

THE RED SWEATER LETTER

A newsletter from St. John's Middle School



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School Places for September 2024
Train With Us

Message from Head of School

By Mrs A. Elwell - Head of School

Welcome to the September newsletter.

School life is back in full swing and it is lovely to see how well the pupils have settled into the St John's daily routine. We have been making the most of the warmer weather with our active playgrounds, PE lessons and launch of extracurricular clubs. There are still more clubs planned so please watch out for future Parent mails.

School trips have already begun with a Year 6 visit to Witley Court, which was a huge success and provided the children with some wonderful ideas for their art work back in the classroom. Our wellbeing and anti bullying ambassadors have been working alongside pupils from Bromsgrove school preparing a joint assembly that will be delivered to both schools in the coming weeks. On the sports field, we have secured our first success with the girls football team winning 8-1 against Wombourne High School. Well done Girls, hopefully the first of many! Additionally, our pupil leadership teams have all been selected and will be presented to the school community in assembly on Monday. Congratulations to all those selected.

To summarise we have had a wonderful start to the new academic year.

Our Eco-School has received a Green Flag with Distinction – a remarkable achievement!



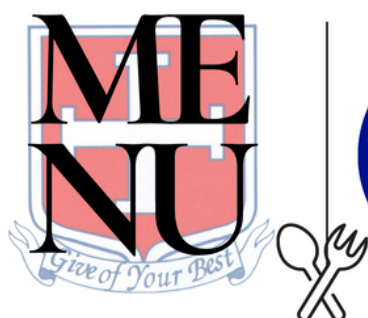
Parent's Drop in Session

We look forward to welcoming you into school for a parent's drop in session on Monday 9th October 3.30-4.15pm, where you have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher and have a look at some of their books, more details will be coming out on Monday.

Green Flag with Distinction

2023

NEW 2 Week Menu



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONDAY

Katsu Chicken
OR
Giant Veggie Samosa (V)
with Fluffy Rice and Sweetcorn

TUESDAY

Pork Sausage
OR
Quorn Cumberland Sausage (V)
with Creamy Mash Potatoes, Baked Beans/Peas

WEDNESDAY

Roast chicken
OR
Cheese and potato Pie (V)
with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Puddings, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy

THURSDAY

Battered Fish Filler
OR
Quorn Nuggets (V)
with Potato Wedges, Baked Beans or Peas

FRIDAY

Pepperoni Pizza
OR
Cheese and Tomato Pizza (V)
with French Fries, Baked Beans/ Vegetables and dipping sauce

DESSERT

A selection of cakes, Jelly, Mousse
Fruit Flapjack &
Yoghurts



WEEK 1

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONDAY

Pork Sausage Roll
OR
Falafel and spinach Burger (V)
with Herby Diced Potatoes, Baked bean or Sweetcorn

TUESDAY

Bacon, Leek and Mozzarella Pasta
Bake
OR
Roasted Vegetable Pasta (V)
with Garlic Bread and Green Beans

WEDNESDAY

Roast Chicken
OR
Vegan Sausage (V)
Roast Potatoes, Sage and Onion Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables and Gravy

THURSDAY

Fish Fingers
OR
Cheese and Onion Slice (V)
with Saute Potatoes, Baked Beans/ Peas

FRIDAY

Ham Pizza Slice
OR
Margherita Pizza Slice (V)
French Fries, Baked Beans/ Vegetables and Dipping Sauces

DESSERT

A selection of cakes, Jelly,
Mousse, Fruit Flapjack &
Yoghurts



WEEK 2

Collective Worship

By Miss C. Russell

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
Ephesians 4:2-3

Panting: God's Love by H.G. Smith

Love can sometimes be a tricky word in 2023. It can conjure images of pin-heart-festooned cards, grinning cherubs, or perhaps the latest clichéd-slogan to adorn a t-shirt: live, laugh...you get the picture.

Our collective worship this half-term explores love, but in the much wider, deeper sense in which we find this word used in the Bible: sacrificial, self-giving love, that looks outwards to others, and asks nothing in return, agape in the original Greek – the transcendent love with which God "first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We will look at how we can respond to one another, to God and to the world around us, with a love which sees each individual as a precious child of God to be cared for, nurture and built up in community. As the passage from 1 Corinthians 13, often used as a reading at weddings, but in fact encompassing a much wider meaning than the love between one couple, says:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13: 4-10

This is a love which prompts us to action to love those around us who find themselves in need of support, be it friendship, encouragement or material help. One of the ways we respond to this call to love each other as a school is through our Harvest Festival service.

