

Weekly Note – Thursday 15th October 2020

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Important Notice: Due to new COVID-19 guidelines, all schools in Northern Ireland are closed from Monday 19th October. St John's will reopen on Monday 2nd November. It is important that everyone in St. John's plays their part to ensure our school can safely reopen. Please remind your children of our 3 rules during this extended break:

1. Wash your hands on a regular basis.



2. Keep your social distance AND reduce your social contacts.



3. Catch it!-Bin it!-Kill it!



It is vitally important that we all realise that together we are part of the solution to beating this virus.

So what can I do with my child/ren next week?

- ✚ They will have 1 or 2 reading books home with them
- ✚ Year 5-7 have until Friday 23rd October to meet their AR challenge
- ✚ All children can work on tasks set by their teachers on Mathletics.
- ✚ Autumn Photography Challenge-over the next 2 weeks let's see who can take a beautiful autumn photograph and seesaw it to your teacher. Top 3 get a prize!!
- ✚ Creative Pumpkins! Send us an image via SeeSaw of your spooky pumpkins when they are lit at night!

Split the Pot

Last draw before mid-term takes place tomorrow, Friday 16th October.
If you're not in you can't win! Half to the winner, half to school funds for vital school resources which will aid YOUR child's learning!!
Make sure your envelopes get to Rachel first thing tomorrow morning!



St. John's SVP

In these current circumstances due to COVID-19, St. John's SVP can be contacted on our confidential helpline number: 07752017340. If you or someone you know in our area is struggling, please contact us. All our help is given on a strictly confidential basis.

SeeSaw- Is now the main source of communication between school and our parents. Please ensure you have downloaded both the family and class apps to keep up to date. This is crucial as we head into a very uncertain period of time. If any parents are struggling with these apps please let me know.



After Schools Club

2pm-5pm daily

Please book and pre-pay for this service on a weekly basis. Paying in arrears is not an option.

£2 per hour in a clearly labelled envelope

We can all be delayed for one reason or another. If you are going to be late please ring the school so arrangements can be made. Thank you.

Healthy Eating & Nut-free zone

Please help us to promote our healthy eating school and nut-free zone. Any items containing nuts will be sent home unopened.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

Many thanks to those of you who paid their voluntary contribution to school in the last week. These are indeed challenging financial times for all schools and the contribution you make means we can buy additional resources for our children to use. Please send your contribution in a marked envelope with your child next week.

We ask for a donation of £5.00 per pupil.

Thank you!

FLU VACCINATIONS NOW POSTPONED

Due to the new COVID-19 restrictions, it is now not possible to deliver the flu vaccinations as originally planned. I have spoken with the school nurse and have asked for an update as soon as possible. The hope is that we will be able to deliver the vaccinations in the very near future.



READING BOOKS IN SCHOOL

READING BOOK AMNESTY! We have noticed that quite a number of our Reading Books are missing from school, these may have been sent home with your child to read as homework and indeed some may be there since before lockdown. This means that we don't have complete sets of some books which hinders teachers while setting reading for their groups. We as a school, have spent a substantial amount of money in recent years buying new books, most recently for Foundation Stage and KS1. These books are bought in sets of 6 and it is very frustrating when full sets are not available.

If you have ANY reading books at home which belong to school, please send them back to us so they can be used again.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Given the current climate and the risks involved in bringing groups of people together, we have decided that in the interests of Health & Safety of our whole school community, we will not hold Parent/Teacher meetings at this time. Instead we will issue a short Half-Term Report to all parents so you can see how your child/ren are settling back into school. The report will give you an indication on how your child is coping with Literacy and Numeracy but perhaps more importantly, how they have settled back into the new school day. There will be an opportunity for you to comment on your child's progress and also an opportunity to indicate that you would like a telephone call with your child's teacher if you feel that is necessary. **The reports will be issued on Thursday 5th November.**

On a personal note, I am especially delighted as to how we as a collective, have managed this tricky period and the whole staff of St. John's are so proud of the resilience your child/ren have shown.

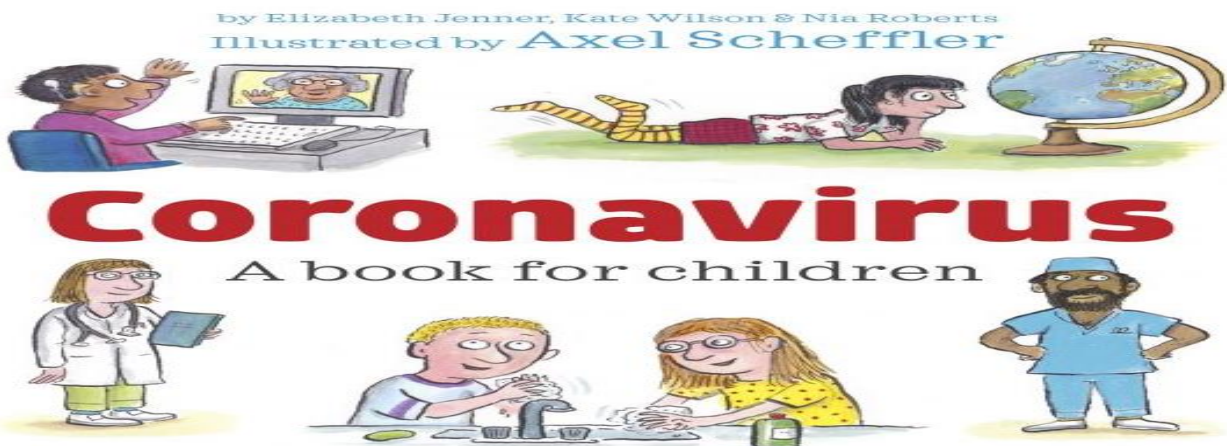
Spanish Lessons Y4 – Y7

Our Spanish lessons with Christina on Wednesdays are up and running. It was lovely to hear the children's voices calling out in Spanish throughout the 4 classrooms. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child/ren to gain confidence in a new language. 50p a lesson is a snip! It is really important that every child in Yr4-7 pays for this experience. It would be a real shame if we could no longer continue with this due to lack of funds.



Coronavirus-A book for Children-Tap the link to read this interactive book with your child/ren. The boys and girls should recognise the illustrator from The Gruffalo!

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/5-8/coronavirus-a-book-for-children/>



Breakfast Club

8-8.50am is available from Tuesday 1st September

£1.05 in a labelled envelope to be paid to Ray daily

No booking required

Have a safe and happy mid-term and as always, thanks for your continued support towards our school.