

ST JOHNS SCHOOL



HEADTEACHER - TRACY WILLOUGHBY BA (HONS) NPQH

Welcome back to everyone after the Christmas and New Year break. Our first newsletter of 2024 has some dates and reminders for this next term as well as news of school events taking place before Easter.

MANX MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year's festival dates are from 27th April to 4th May. We will be entering children in the Spoken Word classes from Year 2 upwards (to learn by heart and recite a poem) and also in one of the choir classes. Many children have entered The Guild in previous years and we look forward to a great entry again in 2024.

A separate letter will be sent with detail of how to register your child and this year there will be a Guild Club at lunchtime to enable children to practise, build confidence and to get use to speaking in front of an audience.

After the success in The 3FM Carol Cup, Ms Radcliffe is looking for enthusiastic singers to join the choir but as an advanced notice the Guild Choir class is on the Saturday morning so children in the choir need to be available on that morning to be able to take part.

SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING

Our school competition will be just after half term so children who are considering taking part will need to think about their speech in the next few weeks. A separate letter will be given out to interested children with details of what to do and deadline dates.

KIT

All children should have a PE kit in school at all times. PE kit is shorts, a t-shirt and a pair of pumps or (for older children who cannot get pumps to fit) non-marking trainers.

All children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 should swim every Wednesday. Towards the end of last term we had several children who did not bring their swim kit and did not give a reason or a note to their teacher.

We do not have spare swim hats or goggles so children need to bring these from home as part of their kit.

ENROLLING PUPILS

September may seem like a very long way off but it is important that we know as early as possible the numbers of children we expect to start each September. Please do not assume we automatically register siblings. If you have a child due to start September 2024 (or 2025) or if you know of anyone who needs to register their child please let Mrs Astill know as soon as possible before the end of January.

FUND-RAISING

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Hamper Raffle. This raised £400 and the amount has been shared equally between Friends of St Johns, The Specialist Provision Centre and the School Fund.

The Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the NSPCC raised £82-82



Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th January - SCHOOL OPENS

Tuesday 9th January - Cricket Coaching sessions for all year groups 1 to 6 - PE kits needed in school.

Wednesday 10th January - swimming starts, MSR coaching starts, Tag Rugby Club starts.

Friday 12th January - visitor assembly about the Manx Youth Games

Thursday 18th January - visitor assembly Open the Book

Thursday 21st January - visitor assembly - Big Schools Birdwatch

Thursday 1st February - visitor assembly - Scripture Union story.

Friday 2nd February - non-uniform - Dress Bright for Cruise bereavement.

SCHOOL DINNERS and MILK COSTS

Half Term (until 16th February) School Lunch = £72

Full Term (until 28th March) School Lunch = £129-60

Milk is £14-04 for the term.

St Johns School - Peter Rabbit Patch.

Please don't forget to vote with a Tesco blue token every time you shop.

The project with the highest number of votes will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000 and the third placed project £500





I would like to clarify arrangements for morning drop off and home time pick up from school.

MORNING DROP OFF

Our doors open at 8.50am and children can come straight into school. At 9am registers are completed and then lessons start. Any child arriving after 9am should come into school through the main entrance doors and see Mrs Astill to be registered and to choose their lunch.

We have reminded the Key Stage Two children that once they have been dropped off by a parent they should make their way into the back playground to wait for the classroom doors to be open. The children should not be at the front of school waiting for friends while unaccompanied.

WET DAYS

We ask that children do not arrive too early, but from 8.45am the children can come into the school hall to wait indoors.

HOME TIME - 3.30pm

BUS CHILDREN leave their classrooms a couple of minutes early and wait in the entrance hall outside Mrs Astill's office until the bus arrives. Once the bus is here the children cross the zebra crossing to the Bus Stop.

At 3.30pm all **Key Stage Two** classes will come out of their classroom door and walk round from the back of school to the front for collection.

If it is wet or when it is very windy the classroom outside doors are not used. In this instance the children will walk down through the school and exit via the main front door.

The younger children (**Robins and Puffins**) come into school and exit through the side door behind nursery and the Specialist Provision Centre.

We ask that from now on parents and carers collect their children from the gate closest to school where the staff can see the adults collecting more easily.

If it is wet or when it is very windy the side door will not be used and in this instance the children will walk down through school and exit via the main front door by Mrs Astill's office.

SCHOOL EVENTS

When there is an after school event like a disco or film night we ask that parents come into school to collect their child from the hall. A member of staff will be on the front door to ensure no child leaves unaccompanied.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS CLUBS

After a club the children will depart through the main entrance door by Mrs Astill's office - we ask that parents are on time for collection at 4.30pm

CHANGE OF ARRANGEMENTS

If your child is not going home with the usual person who collects them it is always helpful if school can be informed by phone or email in advance about the change of plan so we can tell the child who to look for at the end of the day.

Also, if it is a 'new' person collecting your child who has not been to school before, we ask that they introduce themselves at the school office so staff are aware who they are.

Please be assured that school staff will always look after children until an adult collects them and if nobody has arrived by 3.40pm a phone call will be made to check arrangements.

We recognise that sometimes parents get delayed by traffic and we do not want anyone rushing or panicking.

We hope this helps parents understand the various scenarios and avoids confusion.