

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers

Staffing Arrangements Autumn 2018

I refer to my previous correspondence regarding the secondment of Mrs Weir to Emmanuel Middle School and Mrs Hancock's secondment as Head of School at Witchampton First School.

I am delighted to announce that Miss Antonia Dufek has been seconded to St John's as Deputy Head of School with class teacher responsibilities.

Miss Dufek is an experienced member of staff at Allenbourn Middle School having completed 10 years' service at the school, and is currently Head of Year 8 and Head of Department for PE. We look forward to welcoming her to St John's in September.

With regard to teaching staff arrangements for September 2018, allocation of classes is yet to be finalised but existing members of teaching staff, Miss Jessop, Miss Smith, Miss Prince and Mr Ronayne will remain unchanged.

Miss S Lemon will continue in her role as SENCO.

Easter Service

A reminder that Thursday 29th March 2018 is the last day of term and the children will be leading our Easter Service in St John's Church at 1.45 pm. All are welcome to join us for this special service. The children may then be collected from school straight after the Easter Service.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your family a very Happy Easter. I hope you have a restful break and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 17th April 2018.

Yours sincerely



Katharine Anstey
Head of School



Last week, Heads and Attendance leads from each school within Wimborne Academy Trust met to review our Attendance Policy and procedures. We worked together to review a Trust wide Policy, consider current statutory expectations and agree a way forward which reflects our ethos and values of working collaboratively and to ensure the well-being of all our children.

I would like to thank you for all the feedback that you have provided, which has enabled me to share St John's parental opinion. In light of this meeting, we have agreed a Trust Attendance Policy which I hope to share with you early next term. In addition, the letters which are sent to parents have been rewritten to reflect the positive, working partnership that we have with families and carers within all our schools.

I recognise the strong feeling that has been shared regarding Attendance and would like to reassure you that your feedback and views are appreciated and have influenced this review. Our strength in continuing to be an Outstanding school comes from working in partnership with the whole school community.

Health & Safety

In order to safeguard all pupils, please could we respectfully request that parents do not talk or call out to the children through the school fence during playtimes.

Shakespeare Week 2018 Will's Wonderful Words!

Shakespeare Week 2018 was certainly a week to remember for all at St. John's First School as the children threw themselves into a range of dance, drama, music and art workshops.



To kick the week off in style, children learned a new Shakespeare song entitled *Will's Wonderful Words*. With its combination of powerful melody and rap, the children loved it and performed the song in style.

With sketching pencils, pastels and paintbrushes at the ready, the children were then treated to an arts masterclass with our very own local artist, Miss O'Brien. The children learned how to sketch the Bard himself and produced their own Shakespearean portraits of the Great Will Shakespeare.

Next, we were delighted to welcome Stagewise Drama Company to help us bring some of Shakespeare's most famous plays and characters to life. From the moment they arrived, the children were swept back in time to the enlightening world of Shakespeare and all classes enjoyed tailored drama workshops to help them understand more about his renowned plays. Thunderstorms, shipwrecks and fairy bubbles were the order of the day as children acted and danced their way through some of the most famous scenes from *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The week culminated in a rousing tribute to Shakespeare for Year 3&4 parents and staff. This began with a performance of Act 1, Scene 1 from *The Tempest*, directed by Mrs Glover, and performed by a merry group of Year 4 players. Their confidence with the Shakespearean language was astounding and they were very convincing sailors and Lords. Year 4 followed this with an impressive thunderstorm performance, created using only their hands and bodies.

Children from Year 3 then took us back to the fighting streets of Verona for their version of *The Dance of the Knights*, during which the Montagues and Capulets battled for their honour. Prokofiev's haunting music and the children's impressive performance kept the audience on the edge of their seats!

Finally, all the children performed their new Shakespeare song, *Will's Wonderful Words* which was a fitting end to such an incredible week of literary and artistic delights!

It really was a case of, "All's well that ends well," at St. John's, where William Shakespeare and his work clearly have a very special place.

Mrs Florence Weir

Work Experience

This week, we have welcomed Year 10 work experience students from Queen Elizabeth's School who are interested in pursuing a career in education. These students have been based in year groups across the school.

Dancing into lunchtime for Sport Relief!

Children and staff dance together to raise awareness for Sport Relief 2018.



Sport Relief 2018 is all about whatever moves you and gets you moving, so to raise awareness at St John's the whole school danced their way into lunchtime! All of the children (and the staff) had a fantastic time getting active just before lunch time, dancing the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide.

Whilst we had a great time, we must remember the importance behind Sport Relief. Sport Relief supports more than 2,000 projects in the UK and around the world. Malaria, Maternal Health and Mental Health are just three areas, out of many, where money raised through Sport Relief 2018 will make a huge difference.

Well done everyone for taking part!

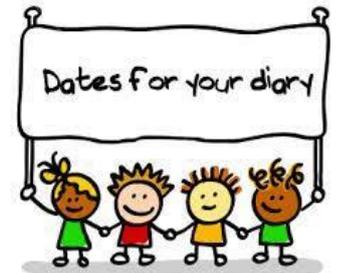
East Dorset Football Final

On Monday 26th March, a team of Year 4 children competed in the East Dorset Football final at Ferndown Leisure Centre. 6 teams from local first schools participated in the final and our team was placed joint 3rd. Congratulations to all those who took part!



Forthcoming Diary Dates

All dates can be found in the News & Events section of the school website.



SUMMER TERM

April	
Monday 16 th April	Training Day
Tuesday 17 th April	Children back to school
Friday 27 th April	Year 4 Tag Rugby Festival
Monday 30 th April	Year 3 WASP Trigolf & Multi-skills Athletics Event at St Michael's

May

Tuesday 1 st May	Year 3 Visit to see Dippy the Dinosaur at County Museum
Monday 14 th May	Year 3 Poole & East Dorset Cricket Skills morning

Half term holiday: Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018

June

Wednesday 6 th June	Class photos*
Friday 8 th June	1.30pm Grandparents' Afternoon*
Monday 18 June	9.00am Diamond assembly*
Wednesday 20 th June	7.00pm New Reception intake evening*
Friday 22 nd June	1.15pm Sports Day*
Monday 25 th June	1.15pm Reserve Sports Day*
Tuesday 26 th June	2.00pm Elmer Club*
Thursday 28 th June	2.00pm Elmer Club*
Thurs 28 th & Fri 29 June	Year 4 Residential Visit to Leeson House

July

Tuesday 3 rd July	Year 2 WASP Mini-Olympics event 2.00pm Elmer Club*
Thursday 5 th July	2.00pm Elmer Club*
Friday 6 th July	Transfer Day [Year 4 pupils attend their Middle Schools]

Wednesday 11 th July	9.00am Diamond assembly*
Friday 13 th July	Year 2 Visit to Carey Camp
	3.30-5.30pm Friends of St John's Summer Fair*
Friday 20 th July	5.00-7.00pm Friends of St John's Summer Picnic*
Monday 23 rd July	9.00am Diamond assembly*
	3.30-5.30pm Year 4 Leavers' BBQ*
Tuesday 24 th July	1.45pm Year 4 Leavers' Service*
	End of term - children return to school on Wednesday 5 th September 2018

* = **New events added**

WASP = Wimborne Area Sport Partnership