive Parenting Group 9.00-10.00

25th April—29th April. Shakespeare Week.

Monday 2nd May. Bank Holiday Monday.

Wednesday 27th April. 9.00—10.15a.m. Open Morning.

Tuesday 3rd May—Friday 6th May. Year 4 Residential Danbury.

Monday 9th May—Thursday 12th May. Year 6 SATs.

Monday 23rd May—Friday 27th May. Year 2 SATs.

Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June. Half Term.

Monday 13th June—Friday 17th June. Year 1 Phonics Screening.

Thursday 22nd July. Last day of Summer Term

Governor Reports

Governors have written summaries of the two most recent committee meetings to help keep parents informed about decisions made in the school. Please see overleaf.



Awards

Tigger Award (Trinovantes) - Jessica Johnston

Eeyore Award (Oysters) — Olivia Gillon
Winnie the Pooh Award (Castle) - Camron Catrall

Rory the Lion Award (Dutch) - Abed Ali
Pluto Award (Iceni) - Dylan Henson
Sully Award (Mercury) - Lily Allen

Diddle Award (Claudius) - Reese Merrifield

Scrappy Award (Eagles) - Kairon Martin
Bumble Award (Circus) - Bethany Gilfillan

Simba Award (Roses) - Fadl Fataw

Stitch Award (Chariot) - Kiara He

Hathi Award (Star) - Stanley Piper

Mickey Award (Jumbo) - Victoria Brown

Spot— Kare Gammack-Smith

Heads' Award— Foundation Children

Attendance — Star

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Parking on Flagstaff Road

I have had several meetings over the last few weeks with both the Traffic Enforcement Team at Colchester and with Babcocks, who service and repair military vehicles based on Flagstaff Rd.

There is a significant concern about parking along Flagstaff Road about:

1. The size of the military vehicles that enter and leave the Babcock site
2. Parking by the dentist surgery and opposite Abbey Gate house
3. Parking in the cul-de-sac at the bottom of Flagstaff Road.

Since previous arrangements were put in place, the school has grown considerably with 390 children now in the school. The school, Traffic Enforcement and Babcocks are concerned that if the situation remains the same, it is only a matter of time before we have a serious accident that involves a member of our school. None of us want that on our conscience!

With the above in mind, I need to inform you that the Traffic Enforcement Team will be stepping up their patrols in and around St John's Green. The traffic regulations for double yellow lines along all of Flagstaff Road (from opposite the dentist surgery to Circular Road) will be strictly adhered to. This means that if you park there, even if you stay in your car, you are likely to get a ticket.

I fully appreciate the frustrations that will be born from this and wish I could offer an alternative parking solution. Unfortunately, I can't, other than to say that the decision taken by the school, in conjunction with the Traffic Enforcement Team and Babcocks, with regards to parking along Flagstaff Road, is about safeguarding children.

Parents may park responsibly on double yellow lines at the front of the Town site from 3.25pm-3.35pm. Parking on the zigzags is not allowed.

All things SATs

Year 6 children now come in for breakfast every morning to set them up for the start of the day.

KS2 SATs (Yr6) is 9th-12th May.

KS1 SATs (Yr2) is 23rd-27th May.

Packed Lunch REMINDER

Please be aware that we have several children who have nut allergies, therefore please do not provide peanut butter sandwiches or peanut products in your child's packed lunch.

And Finally ...

On Wednesday I went to a schools' exhibition at the ExCel centre in London. On arrival I was greeted with a very large queue to get into the exhibition centre. Oh dear, I thought, I shall get a cup of coffee to while away the time in the queue. As I purchased my coffee, I realised that the line of 100s of people (who really didn't look like teachers) were queuing to verify their documents for the London Marathon. Oops, not really my thing!

Have a Good Weekend

Tina Bourne

Summary of Full Governing Body meeting

Held on Monday 11th April 2016

Following the completion of Assessment Period 2, members of the full governing body met with the senior management team and all teaching staff to discuss pupil progress and attainment, and the interventions that were implemented. Each Governor had a series of questions in order to challenge the teaching staff on teaching plans to ensure best possible outcomes for all pupils.