On Thursday 26th October we will have our first school service of the year at St John's Church. Those pupils who are able to, and would like to, are invited to bring with them an item of tinned or dried food for the Harvest Collection. This will then be split between New Starts and the Basement Project both of which are organisations close to our heart.

As it says on our displays around school: **Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly.** Colossians 3:14



Heads of Year Message

By Mrs K. Hall - Head of Year 5

I would like to start by welcoming everyone back after the summer holidays. With the change of weather, it definitely feels that autumn is on its way! As always, it has been a pleasure to be able to welcome back all of our pupils, and a give a special welcome to our new Year 5 families. Now we are fully into this term, all of our pupils have settled into their new routines and timetables. I am always impressed by our pupil's maturity and ability to slot back into routine so quickly. It was great to see everyone looking so smart in their uniforms and correct footwear. Please ensure all children have their names in their uniform, including ties, so that we can return any lost property quickly.

This week, Miss Devey has held assemblies about the importance of reading. We have all had reminders about reading at home three times a week and having this recorded in planners. We have also heard about the fantastic rewards the children can achieve by completing the weekly reading requirements. All of our pupils have had the opportunity to borrow a library book – please look out for these in school bags! They do need to be in school everyday along with the pupil's planners and pencil cases.

Now the weather has begun to change, we ask all pupils to remember to be safe and be seen when travelling to and from school, especially when crossing roads. Thank you.

“

*A FRIEND
MAY BE
WAITING
BEHIND
THE FACE
OF A
STRANGER*

”

PE Update

By Mr. M. Cowdery

Hello and welcome to another academic year. It's hard to believe that the summer is behind us and that the new school year is upon us.

For those who are new to the school, St John's has a rich and illustrious history when it comes to sport. Just last year our Year 6 Boys won the football county cup and our KS3 girls footballers lost out in their own final. We had 6 students qualify for Minor Counties Athletics and our KS3 swimmers won their gala at Bromsgrove School. Upon returning to school this September we had the wonderful news that one of our students had been selected for the county netball squad for this year, an amazing achievement.

We take School Sport and Physical Education extremely seriously whilst also instilling the key fundamentals of participation, fair play and enjoyment. I am certainly hoping for a year that not only matches those previous but surpasses it in terms of our on-field success.

Our curriculum lessons are now in full swing and thus far the weather has been kind. Pupils have been working on Tag Rugby and Indoor athletics in KS2 whilst the older pupils have also been learning new Gymnastic and Netball skills. It has been a pleasure to see the children with smiles on their faces and working hard in their lessons.

Our extra-curricular sports timetable was sent home last week and children have been signing themselves up for the extensive range of clubs on offer. All clubs will be commencing the week beginning 25th September and will run until the half term break. We actively encourage our pupils to attend our clubs and welcome experienced players and new beginners equally.

At St John's, our motto is "Give of your Best", something that is incredibly relevant when it comes to sport and Physical Education. I would encourage all of our pupils to strive to be the best that they can possibly be this year. Here's to another successful and enjoyable year.

Please follow our school PE account on X for the latest information and results. @sjmspe

Eco School

By Miss S. Watts

We are taking part in the RHS campaign #RHSBigFoodShare running between September 24th - 1st October

Where Eco pupils will be harvesting the veg in the garden to sell to staff to make way for new fruits and veg to be grown this academic year to sell on a seasonal stall in the future to parents and guardians.

RHS Big Food Share / RHS Gardening

Take part in the RHS Big Food Share this autumn and use your harvest to connect with your



MAKING SENSE OF AUTISM



Autism Education Trust



PARENT CARER TRAINING

Supporting parent carer to gain a better understanding and awareness of autism and the way it affects and impacts on a child's daily life.

The course is aimed at parent carers it is not appropriate for your young child/person to attend.

DATE
Monday 4th December 2023

TIME
4pm till 6pm

VENUE
Chadsgrove School, Meadow Road, Catshill, Bromsgrove, B61 0JL

PLEASE COMPLETE THE BOOKING FORM AND RETURN TO YOUR SCHOOL TO RESERVE YOUR FREE PLACE*

*MAX 2 PLACES PER FAMILY



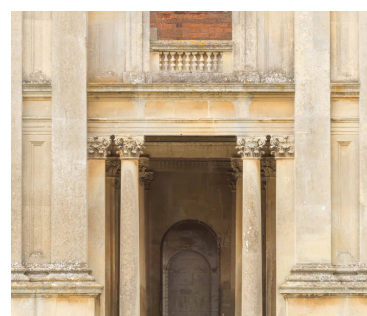
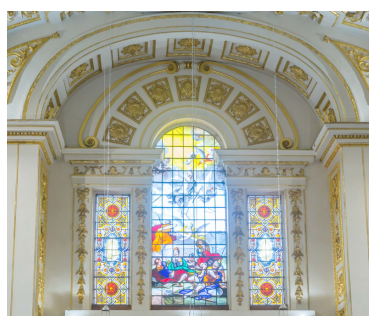
Chadsgrove School Support Services

