

## Edition 1 - 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Welcome

Can I take this opportunity to welcome parents to St. John's at the start of term and especially those who are bringing their children to our academy for the first time. This is always an exciting period in the calendar as we approach the year ahead with lots of enthusiasm and optimism.

I would like to stress that we remain as committed as ever to moving forward and improving our service to you and your children. As a large school serving in excess of 500 pupils there may be occasions when you are concerned about some aspects of your child's education and so I would like to stress that we are always approachable and can easily be reached.

Our relationship with parents, pupils and the general community is taken very seriously and I know that all staff are committed to supporting parents. Key e-mail addresses are listed below and you can also contact the school on 01922 476695 and leave a message outside of school hours.

stuart.ayres@stjohnsprimary.academy (Headteacher)  
charlene.marston@stjohnsprimary.academy (Deputy Headteacher)  
sarah.arrowsmith@stjohnsprimary.academy (Deputy Headteacher)  
alex.james-walker@stjohnsprimary.academy (Family Liaison Officer)

I look forward to another successful year and hope we can count on your continued support.

### Building Work

Those of you who have been on the school site in the last few days will be aware that we currently have building work taking place. During the summer break an extensive programme of roof replacement was started and this is scheduled to continue well into the term. The huge scale of the work has made it necessary for it to overlap term time as it simply could not be completed during the 6 week break. We are however glad that we are able to carry out this refurbishment as the new roof will of course provide much better insulation and protection from adverse wet weather.

Great emphasis has been placed on making sure that all our children and parents can access the building safely and this has meant putting some restrictions in place. These Health and Safety considerations have all been approved by relevant authorities and meet expected standards. I hope that any disruption is kept to a minimum and would like to thank you for understanding and co-operation with this matter.

One project that was completed during the break was the conversion of what were old changing rooms into a Fitness Suite. This building on the edge of the car park will now house a range of exercise machines specially designed for children aged 7 and above. We are confident that our pupils will thoroughly enjoy using the facility as part of our PE lessons and I would like to put on record my thanks to Alvaston, the company who have undertaken the work, for doing such a great job.

### Social Media

I would like to remind parents that we have a Twitter account which is used to inform you of what is happening here at the academy. It has been in operation for several years and has in excess of 1000 followers. Regular tweets are posted and photographs of activities and classes are included. I am aware that many parents find this method of communication extremely valuable. You can follow us on @StJohns\_Eagle.

To enhance our provision in school we have recently appointed Giles Thatcher as a new Learning Technologies Manager and he will be over seeing all our communication avenues with parents. This will mean that a new more informative and easy to use website will be initially launched in the next 2 weeks and further elements of social media will be introduced in the months ahead. Giles has many innovative ideas of how we improve in this area and I am sure that parents will see great improvements.

### After School Clubs

After school clubs will commence week beginning **19<sup>th</sup> September**. These clubs are predominantly available to children in Year 4, 5 and 6 with some limited opportunities for Year 2 and 3. Staff are currently distributing letters to see which children are interested in joining the clubs and pupils will be notified if they are successful in obtaining a place once registers are completed.

### Book Swap

Last year we launched a major promotion of reading within the school. This focus will now be continuing and several special events have been organised for this term. Another author visit has been scheduled and next week all the children will be looking at one of Roald Dahl's books to celebrate his birth 100 years ago on the 13<sup>th</sup> September.

We would also like to present the children with the opportunity to "swap" one of their own books from home next Thursday. To do this we are asking them to bring a book in good condition that they want to swap and give it to their teacher. These books will then be arranged in age appropriate tables on the playground during the afternoon for them to browse and select one for themselves.

The success of this venture of course relies upon many of the children bringing a book into school to swap but we do not expect them to bring in lots of books. If successful it would mean all the children could have a new book without any cost.