Other items discussed during the meeting include approval of policies, and these included Pay Policy for staff, Education Visits, Child Protection, Behaviour, Code of Conduct, Recruitment, Grievance, Charging and Remissions and Leave of Absence.

Governors were provided with details on various financial matters including the 2016/17 Action Plans relating to the 2015/16 Audits. The FGB did not approve the budget 2016/17 which had been discussed at the Personnel, Premises and Finance Committee Meeting in March and the school would be writing to Essex County Council notifying them of this fact.

Following an excellent training session in January, the Governors identified a number of actions for the school to address. For example, a nominated Governor met with the HLTA in charge of the library and Mrs Bibby to ensure that the library provided enough variety in reading material. Governors also wanted to ensure that they had a good idea of what was happening in each subject area, and so have allocated a named Governor for Writing, Maths and Reading and to meet with the subject leads regularly. Other actions included appropriate spending of money for Pupil Premium children and appropriate interventions for the more able children. These were discussed at this meeting, and the Every Child Matters Committee meeting, and recorded in the minutes. Many of these actions have already been addressed and will be reviewed regularly.

Standing items on the meeting include the Head Teacher's report which outlines the school development plans, and Staff Structure Review. The FGB also agreed the Child Protection Policy which is on the school website.

Finally, Alan Short, our Chair of Governors, will be standing down at the end of the summer term after 10 years of service to the school. He has been an excellent Chair during his time and a great support to the senior management team and the governing body. Thank you Alan, you will be greatly missed, but we wish you well in the future.

Also thanks to Annie Fair, who is also stepping down from the Governing Body. Annie, will also be missed, having had an extremely long association with the school. Annie is an 'old' St John's Green pupil as well as her children attending the school. Annie has been on the Governing body for 4 years, but even though she is stepping down as Governor she will continue to come in and read with the children regularly. Thank you very much Annie.

I hope this has been helpful. Please see the Governance section on the school website if you need further information.

Sophie Stubbings

Chair of Every Child Matters Sub Committee

Link and Training Governor

Report of the meeting of the

St John's Primary School

**Personnel, Premises and Finance Sub-committee of
the School Governors held on**

Tuesday 22nd March 2016

The main item before the sub-committee was the approval of the 2016/17 school budget. The governors were disappointed that six weeks prior to the meeting Essex County Council (ECC) had unilaterally changed the funding methodology previously agreed with the school as part of the expansion project. This significantly impacted on the 2016/17 plans for resources within the school and also affected the funds available for the final two years of the three-year budget plan.

A letter had been sent to ECC and the issue of the 2016/17 budget would be discussed at the full Governing Body meeting on 11 April. In the meantime, and to ensure that the staff were paid, the sub-committee decided to approve the budget on an interim basis.

Budget setting was difficult enough in the current circumstances as additional National Insurance and teachers' pension contributions had already put pressure on resources. Based on the lower income unilaterally imposed by ECC and with the increased staffing expenses, the sub-committee approved a revised staff structure for consultation with the staff.

The sub-committee also approved a business plan for the Catering and Breakfast Club for 2016/17 and agreed that prices for both school meals and for breakfast club would be unaltered.

The sub-committee noted the continued success of the Fun4Kids after school club. The charges for the use of the school premises would be reviewed at the next meeting.

The sub-committee also received the external audit report of the school finances carried out by ECC which classified the school accounts as "Good Assurance". They identified 2 moderate and two low priority areas for improvement. These four areas were at the lowest level of concern and have been included in an action plan associated with the School Financial Value Standard. The sub-committee were pleased with the report which compared favourably with other schools and expressed their thanks to the staff who had been directly involved with the work.

The sub-committee also approved revised Staff Absence and Grievance Policies both of which follow ECC model policies.

Annette Whitwell

Chair of Personnel, Premises & Finance Sub Committee