

ST JOHN'S

Newsletter



Spring term... but where has the sun gone?

We're well into Spring term now so we'll hopefully see the end of grey skies and wet weather soon!

A couple of small staffing changes to share:
Mrs Lishman will move to working 3 days one week/4 days the next after half term. Her non-working days are Tuesdays and alternate Thursdays. If you need to speak to her urgently on a day she isn't in school, please ask for me or Mrs Bewick.

I am reducing my working days slightly too, so will only be in school 4 days each week after half term. Mrs Bewick will step up on that day as Associate Headteacher, so if I'm not available, ask for her. Congratulations to her on the promotion - I know school is in safe hands!



Attendance and timekeeping

A lot of children are arriving late for school in the mornings. School starts at 8.55am, NOT 9am. Please make sure your child is in their line on time so that registration can be done by 9 and lessons can start. The gates are locked by 9am and all late arrivals must come in through the main office so they can be recorded as late.

Remember, Breakfast Club is FREE for all children from 8am (last entrance 8.30). Early breakfast club starts at 7.30 and costs £1.

Starting next week, as well as our usual offer of toast, cereal and fruit, we will have the following hot choices:
Monday - porridge
Tuesday - scrambled egg
Wednesday - sausage sandwich (veggie available)
Thursday - beans
Friday - boiled eggs



Reading and homework

Firstly, huge thanks to all of you that have engaged with us to improve your child's reading. Our new phonics scheme is well embedded now and we're seeing some great progress across the whole school - especially where parents and carers are supporting with this and regularly listening to their child read. I can't say it more simply than if you want your child to succeed, they need to be a competent reader. We can teach them the skills to read in school, but they need regular practise to become fluent. Switch off the tv, put away devices and encourage them to read for 20 minutes a day, for pleasure. It's like riding a bike; the only way to become confident is to do it often!



Reading folders are available to buy from the school office and we'd encourage every child to have one to keep books dry in this wet weather.

Reading (and other homework) should be done at home please. Lots of children are completing tasks during breakfast club or at breaktime - this means you as parents aren't able to see how they are doing and support their learning. Please can you help with this if you don't already. If you're having difficulty getting your child to do their homework, please reach out to the class teacher who will be happy to support.



School caravan

Keep an eye on Class Dojo next week, as we'll be releasing dates for school caravan bookings. Like everywhere else, we've had to give some thought to what we charge, as the cost of gas bottles and site fees have increased so much. To make it fairer for everyone, we have introduced a fixed charge of £30 per night for the caravan, which includes all cleaning and utilities. This means a 2 night stay is actually cheaper this year (£60) and 3 and 4 night stays cost more.

Read More

www.stjohns.newcastle.sch.uk



What's happening this term?

Friday 30th January - Year 6 'Weird' at Theatre Royal

Wednesday 4th Feb - Year 6 at Life 'Stemtastic'

Thursday 5th Feb - Reception to Great North Museum

Friday 6th February - Caravan dates released for 2026 season

Thursday 12th February - Hooks into Books Early Years/KS1

Friday 14th February - Valentine's Disco

Wednesday 4th March - Community Iftar (details to follow)

Spring term

Wednesday 7th January - Thursday 2nd April

February half term
Break up Friday 13th Feb, return to school on Tuesday 24th Feb

Easter holidays
Break up Thursday 2nd April, return Tuesday 14th April

Full term dates can be found on the school website

