

St. John's C of E Primary School, Shildon

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Newsletter 1: Autumn Term 2020

Curriculum News

Hoopstarz

On Wednesday 13th October, all classes participated in learning new skills with a hula-hoop.

Mrs Dobson from *Hoopstarz* was very impressed with our children and had some lovely things to say: 'They were a pleasure to teach and really are a credit to your school ... It was wonderful to see the children (and staff) mastering new skills with their hoops. The sheer determination on some of the faces was a delight, I hope they are able to use the skills and games they have learnt in the playground to make it more active and fun!'

Yoga

Pupils in Year 6 are currently enjoying sessions in school with Emma from 'Yoga Mike'.

Music

Year 1 and Year 2 have started specialist Music lessons with Miss Casewell from Durham Music Service.

On-line Learning

All children now have access to an online learning classroom. Further details on this will follow very shortly.

Accelerated Reading

Congratulations to Olivia BM in Year 6 who has become a Millionaire Reader! Olivia has been awarded a Certificate and book voucher to spend on *The Book Club*. Well done Olivia!

Parent Information

Thank You!

The weeks have gone by so quickly, but since returning to school in September, I cannot thank you all enough for just how well you have worked with us to make the new school routines work. The way you have followed the rules, as well as your patience and understanding at the beginning and end of the day, has been really appreciated.

The children have been amazing. They have also adapted really well to all of their new routines, both in the class and around school. The behaviour in every class has been exemplary and they are all working really hard.

Attendance

Since returning in September, our attendance figures have been higher than both the National and County Durham averages. At the end of September, the best class in school were Year 4 with an amazing 97%, just above Reception and Year 1. This is great news.

Early Years Play Area

Just before lockdown we upgraded the play facilities for our Nursery and Reception classes. The children are now really enjoying the more challenging activity areas.

Parent Governor

Welcome to Scott Allen who is your new parent representative on the Governing Body. Scott has two children in school and is also a past pupil of St. John's.

Free School Meals

If your home or work circumstances change, then please contact us regards completing a check to see if you are entitled to Free School Meals. This applies to children of all ages and is different to the Universal Free Meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

St. John's Church Links

We are very pleased that Revd. Carol Harris, the new Vicar of St. John's Church, has started leading Class Worship in school once a week. Although this is virtual, I am pleased that the children are able to see and hear her, maintaining our strong links with the Church.

Important Dates

Half Term starts on Monday 26th October 2020.

School is closed for Staff Training Day on Monday 2nd November 2020.

School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd November 2020.

'Achieving Our Potential as God's Children'