 aet@chadsgrove.worcs.sch.uk  01527 877262

Witley Court

By Mrs J.Davenport

Yesterday 169 year six pupils visited Witley Court and gardens. Thankfully the weather held off; the first few drops starting as we got onto the coach ready for our return to St. John's. The fine weather enabled pupils to take some fantastic photographs to aid their studies back at school as well as making quality sketches of the fountain, building and landscapes. The pupils were taught about the history of the Court before going and it was lovely to see how many pupils had retained the information asking about when the fountain would be cleaned again and where the underground cellar was.



Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

By Miss N. Birmingham - Assistant Headteacher

We are pleased to introduce our newly appointed Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for 2023-24! These dedicated students will play a crucial role in fostering a culture of kindness, respect, and inclusion throughout the school. Over the past few weeks, they have been meeting to formulate plans for the year ahead, under the guidance of our lead staff member for anti-bullying, Ms. Birmingham.

Our Anti-Bullying Policy

At St. John's, we take the issue of bullying seriously. Our comprehensive Anti-Bullying Policy can be accessed on our website. We have also created a child-friendly version to ensure that our students can understand and engage with these essential guidelines effectively.

Defining Bullying at St John's

Bullying is not the odd occasion of falling out with friends, name calling, arguments or fights. However, these are also serious incidents which would be dealt with by teachers.

To provide clarity on what constitutes bullying, we employ the STOP acronym: "Several Times On Purpose." This simple but effective definition helps our students understand that bullying involves repetitive and deliberate actions that cause harm to others.

Our Governor for Anti-Bullying and Wellbeing

We are proud to inform you that Suzanne Allies has taken on the role of Governor for Anti-Bullying and Wellbeing. Suzanne is committed to supporting our school's initiatives aimed at creating a secure and inclusive learning environment for all.

Upcoming Events and Activities

As their first event, our Wellbeing and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are looking forward to sharing an assembly they have thoughtfully planned along with students from Bromsgrove School.

Additionally, the ambassadors have been organising their first fundraising activity. On Tuesday 10th October they will be selling small pick 'n mix sweets for £1 each after school, at 3:15pm on the playground. This initiative will not only raise funds for future anti-bullying and wellbeing programs but also serve as a lovely well-being treat for our students.

We are excited about the positive impact these initiatives will have on our school and our students. By working together as a community, we can continue to create a supportive and safe environment.

Here to help!

We take all reports of bullying seriously and are committed to addressing them promptly and effectively. If you ever have any concerns related to bullying or any other matter affecting your child's well-being, we encourage you to reach out in the first instance to your child's class teacher or head of year. They are there to provide support and take the necessary steps to resolve the issue. However, if you feel that an incident is not adequately addressed or if you are unsatisfied with the resolution, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Birmingham, our lead teacher of Anti-Bullying.



Important Reminder for Year 8 High School Places for September 2024

Please can I remind you to apply to High School, if you haven't already done so. You can apply online via the following website; www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you have already applied please make sure that you have received a confirmation email of your application from the Worcestershire Admissions Team.

Please be aware that the closing date for applications to High School is **Monday 31st October 2023**.

If you do not apply by this date you may not get the High School of your choice.

If you have difficulty accessing the website to apply, please contact the Admissions Team at Worcestershire County Council.



PGCE SCHOOL DIRECT PRIMARY + EARLY YEARS INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING



Together with South Bromsgrove High School, we are the North Worcestershire Training Hub accredited by the University of Worcester

If you are interested in pursuing a career in teaching, there are various routes that you can take to achieve your goal. With the right training and support, you can develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this rewarding profession. If you would like to discuss routes into teaching, you can reach out to Sarah Marsh via the contact details below.

email: smarsh@spiretrust.co.uk

telephone: 01527 832376



THINKING OF TEACHING?
ARE YOU A GRADUATE?

COLLABORATE

LEARN

ACHIEVE

THEN TRAIN WITH US!

TEACHER TRAINING
PARTNERSHIP

 @TheSpireCE

