



## St John's Church of England First School

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Newsletter 09, 03.04.17

Dear Parents & Carers

### Shakespeare Rocks!

During the week of 20th March, St John's was thrilled to host its first ever Shakespeare Week. To launch the event's festivities, staff gave a surprise performance of 'Shakespeare Rocks!' during assembly. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching us rock in our 'shades' and were a very supportive and forgiving audience!



We were then 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. Fairy dust and bubbles were abundant as children acted and danced their way through some of the Bard's most famous scenes.

Throughout the week, children threw themselves into a wide range of Shakespearean experiences, including: writing speeches and performing plays; re-enacting street scenes from Verona in Romeo and Juliet; creating Midsummer dances and magical woodland designs; watching film clips; and making their own puppet shows. Children were also particularly excited to look for signs of fairies visiting St John's and couldn't contain their delight when they found secret clues leading to fairy doors.

The week culminated in a rousing performance of Pyramus and Thisbe from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 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 thrilled to give a special, impromptu performance to parents and carers at the end of the day.

It was certainly a case of 'All's Well that Ends Well' and Shakespeare already has a very special place at St. John's. We cannot wait to welcome him back next year for more comedy, romance, tragedy and literary delights!

*Mrs Florence Weir*

### Comic Relief

Thank you for your donations to the recent Comic Relief appeal. We raised a fantastic £116.00 to support projects both in the UK and Africa.

**WIMBORNE**  
Academy Trust

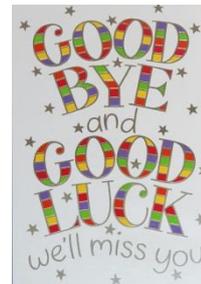


National Teaching School  
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## Staffing

Mrs Leah Swann is leaving St John's at the end of this term to take up a maternity post at Colehill First School, part of the Wimborne Academy Trust "family." During her time here at St John's, Mrs Swann has taught each year group and has been a most valued and popular member of our team. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her "Good Luck" in her new post.



## Friends of St John's

Thank you for supporting the various fundraising events during the year. We are grateful to the Friends of St John's who have recently provided funds for the following:

- Purchase of the Cosy Cot in the Year 1 outdoor area
- Key Stage 2 [Years 3 & 4] reading books
- Subsidy for class trips during the summer term



Mrs Deborah Lee is stepping down as Treasurer of the Friends of St John's at the end of the Spring term. We would like to express our grateful thanks to Deb for her hard work and dedication in raising funds for St John's. As you can see, the money raised does make a real difference for our children.

**Thank You!**

Mrs Lee's resignation obviously creates a vacancy for a Treasurer. If you are interested, please contact the school office or the Chair of the Friends, Julia Carter.

## Lost Property

Once again, we have a large amount of lost property. This will be laid out on tables at the front of the school at the end of this week. Any unclaimed lost property will be bagged up and collected by Nanyuki Children's Charitable Trust, a local charity which helps children in Kenya.

## ParentMail

As you are aware, we have changed our provider for the texting and emailing service to parents. ParentMail has been up and running for several weeks now and email has now replaced texting as the primary method of communication with parents. We feel this has been a smooth transition, but if anyone is experiencing any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

In order to enhance our communication with you, during the Summer term we will be introducing an electronic payment system for breakfast club, uniform, trips, etc., and an electronic booking system for parent consultations and giving permission for trips. If you do not register, you will be unable to access these options. However, we will still be able to administer manually.

## Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has their water bottle in school, especially as the weather becomes warmer. The use of water bottles is very popular with the children and it encourages the children to drink more water, which is beneficial for their health, and can increase their concentration and attainment. Eco sports bottles are available to purchase from the School office at a cost of £2.00 per bottle. Spare caps are also available to purchase.



### **Scooters**

Please can I remind parents that helmets should be worn by the children when riding scooters.

### **Tag Rugby**

Two teams from Year 4 will be competing in the annual Year 4 Tag Rugby tournament at QE School on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Schools from across East Dorset will be participating in this event.

### **Dorset Cricket Board : All Stars Cricket**

Dorset Cricket Board has provided details of a new opportunity for 5-8 year olds. All Stars Cricket is an exciting new programme for 5 - 8 yrs olds being run at local Cricket Clubs in Ferndown, Parley and Wimborne. The programme promotes physical literacy, teamwork and respect, through fun and games with a cricket theme. Parents can sign up to the programme using the following

link: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars/centres>

By registering for All Stars Cricket, children will be guaranteed eight weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is suitable for all children new to cricket and sport as the sessions are designed to teach the basic skills of the game. Every child will earn stars as the weeks progress that match the skills learned during the programme. The programme is 8 sessions and costs £40; each registered child will receive their own backpack with personalised T Shirt, water bottle, cap, bat and ball. Programme start dates / session times will be individual to clubs; launch date is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Work Experience**

Over the past two weeks, we have welcomed Year 10 work experience students from Corfe Hills School and Queen Elizabeth's School who are interested in pursuing a career in education. These students have been based in year groups across the school.

### **Easter Service**

A reminder that Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017.*



Yours sincerely

**Mrs K Anstey**

**Head of School**