



We are growing
our learning



St John's Green Primary School

Learn to Live, Live to Learn

We ♥
Maths

We are all
writers ...



Newsletter

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Newsletter Date:
Friday 16th July 2021

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

Please remember that today is the last day of the Summer term.

The Autumn Term starts on Thursday 2nd September.

At Abbey Field (EYFS/Year 1/Year 5/Year 6) The school day starts at 8.40a.m. and the doors will be open from 8.30a.m.

At Town (Year 2/Year 3/Year 4) The school day starts at 8.50a.m. and the doors will be open from 8.40a.m.

https://st-johns-green.eschools.co.uk/website/school_day/307826

Goodbye Year 6

Dear Year 6

It has been most definitely a year of 3 parts. What started with hope at the start of your Year 6, became very disappointing as we moved in the Spring Term and started a third national lockdown.

The summer term brought with it some hope and it has been brilliant to have you all back in school full time.

There's something very special about your final year at Primary School. In some sense, sadness about what's coming to an end, but perhaps more importantly, a time to reflect on memories made and what lies around the corner.

There are some things to most definitely forget - the national lockdown for one - but perhaps also mistakes you have made, when you've said or done things that have caused upset or hurt! These are lessons in life though - and we grow as individuals when we learn from our mistakes and most importantly, learn to always treat people as we wish to be treated ourselves.

There are some things to remember - special memories and even more special friends, some of you have, I hope, made friends for life - people that will never be forgotten. Others of you will also have some memories that you'll never forget - something from Danbury or Kingswood; something that has happened; a teacher or member of staff that you felt has made difference to your time at school.

Whatever it is - remember the good times and remember what we've taught you. Don't look backwards and dwell on the past - look forwards at what you can achieve. You can do anything and be anything you want. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. Don't give up - even when things get tough - look forwards, dig deeper, try harder and you will succeed.

Year 6 - it has been my very great pleasure getting to know you. I wish you all the very best.

Mr B

Classes from September 2021

When we started the process back in April with regards to moving children around in classes each academic year, we did it very much with our eyes open, and were very much aware that however much parents agree in principle with the notion that it is important for children to work with different children and broaden their friendship groups, that agreement only applies until they feel their own child has been affected by any class moves.

One of the greatest things about the residential trips that we do, is that because of the nature of the experience and activities—children spend time with other children and get to know them, who they would have previously never engaged with.

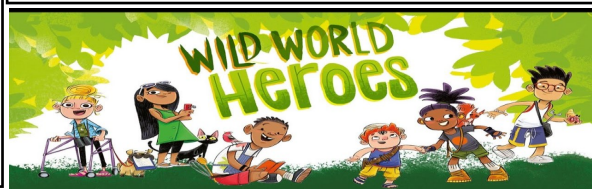
I appreciate that the vast majority of parents are delighted with the classes their children are in next year, whilst a few are not so happy. I can assure all parents though, that in each and every case, the class teachers have taken a significant amount of time to look at the children in the year group, look at friendship groups, look at friendship groups that work and do not work in the classroom, look at children who rub each other up the wrong way and hinder each other's learning and most importantly, look at where they think the children will be happiest and enabled to do their best learning. This has in no way been a process that was done on a scrap piece of paper.

Whilst I appreciate that for some parents they may not be happy with the decisions that class teachers made—I would ask you to trust us. We genuinely do have the very best interests of each and every child at heart.

Term Dates

Summer Term: Monday 12th April—Friday 16th July 2021

Autumn Term Starts—Thursday 2nd September 2021



Summer Reading Challenge at Essex Libraries—it's free, sign up at the Library. What's not to like!

Saturday 10th July - Tuesday 31st August.

The theme this year is 'Wild World Heroes.'

libraries.essex.gov.uk

School Uniform

It has without a doubt been tough for many families this last year and I have been very appreciative of the efforts that families have made to maintain the school uniform requirements throughout the Summer Term.

We have as a school turned a blind eye, when uniform has not quite been as it should have been. However, September is a fresh start—both in terms of (hopefully) the pandemic but also as a school and a fundamental desire, if at all possible, to give all our children a full academic year of face to face teaching.

With that in mind, please can I remind parents that our school uniform gives our children and our school our identity and reflects the importance we place in St John's Green and the community.

The school uniform from September is as follows:

Boys

Grey or black trousers.

Grey or black shorts (these must not be sports shorts).

White collared shirt or white polo shirt

Navy fleece, sweatshirt or jumper

Black shoes or black trainers. Navy, brown or black close-toed sandals.

Girls

Grey or black trousers or skirt.

Grey or black shorts (these must not be sports/cycling shorts).

White collared shirt or white polo shirt

Navy fleece, sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan

Blue pique summer dress.

Grey pinafore.

Sensible flat black shoes or black trainers. Navy, brown or black closed-toed sandals.

PE Kit:

Coloured Polo shirt (available from the school uniform suppliers) linked to the Team that children are allocated to.

Navy blue or black shorts. (A small motif is permissible)

Children must have trainers for P.E. and these must be a change of trainers should your child wear black trainers for school.

Tracksuit - either blue or black.

Children in EYFS should wear a white polo shirt for PE.

https://st-johns-green.eschools.co.uk/website/school_uniform/288493



Thank Our School

A really nice gesture from the PTA this week when this banner (as if by magic) appeared on the railings at the front of the AF site.

