

## September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to a new school year. The children have returned in a very positive frame of mind and the term has got off to an excellent start. New material is being added to the **school website** every day so please visit it regularly to keep up with class news and general information. The **school calendar** has been updated to include events for this term. There will be much more to add as the weeks pass, so once again please consult frequently so that you feel well informed about school life.

**Class Libraries:** This year we will be taking a close look at the reading experiences we offer children across the school. We have begun by considering how effective our library system is and, following lengthy consideration last term, we have decided to establish exciting libraries within every classroom as an alternative to a central library which, in truth, has become tired and lacklustre in recent years. The layout of classrooms will be altered to accommodate an attractive reading area in each room. Some new furniture and soft furnishings will be purchased and with a little imagination and some hard work every class will have a reading corner to be proud of, making a wonderful collection of books on a wide range of topics available to all children.

This summer we joined the Barnet Schools Library Service. In addition to our own stock of books, fiction and non-fiction, every class will have access to 90 new books a term. This lending service, through the regular rotation of books linked to class topics, will help to ensure that classroom libraries are easily accessible, well stocked and relevant to children's age, learning and interests. The classroom library will become a focus for learning as well as providing children with a wide range of books to encourage reading for

pleasure. This development will take place in junior classrooms to begin with, extending to infant classrooms later in the school year.

My thanks to the PTFA for their commitment to fund our membership of the School Library Service and to all of you for supporting the fine work of the PTFA.

As you will know, good books are expensive. We could save thousands of pounds if you were able to donate your children's books to the school when they have outgrown them. Invariably these books will be in excellent condition and they could be enjoyed by our pupils when your child no longer needs them. Our school like all schools, struggles to make ends meet at a time of flat-lining government funding, so your help here would make a big difference and enable us to divert some of the money we would spend on re-stocking our libraries to other much needed areas of expenditure. Please send your books to school via your child's class teacher from now onwards and throughout the rest of the year if you can. Thank you in advance for your anticipated help with this.



Week 2 and the trips have already begun!

**Summer Works:** This summer we redecorated four classrooms (Reception, Y3, Y4 and Y5). Remaining rooms will be decorated in 2019 to ensure that our facilities are in good order. The infant boys' washroom has been completely refurbished and it looks excellent. The infant girls' washroom will be refurbished to a similar high standard next summer. We are planning to introduce lockers to the junior school in the New Year. This will smarten up the corridors and improve pupil storage facilities. If successful, we will consider a similar installation for KS1.

**Games and P.E.:** We have a constant problem with children in all classes not having the correct P.E. kit at school throughout the week. P.E. kit must be in school from Monday to Friday without exception as sometimes children have extra lessons outside of the normal timetable. Please also refer to the school uniform policy for guidance as to kit requirements. Junior pupils will need warm jogging bottoms and tops as some lessons will take place outside throughout the winter months. Junior games run according to the following rotation during the autumn and spring terms: HALF-TERM 1, Y5 & Y6; HALF-TERM 2, Y3 & Y4.

**Uniform:** Boys Football Kit will no longer be required for junior boys games lessons. Our sports programme is different now that we have the MUGA and trips to Bethune Park in the winter months are now few and far between. The boys can participate fully in the entire programme with P.E. kit, jogging tops and bottoms.

Please ensure that you comply with our school uniform policy (published to the website). In particular, please ensure that girls wear plain navy blue/black or gingham hair bands; boys and girls have proper shoes not trainers and all children wear plain navy blue

or black coats or jackets. Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.

Please also ensure that all items of clothing are named. Your cooperation with all these matters is both expected and appreciated.

**Computer Chairs:** We have half a dozen blue plastic computer chairs to give away. If they are of any help to you please let us know and pop in to collect when you have a moment. They will be available for collection for the next two weeks only.

**Holiday Photos:** Please send in a holiday snap from somewhere you visited in the summer. We are learning about places in the world during assemblies and it would be great to locate countries in the world visited by our pupils. Photos will be displayed on and around a map of the world.



Harvest time on the allotment (with a little help from Y1!)

**Harvest Festival:** This takes place on Friday afternoon, the 28<sup>th</sup> September. Please send your harvest donations to school the week commencing Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Please refer to the letter sent out by Mrs. Ttofis for further guidance.

**McMillan Coffee Morning:** Please come and join us at the start of the school day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September to raise funds for this annual charity event arranged by Mrs. Becker.

**Staff Training Days:** Don't forget that school is closed for staff training on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September and again on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> October. There will be two further training days this school year on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Sport Enrichment:** Our sport enrichment programme has commenced with Y6 attending kayaking and bell boating lessons at the Phoenix Canoe Club on the Welsh Harp Reservoir. They will enjoy four afternoons of instruction. The programme will continue for other year groups throughout the year.

Our sport enrichment programme is offered free of charge to you thanks to the support of the PTFA who provide £2000 a year towards costs. Additional expenses are covered by the school. You will already know that we are passionate about sport here at St. John's and we offer a fantastic sport experience to all our pupils. Sport enrichment is something additional which we offer; you won't, to the best of my knowledge, find it in other school settings. Sport enrichment is based on the principle that it's great for children to 'try their hand' at activities which don't fall within normal mainstream provision. The 'extra' sports we offer provide challenge to all the children as they are taught by professional

coaches who are experts in their chosen sport. This means that the quality of instruction is superior and the learning experience always challenging, exciting and rewarding. Children enjoy themselves so much that they often pursue the sport outside of school and into their teenage years and sometimes adult life. How amazing to think that things the children are introduced to at primary school become hobbies and interests for life!

Last year we offered gymnastics, tae kwondo, street dance, tennis, fencing and kayaking to pupils from Y1 to Y6.

**PTFA Childrens' Disco:** Please put this in your diary for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. More information to follow in due course.

**Instrumental Tuition with Barnet Educational Arts Trust:** We offer tuition across the school in a wide range of instruments. All teachers are employed by the Barnet Educational Arts Trust (BEAT) and take place in school during school hours. If you are interested and want to learn more about this offer, visit the BEAT website [www.beatrust.org.uk](http://www.beatrust.org.uk) Lessons and payment can be made via the website. The majority of our classes are currently full but it may be possible to book lessons for stringed instruments beginning January 2019. You can also contact the BEAT office directly on 020 8959 4111 for advice as to how to reserve a place as and when places become available in the school.

Graham Gunn  
Head Teacher  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

***More pictures of Y3 at Sun Trap on the next page.....***



Ps. Don't forget to check class pages and the website school calendar for up and coming trips.