



Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely week off and enjoyed the pleasant weather that we were blessed with.

This is a very short half term and already we only have five weeks left. This week is "snapshot journal" week. The focus is on Reading, Money and Lent. It will be these areas only which will be included in the Snapshot Journal and you will be able to look at your child's work along with all of their other jotters, during the Consultations sessions on Wednesday 22nd March 4-7pm and Friday 24th March 1-3pm. The bookings for these sessions will open shortly via parent mail. Please remember to book through ParentMail if you are connected. If not you will be offered an appointment manually.

World Book Day

Friday is our World Book Day. The children have been excitedly sharing their ideas with us and we cannot wait to see some fantastic shoeboxes of their favourite scenes.



We launched this special idea at our assemblies and you should have received flyers on what to create. If your child requires support with materials please let Mrs Kelly know.

Focus Group- Reporting

Lovely to see so many parents / carers at the Drop in Session on Friday Morning. A big thank you to Michelle Newall, Barbara Orłowska and Julie O Hanlon for helping take this forward.



Your comments will be shared with teaching staff and collated by the group and will inform how we report to parents this session.

I do think that the Coffee and the cake helped draw adults and children in.

We think it would be a good idea to offer this as a regular Friday morning drop in –from 11.30 am as part of our Lenten Activities. Just as a Coffee and a chat. We will let you know more

New School and New Park Plans

The plans for the new School and the new Trevelen Park are progressing well. The demolition of the High School is making rapid progress and all being well should the final piece of the jigsaw will be in place with the removal of the Tower Block by Mid April. Mrs Kelly and I attended a meeting last week and have been advised that some P5 pupils are able to visit (with hard hats) early on in March . This will be very exciting to see the new site. Early indications are that the plans for the new playgrounds, with Nursery and pupil and parent involvement, look very exciting! The Landscape architect will contact the school to chat to the Group who are developing our playground – Mrs Tweedie, Sharon McLeay and Bláthnaid Quinn .



Tea with SMT.....We have launched a new initiative last year on a Friday morning, to reward 1 pupil per class for a good attitude towards learning and behaviour. These pupils are chosen by their teachers and meet with the Management team for a celebration. Take a look on our twitter page @Porty_StJs to see the happy faces of the group.

Sporting Heroes

Huge congratulations to our P6/7 runners who have been chosen to represent the school at 2 Cross Country events at the Meadows on Monday 6th March. And on Monday March 20th March at Duddingston Playing Fields. Good Luck to everyone and a big thank you to Mrs McIntyre, and parents for supporting with these events. P7 pupils will also be representing the school at the Swimming Gala on Wednesday 29th March Congratulations to Emily and Murray MacKenzie and Blaine Turnbull for representing their families and St John's as Mascots at the recent Hibs qualifying game on Wednesday evening



Congratulations to Luke Fairholm for his stunning performance as one of "Fagin's Boys" in A – Team's Production of Oliver. Well Done Luke!

Ash Wednesday

All staff and pupils will attend the 9.45am Mass on WEDNESDAY 1st March at St Mary Magdalene's. The Mass is prepared by P4 pupils. We would be delighted for offers of help to walk the children to and from Mass, departing around 9.15 am

Pupils will also attend one of the parish masses in Lent. We will let you know when these are.

Sacramental Preparation

There will be a meeting on Monday 27th February at 7pm in St John's Parish for the P3 pupils and their Parents / Carers

P3 children will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 13th March at 7pm in St John's Church. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.



Lenten Fundraisers.....We are finalising what we will be doing to raise money for SCIAF but one of the ideas is a " Generosity Tree " , to further develop our Peace tree at the Front Entrance . Pupils will be able to purchase a leaf to hang on the tree

Sainsbury's VouchersWe are once again collecting Sainsbury's Active Schools vouchers in St John's. Last year we bought PE supplies to enhance learning and teaching as well as gardening tools.

Please send any vouchers to school with your child and hand them in to their class teacher, alternatively post them into the collection box inside the main entrance of the school.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Financial education week- next week. W/B Monday 6th March

If you work in a Bank or a financial institution, or a local Business, it would be really good to hear from you to help support our focus week. Please contact the School Office



Fairtrade focus Fortnight - March

Mr Burgess launched this focus on Fairtrade with the pupils on Friday at Assembly. Watch this space for details of the Fairtrade tuck shop...

Play in The POD

Have you seen the Fantastic design by our Graffiti Artist...? The designs were incorporated in to the final mural from a range of drawings from Hugh Harris, India Young, Julia Zuk and Maisie Wood.

They were all awarded certificates, designed by Martha O' Hanlon, supported by Jakob Stephens .

IT CERTAINLY CHEERS UP THE PLAYGROUND !

Come along on Tuesday and Thursday lunch time to see the pupils using their creativity at our launches...



School Uniform

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of the school

uniform. It incorporates a range of popular items of dress, e.g. sweatshirts, T-shirts.

Wearing school uniform contributes to a positive school ethos and helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing.

The school uniform is as follows:

White Shirt and School Tie or White Polo Shirt with school badge

Navy / Bottle Green Sweatshirt/Jumper with school badge for P1 - 7

School Trousers, Skirt or pinafore in navy, grey or green

Reversible Waterproof Jackets with school badge

School Fleece

House T-shirt for PE

Navy or black Shorts for PE

School ties are available from Clan House

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

*Ms Barbara A Service
Head Teacher*

<https://stjohnsportobello.com/>

St John's twitter account- follow us: **@porty_stjs**