Many parents do always take the time to say thank you and I have read some lovely cards this morning from parents to teachers—thanking them for the difference they have personally made for their children this year.

My thanks to the PTA for this super and much appreciated gesture and also to all our parents who have, whether today or at another time, taken the time just to say thank you.

Sports Days

On the plus side, we were able to hold our Sports Days this year, which was a far cry from what we were able to achieve last year. Still a lot different from what we've done before but it was brilliant to have each individual Year Group outside at Abbey Field and children competing against each other for the coveted prize of Team Champion.

As always, in competition, there can only be one winner, sooooo

EVFS & KS1 results

1st Abbey
2nd Temple
3rd Priory
4th Siege
5th Colne

Really well done Team Abbey.



KS2 Results

1st - Temple
2nd - Colne
3rd - Siege
4th - Priory
5th - Abbey

Really well done Team Temple.



School Meal Arrears

It would be greatly appreciated if parents could check their Sims Pay account to make sure they don't have any arrears/monies owing to the school for dinners etc.

This will save our Office Staff, who are the gatekeepers of the school, considerable time next week in chasing parents down, when really what they want to be doing is getting the school systems ready for next year.

Many thanks.

School Dinner Price Increase

From September, the cost of a school meal will increase to £2.40 a meal.

Roadworks by Town Site

We have been told by the Highways Agency that next week they are starting road works by the school's Town site around St John's Green. They have not given an end date for these works so there is a strong suspicion that these will still be in place in September. Please bear this in mind for the new academic year and, if at all possible, walk as road works by our Town Site will undoubtedly cause what is already a contracted area for cars to become even more congested.



Beach Day

My EVFS staff do quite often fill me with dread. On discussing with them a few weeks ago the potential of a train trip to the beach—we decided that this wouldn't really work. Lets bring the beach to the school instead I suggested—more foolishly perhaps I asked Miss Cook to put Mrs Correia in charge!

Two tonnes of sand, 1/2 tonne of shells, several inflatables, beach toys, shelters and windbreaks later—not to mention having to move the boat—the beach did indeed arrive at Abbey Field.

This was without a doubt one of the best things we've ever done in EVFS and the children had a phenomenal day. I cannot thank Mrs Correia, Mr Bromley and Mr Kelly enough for their hard work in both organising it and setting it up as well as the finance team for ordering everything and ensuring it was all in school in time.



Michael J Fitch

Many of you have at least heard of Michael J Fitch - even if you have not had the experience of seeing him.

On Wednesday, thanks to our PTA, Michael Fitch came to both the Abbey Field and the Town site and regaled the children with a live show of magic and entertainment.



Hopefully your children have told you all about the magic and illusions that Michael performed.

My thanks again to our PTA who paid for this for all the children to enjoy and experience and what a great way to end the term.



All Things Skipping

On Monday, we attempted an inter school skipping competition, in other words, how many 'skips' could each 'Team' achieve in a set amount of time.

Several challenges here—including the necessity to both count and skip at the same time. I'm not sure how Miss Pickard collated the results, but collated she has and the final counts were as follows:

5,918 - Abbey
5,815 - Temple
5,693 - Colne
5,394 - Siege
5,171 - Priory

Well done to all the skippers (which was everyone) but especially Team Abbey.



Ice Creams

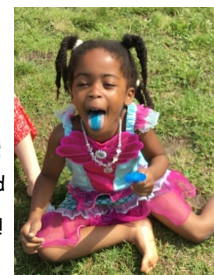
Whilst on the subject of the Beach Day—it was also decided that you can't have a Beach Day—without an ice cream, an opinion my daughter would definitely agree with.

When the Ice Cream van rocked up, the cries of delight by the children in EVFS were met with cries of anguished despair from the children in Year 6 who thought it remarkably unfair that the youngest children were getting an Ice Cream!

The fact that I had only just brought them back from residential seemed to escape them!

That aside, with thanks again to our PTA, we were all over it and the PTA had arranged for every child in the school to have an ice cream.

This was without a doubt a very well received decision. I have told that there is a comment on facebook that it was the best day of the year, which if only we'd known—we'd have done more often!



PTA School Uniform Donation—Thankyou

The PTA would like to thank all parents who have donated old school uniform to the uniform exchange. In total and so far, they have counted 493 items, which should have created a little bit of drawer space somewhere!



Teddy Bears Picnic

Yesterday our Year 1 children spent some of their morning decorating biscuits and making a fruit salad (Healthy School). This was all in preparation for the afternoon, when they headed off into the wilderness that is Abbey Fields for a Teddy Bears Picnic. As well as obviously eating their creations, the children and the Teddy Bears then played games in the afternoon.



As I said in my comments to Year 6, this has been a strange year and we have all faced many challenges both in our professional lives and also our personal lives. All of us have been affected by the pandemic in some way.

Throughout all of this I very much hope that you feel that the school has been a constant and offered support and consistency when there has been little of that coming from the higher echelons of power.

This has not been my doing but rather the contributions and dedication of every member of staff at the school who have striven to make a positive difference to our children's lives.

September brings, I very much hope, a new academic year and a fresh start.

I wish you all a very good summer and look forward to a new academic year with you all in September.

Simon Billings